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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Thirty third Session
Seville, Spain
22-30 June 2009

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/en/sessions/33COM>

I. TABLE OF CONTENT

I. TABLE OF CONTENT.....	3
II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS	4
NATURAL PROPERTIES.....	4
AFRICA.....	4
1. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475) .	4
3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/ Guinea) (N 155 bis)	9
8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)	15
9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9).....	22
10. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)	27
CULTURAL PROPERTIES.....	32
ARAB STATES	32
16. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130).....	32
17. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)	35
18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev) ...	37
ASIA AND PACIFIC	46
23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172).....	46
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.....	52
27. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis).....	52
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN.....	57
30. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)	57

II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1997

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

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

Desired state of conservation 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

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

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe has been set.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.1; 31 COM 7A.1; 32 COM 7A.1

International Assistance

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; April 2009: joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475>

Current conservation problems

Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park was inscribed in 1988 for its diversity of habitats, including a Sudano-Guinean woodland savanna and flood plains, as well as for its biodiversity, especially its wealth of large wildlife. At the time of inscription, the values and integrity of the property were already seriously threatened and the continuing pressure of threats led to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997. In 2001, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission visited the property, and noted as main threats the lack of security, poaching, illegal mining, transhumance and illegal grazing, illegal fishing and the absence of resources to ensure the protection and the management of the property. Although corrective measures had not been formally adopted by the World Heritage Committee, the mission had proposed an emergency rehabilitation plan. At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), a further joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission was requested to review the implementation of this rehabilitation plan, and the state of conservation of the property. Unfortunately, due to the lack of security in the northern part of the Central African Republic this mission was postponed until 2009.

Moreover, the State Party has not submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, in accordance with the request of the World Heritage Committee in Decision **32 COM 7A.1**.

The joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission was organized from 1 to 11 April 2009. The mission confirmed that the long period of insecurity had had a negative impact on the values and integrity of the property. The mission was informed of the inventory data of 2005 carried out by ECOFAC (Ecosystèmes Forestières de l'Afrique Centrale) showing a significant reduction of the wildlife populations between 1985 and 2005. The decrease in populations varies between 68% (Giant Eland) and 100% (Cob Defassa) depending on the species, and

the data shows a reduction in the spatial area for wildlife in the property. The elephant population has been reduced by 97%. These losses are the result of armed poaching (especially for ivory) and hunting to provide for the occupants of the Park and the bush meat market. The rhinoceros is reported as having disappeared from the Park since the 1990s. The hippopotamus is almost extinct and the ostrich, like the cheetah, are only very exceptionally mentioned. Although no recordings have been made since 2005, it is clear that the deteriorating security situation in the region, closely linked to the armed conflict in Sudan (Darfour region) and Chad, have encouraged an increase in poaching, and certainly caused greater wildlife losses since 2005.

The following threats were noted by the mission:

- The invasion of grazing areas by transhumants and their troops, that occupy the area replacing the wildlife, modifying the ecosystem of the flood plains and contributing to the poaching of smaller species ;
- Commercial ivory hunting (and other local products like honey and pepper) by mobile armed groups coming from Sudan and Chad;
- The invasion of the rivers and pools by fishermen (local or migrant) who make these sites less attractive, notably for the birds;
- The practice of bush fires of diverse origin (to increase grazing land, open up the area, poach, harvest honey...);
- Diamond prospection in the Park and the installation of small scattered mining camps;
- Closure of certain milieus (pools, salt marshes) due to the disappearance of large animals like the elephant.

The mission noted that the security situation had deteriorated since the 2001 mission, and particularly since the Darfour conflict (Sudan). Little progress in the implementation of the emergency plan proposed by the joint mission had been achieved:

a) *Zoning of the Park and materialization of its limits:*

There is no functional Park zoning enabling hierarchical action and priority decision-making.

b) *Development of a management plan:*

There is neither a management plan, nor a development, plan nor a regular workplan for the Park ; these are indispensable tools for the Park's rehabilitation.

c) *Inventory of wildlife in the Park together with a cartography of major habitats:*

An inventory of wildlife was organized in 2005 in the framework of the ECOFAC Programme (Ecosystèmes Forestières de l'Afrique Centrale) funded by the European Union. The programme also ensures occasional aerial monitoring.

d) *Management actions to conserve biodiversity and protect fragile ecosystems:*

Currently, there are almost no management activities in the property, which have no administrative body for the Park area and no official responsibility for its conservation. There is neither supervisory staff nor staff directly responsible for the management of the property.

e) *Development of a cooperation mechanism with all stakeholders, in particular local communities, government services, projects and hunting concessionaires:*

Apart from the ECOFAC Programme, to be recognized for its praiseworthy efforts, the Park has not benefitted from any efficacious conservation measures to date.

f) *Strengthening law enforcement in the property:*

In the framework of the ECOFAC Programme, two anti-poaching teams are detailed for the Park, operating mainly from the Sangba and Manovo bases. The Gordil base is only sporadically operational. There is no information available concerning the impact of the anti-

poaching efforts. Nevertheless, the invasion of the most productive parts of the Park by the breeders, fishermen, and poachers and now and then the diamond miners emphasize the non-application of the law within the Park boundaries.

The mission concluded that, in the face of the serious threats noted, there is practically no management and protection measures in place. This is partially explained by the insecurity problems and the regional context referred to above. But mention must also be made of the very minimum investment provided by the State Party to remedy the situation. The only investment is the ECOFAC Programme, but this programme also includes the Village Hunting Zones and the Bamingui Park, covering more than 80,000km. Therefore, the programme is under-supported in view of the huge task, and without continuity or sustainability.

The list of pressures on the property is long and in part determined by the socio-political context of the whole region and the recurring transborder insecurity situation. Although the lack of recent information makes an accurate evaluation of the current Outstanding Universal Value difficult, based on information available the mission concluded that it was seriously degraded. Without the implementation of specific corrective measures in the framework of a new emergency plan to contain the threats observed, the degradation risks becoming irreversible, leading in the short-term to the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value.

In order to avoid the imminent loss of the Outstanding Universal Value, urgent action must be taken to limit the main threats. These actions concern:

- The removal of all the illegal occupants in the Park (shepherds and troops, fishermen and diamond miners);
- A halt to poaching organized from neighbouring countries;
- The establishment of professional management modalities for the Park and their financing.

In order to succeed in this respect, the State Party needs to make a commitment at the highest level, as well as a similar commitment from the neighbouring States Parties, notably Sudan and Chad.

In view of the extent of the problem and the means invested, important as regards absolute value but weak compared to the territory as a whole, the mission recommended to concentrate efforts within the framework of the new emergency plan concerning a reduced area of the property to conserve the essential values, and with the hope of ensuring the future rehabilitation of the property based on this closely protected core area. The mission recommended urgent corrective measures to be integrated into the emergency plan, which are included in the draft decision.

Given the situation in the property, the mission considered that the development of a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger was premature.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are extremely concerned by the significant loss of characteristics for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, notably its exceptional biodiversity. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that, without urgent action on the part of the State Party, and assistance from the international community, justification for the Outstanding Universal Value will no longer be valid. In view of the seriousness of the situation, they recommend the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recommend that the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that was being prepared in March 2009, at the Dar es Salaam Workshop (Tanzania) be finalised, to enable an improved monitoring of the evolution of the property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **31 COM 7A.1** and **32 COM 7A.1**, adopted respectively at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions,
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) ;
4. Expresses its deep concern with regard to the conclusions of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission, April 2009, that noted a high risk of the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property if, in the short-term, urgent corrective measures are not taken to limit the major pressures affecting its integrity;
5. Urges the State Party to develop cooperation with regard to a new short-term (3 years) emergency plan with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and other concerned parties, to restore the integrity of the property, taking into account the following corrective measures:
 - a) The structuration of the management for the Park, on the lines of a simple and efficient organization specifically for the property,
 - b) Strengthening of supervisory staff to ensure the main management tasks (planification, surveillance, ecological monitoring, administration, logistics),
 - c) Increase in the number and training of ground staff mainly aimed at surveillance during this transitory period, and strengthened in the beginning by support from the armed forces,
 - d) The functional zoning of the Park with a priority intervention zone to conserve to the maximum the components determining the Outstanding Universal Value of the Park (environment and wildlife),
 - e) An action plan targetting the restoration, security and tranquility in this priority zone,
 - f) A provisional budget adapted to these priorities, limited if need be, to already begin at this stage a reflection on management sustainability,
 - g) An emergency plan to be undertaken in parallel, in consultation with the different protagonists, and specifically those from Chad and Sudan;
6. Encourages the State Party to request assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organize a workshop to prepare this emergency plan;
7. Requests the State Party to ensure commitment at the highest level for the implementation of the emergency plan;
8. Calls upon the State Party as well as the States Parties of Chad and Sudan, to strengthen their transborder cooperation to control the threats, particularly from armed poaching and other illegal exploitation of natural resources;
9. Invites donors as well as the international community at large to mobilise the necessary financial and technical resources for the implementation of the emergency plan to restore the intrinsic characteristics of the property, as well as its integrity;

10. Also requests the State Party to complete, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the emergency plan and its implementation as well as the other recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
12. **Decides to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism** to monitor the state of conservation of the property and further requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to report on the progress achieved in the preparation and implementation of the emergency plan;
13. **Also decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1982

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1996

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

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

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be defined.

Corrective measures identified

For the part of the property situated in Guinea, following corrective measures were identified by the 2007 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st 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.

For the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire, the following corrective measures were identified by the 2007 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008):

- h) Re-establish the presence of the protected area authority Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Reserves (OIPR) within the property and resume management activities, establish cooperation mechanisms and strengthen communication with the local communities;
- i) Conduct a wildlife survey of key species to clarify the status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and establish a comprehensive monitoring programme to monitor and control threats in particular from poaching;
- j) Define a buffer zone, in consultation with local stakeholders, with the appropriate legal status to strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;
- k) Develop a management plan in close cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the local community, and harmonise this plan with the plan being developed in Guinea
- l) Define a sustainable finance mechanism for the entire property together with the State Party of Guinea;

The World Heritage Committee also made recommendations regarding mining threats to the property in Guinea and in Côte d'Ivoire, which have been included in Decision **31 COM 7A.3** and in Decision **32 COM 7A.3**, and can also be considered as corrective measures in relation to the Desired state of conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has been set yet by the World Heritage Committee.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.3; 31 COM 7A.3; 32 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

October/November 1988: UNESCO mission; May 1993: UNESCO / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; June 2008: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire.

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.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155>

Current conservation issues

The property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992, following a proposal to reduce significantly its size to allow mining of iron ore. Following an interdisciplinary mission in 1993, the World Heritage Committee agreed to revise the boundaries, taking out a 1550 ha area from the Guinean part of the property where mining could take place as far as this could be done without impacting the property. The World Heritage Committee also decided to keep the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, concerning the other threats to its values and integrity such as agricultural encroachment and poaching. Monitoring missions visited the property in 2007 (to the part in Guinea) and 2008 (to the part in Côte d'Ivoire), developing the set of corrective measures listed above.

On 22 January and 30 January 2009, brief reports on the state of conservation of the property were submitted by the State Party of Guinea and the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire respectively. The report of the State Party of Guinea indicates some progress in implementing a number of corrective measures for the property:

- 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*

Most staff of CEGENS has been now decentralized from the capital to the office in Lola close to the property. A management board was also appointed. The report also mentions the provision of one new vehicle and one motorbike, the recruitment of additional staff, and the construction of patrol posts. At the same time, it is mentioned that CEGENS has no proper office and is lacking field equipment and qualified staff.

- 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 (CVS)*

The number of surveillance committees has increased from 3 at the time of the 2007 mission to 9. Staffing has also been improved with the designation of a law enforcement chief warden and 16 additional rangers. No information is provided on the training of the surveillance committees, as recommended by the mission, nor on the ability of the current surveillance to curb the numerous threats to the values and integrity of the property.

- 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*

The State Party notes progress in the clarification of the legal status of the property with a draft legislation available, and georeferencing and marking of the limits of the property and the mining enclave, which should be concluded this year. However, no information is provided on the definition of a buffer zone for the property. The establishment of a functional buffer zone, where more sustainable land use practices are promoted, is a key recommendation of the 2007 mission.

- d) *Put in place an ecological monitoring system and a geo-referenced database for all scientific data collected on the property*

The report mentions the establishment of a World Heritage Committee for the ecological monitoring of the property, in charge of biological inventories and the development of the database but no information is provided on the activities of this World Heritage Committee. It is mentioned that two rapid inventories were organized with Africa Nature International but no results are provided.

- e) *Conduct a feasibility study to define a sustainable finance mechanism for the property*

The State Party report identifies this as one of the main issues for the conservation of the property and mentions that they want to request assistance from the World Heritage Centre to prepare this feasibility study.

- f) *Develop a strategy for the conservation of the Déré Forest and Bossou Hills*

While a programme to evict the illegal occupants of the Déré forest element of the property is reported to be foreseen during 2009, the report also notes that the occupation and exploitation within the area by members of the armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire, requires a diplomatic solution to avoid potential armed conflict.

- g) *Prepare a management plan for the property and the biosphere reserve*

No progress is reported on this.

The report concludes that the current time frame for full implementation of corrective measures is estimated to be 2014 but that the property continues to face pressures caused by poverty and lack of livelihoods in the areas adjacent to the property, and the lack of facilities, personnel and capacity within the management unit of the property.

The report of the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire indicates; that while some staff for management of the property has been appointed, they are currently still located at Duékoué, at considerable distance from the property. The park authorities are reported not to have access to the Reserve as a result of security problems and therefore no progress was made in the implementation of the corrective measures.

The report notes that whilst military presence in the area has been reduced, the process of disarmament has not yet been concluded. Currently a strategy is being developed between the protected area authority Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR) and the integrated

commandment of the army for ensuring security in the protected areas included in the areas under command of the former rebel army. The report indicates that there remains a high level of both political and technical commitment, and of concern regarding the property, and that the opportunity to restore order in civil society following the treaty of Ouagadougou in 2007 remains in place. However the State Party emphasizes that due to the on-going recovery from the recent military crisis it is not yet possible to define a timetable for the restoration of organization, logistics and partnerships or complete implementation of corrective measures. The State Party notes that a request for financial assistance to support a transboundary workshop to enable the requested tripartite discussion with Liberia is under preparation and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Neither report refers to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, but the World Heritage Centre has been informed that a draft is being prepared jointly by both State Parties following the recent training session organized in Dar-es-Salaam. No Desired state of conservation for the property has been established.

Both State Party reports discuss the mining threats to the property and these are considered separately below. In Decision **32 COM 7A.3**, the World Heritage Committee noted significant concerns regarding a mining threat to the property in Côte d'Ivoire. Following initial discussions with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN through its Regional Director for Asia met with the concession holder Tata Steel in February 2009. Following this meeting the Group Director of Global Minerals at Tata Steel confirmed in writing to IUCN that "Tata Steel will uphold the highest standards of social responsibility and will not undertake any exploration or mining operations within or around the country's heritage property in Mt. Nimba, if it impacts the universal value of the property in any way". The State Party report of Côte d'Ivoire notes that the National UNESCO Commission has prepared a Memorandum recommending the Government to suspend the joint venture agreement between the national mining parastatal SODEMI and Tata and to prohibit all mining exploration activities in the property. It notes that the Minister for National Education and Scientific Research and the Minister for Environment, Water and Forests are preparing a statement for the Board of Ministers to request the Minister of Mines to suspend all mining exploration and exploitation activities in the property.

In Guinea, the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) is continuing its exploration work to understand the development potential for an open-cut iron ore mine in an enclave which is located outside but adjacent to the Guinea portion of the property. Following the 2007 monitoring mission, the World Heritage Committee requested that the Environmental Impact Assessment be conducted in accordance with the highest international standards and that baseline data be collected in order to clarify and quantify the potential impacts on the property. SMFG have made it clear that they aspire to do no harm to the environment and are committed to minimizing impacts in their zone of operation and to avoid any significant biophysical impact outside the area of their anticipated mining project. This is a highly challenging objective considering the environmental and social context of Mont Nimba. An informal consultation meeting was held with representatives of the State Party, Guinean stakeholders, World Heritage Centre, and representatives of the mining consortium, at UNESCO on 28 April 2009, in which the Terms of Reference for the EIA were presented. SMFG have indicated that "this process of early, proactive consultation will be formalised as the project advances, and that the consortium will keep this group regularly informed of the project's development". The World Heritage Centre and IUCN await the further progress of this process.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are very concerned on the limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures across the property. In Côte d'Ivoire, the management authority still has no regular access to the property. A critical issue requiring continued diplomatic emphasis is the finalisation of the demilitarisation of the property, and it is of significant concern that army groups from Côte d'Ivoire are reported to be operating in

the Déré Forest in Guinea. Although this is not part of the World Heritage property, the fact it is part of the UNESCO biosphere reserve potentially creates a destabilising effect on the management of the inscribed property. In Guinea, whilst there has been some progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, it remains limited compared to the challenges and threats to the property, in spite of the supportive capacity through the project activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme in the region.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the States Parties should accelerate progress to protect the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property. Critical threats to the property still remain, not only from the possible impacts of mining, but also from the continued insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire and the weak management capacity of the management authority CEGENS in Guinea, as a result of lack of funding and trained staff. World Heritage Centre and IUCN note with satisfaction the responsible position taken by Tata Steel on mining within the property, which was confirmed in writing following the meeting with the Director of the IUCN Asia Regional Office on 9 February 2009. This decision of Tata Steel provides an opportunity, and need, for the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to withdraw the mining concession as requested by the Committee in its last Decision. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN continue to follow up the process of environmental assessment for the mining project in Guinea on the basis of the principle that no development should take place in the enclave that would impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value and the integrity of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the threats facing the property are still severe and that the property should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN encourage the States Parties to improve cooperation for the management of this transboundary property.

Draft Decision 33 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes with concern the limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions, as a result of the continued insecurity in the Côte d'Ivoire part of the property, preventing regular access by the management authority and the continued weak management capacity of the management authority in Guinea, as a result of lack of funding and trained staff;*
4. *Requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure the restoration of security in the property as to allow permanent access of the management authority to the property;*
5. *Urges both States Parties to increase their efforts further to continue implementing the corrective measures, and the other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee,*
6. *Welcomes the responsible position of Tata Steel in agreeing to not carry out mining that would damage the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in Côte d'Ivoire, in line with the World Heritage Committee's request to all holders of any mining concession 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, and reiterates its request to the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to confirm urgently that all mining concessions within the property have been revoked;

7. *Also welcomes the consultation initiated by the State Party of Guinea and the mining company SMFG on the Terms of Reference of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the mining project and also reiterates its request, to ensure the EIA is conducted in accordance with the highest international standards and quantifies the potential impact of the planned exploitation on the property, in close consultation with all stake holders, and to submit to the World Heritage Committee any intermediary results;*
8. *Also requests the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire to seek international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organize a new tripartite meeting with and Liberia to enhance the required coordination to implement the recommendations from the 2007 and 2008 monitoring missions;*
9. *Further requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to further develop the 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;*
10. *Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, 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 and 2008 missions, and the elimination of mining threats to the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
11. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note : the following report on the World Heritage property of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is to be read in conjunction with Item 31 of Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A*, page 102.

8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(x)

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

1997

Property subject to the Reinforced monitoring mechanism since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32).

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

- a) Impact of conflict: looting of infrastructure, poaching of elephants;
- b) Presence of gold mining sites inside the property.

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 yet been established. A proposal was developed by the joint 2009 mission (see report).

Corrective measures identified

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

- a) Ensure the immediate withdrawal of military personnel of the Congolese army involved in poaching, ivory trafficking and illegal mining;
- b) Close down and prevent all illegal mining operations inside the property;
- c) Suspend the rehabilitation works on the RN4 national road crossing the property, to allow for a proper Environmental Impact Assessment and until proper measures to reduce its expected environmental impact are put in place;
- d) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties;
- e) Establish permanent co-operation between the political and military authorities at provincial level, the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) and the authority responsible for the management of the property (ICCN) to eliminate illegal activities in and around the property;
- f) In co-operation with the Government of Uganda, halt the illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the DRC/Uganda border in north-eastern DRC;
- g) Prepare a forest zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property to protect it from negative impacts resulting from unsustainable forest exploitation;
- h) Legalize and scale-up the pilot system put in place by ICCN to regulate and monitor immigration as well as traffic on the RN4 road, by means of a permit system with transit charges ;
- i) Take the necessary measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the guard force and to improve its efficiency.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe was set so far.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.8; 31 COM 7A.8; 32 COM 7A.8

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 63,000 for preparation of a nomination, guard training, camp construction and to combat illegal poaching in the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: First phase of the UNF-and Belgium-funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties (“DRC programme”). (2001–2005): approximately USD 250,000. Currently, Phase II (2005-2009): USD 300,000.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and May 2006: UNESCO monitoring missions; several other UNESCO missions in the framework of the DRC programme.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Extensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants;
- b) Mining activities inside the property;
- c) Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property;
- d) Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri Forest, which might affect the property in the near future;
- e) Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718>

Current conservation issues

Okapi Wildlife Reserve was inscribed on the List of World Heritage List in Danger in 1997, following the outbreak in 1996 of the Great Lakes conflict with the subsequent establishment of armed bands and rebel groups in the property and the loss of control by ICCN of the greater part of the property, thus encouraging an increase in poaching and in the illegal opening of mining quarries in the property. In 2006, a World Heritage Centre mission visited the property and identified poaching and illegal mining activities as main threats, and also an increase in the population established in the property and the serious impact caused by the rehabilitation of the RN4 road. At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Committee adopted corrective measures. In 2007, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee decided (**31 COM 7A.32**) to apply the newly adopted reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property. At its 32nd session (Quebec, 2008), a new joint World Heritage Centre-IUCN monitoring mission was requested.

On 2 February 2009, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. This report contained information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures.

The monitoring mission was organised from 24 February to 2 March 2009. Based on the most recent information available, the mission was able to confirm that the extended period of conflict had had a serious negative impact on the values and integrity of the property, and in particular:

- A significant decline in the wildlife population between 1995 and 2006, with a decrease in populations varying between 26% and 59% according to the species, and a reduction of the area of the property available to wildlife. These decreases are the result of

- armed poaching (hunting and trapping) to supply the bush meat markets in the neighbouring urban centres;
- A significant increase in the resident population in the Reserve (an estimated 4,000 in 1995, and 17,000 recorded in 2003). This influx has caused an increase in the clearing of a greater area of the Reserve for agricultural activities around the villages. In the 1995 Development Plan, a plantation area of 1,800 hectares was foreseen, whereas currently the agricultural area is estimated at 14,000 hectares, 10% of the whole Reserve.

The mission concluded that the Outstanding Universal Value for which the Okapi Wildlife Reserve was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger was seriously degraded but that it could be entirely restored if permanent adequate management measures for the Reserve were implemented.

The mission noted that the security situation had improved considerably since 2006 and that some progress in the implementation of the corrective measures had been achieved:

a) Ensure the immediate withdrawal of military personnel of the Congolese army involved in poaching, ivory trafficking and illegal mining

Large-scale armed poaching, especially of elephants, has noticeably diminished thanks to joint operations on the part of ICCN / Congolese Army / local administration, eliminating the involvement by the military in this activity in the Reserve and noticeably reducing poaching in the peripheral areas. The problem still exists in the south-west peripheral area of the Reserve where the army, based in the Kisangani military region, remains active.

b) Close down and prevent all illegal mining operations inside the property

In 2006, more than fifty quarries for the illegal mining of coltan, diamonds and gold were recorded. Today, all these quarries have been closed down. However, although there is no longer any permanent presence in these quarries, the phenomenon of « infiltration » (irregular visits to some quarries by a small number of diggers generally working independently) persists.

c) Suspend the rehabilitation works on the RN4 and carry out a proper Environmental Impact Study

This work has in fact been suspended and a joint mission of donors, administrative officials and construction company visited the site to hold discussions with ICCN. However, the mission did not discuss the most important issues. No environmental impact study has been carried out and concrete mitigation methods advocated by ICCN, such as the strengthening of surveillance and immigration control mechanisms have not been funded. Only some technical operational aspects to limit direct environmental damage caused by the rehabilitation work have received attention.

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

See the report on Virunga National Park (Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A*).

e) Establish permanent co-operation between the political and military authorities at provincial level, MONUC, ICCN to eliminate illegal activities in and around the property

The support of politico-administrative and military authorities was a determining factor in regaining control of the entire Okapi Wildlife Reserve. This support was the result of major

lobbying and the rapprochement of ICCN with local authorities, together with field visits by the military and administrative authorities, public awareness campaigns via radio and through visits to the villages. Permanent consultation structures officially recognized by the Territory Administration are also established in the six communities of Mambasa. They reinforce the involvement of local communities in the resolution of daily management problems concerning the Reserve on the one hand, and on the other, through financial incentives, they motivate and guide the local population in initiatives of community interest. Nevertheless, it is difficult to judge to what extent these good relations translate into concrete adhesion to the conservation objectives of the property and a real change in behaviour with regard to the use of natural resources.

- f) *In co-operation with the Government of Uganda, halt the illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the DRC/Uganda border in north-eastern DRC*

The mission noted an increased rate of encroachment through local deforestation in the area outside of the Reserve. Almost all this activity is illegal and the products are transported by road to Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya. The increase in this pressure is directly linked to the rehabilitation of the RN4. If ivory poaching inside the Okapi Wildlife Reserve now appears to be better controlled, all indicators still show that at the national level poaching of forest elephants in the DRC (to supply the international ivory traffic) remains a major problem. The mission was unable to obtain information on illegal mineral trafficking.

- g) *Prepare a forest zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property to protect it from negative impacts resulting from unsustainable forest exploitation;*

No zoning plan is available. The preparation of a zoning plan for the forest areas of the DRC, with support from the World Bank, began in 2005, but no progress has been noted. Meantime, the majority of semi-industrial « artisanal » exploitation which is not in accordance with the Forestry Code, is rapidly progressing in Ituri Forest.

- h) *Legalize and scale-up the pilot system put in place by ICCN to regulate and monitor immigration as well as traffic on the RN4 road, by means of a permit system with transit charges;*

The strategy to regulate immigration is based partially on controlling the movement of people and vehicles using the two main entrances to the Reserve on the RN4 and on the permanent monitoring by the Immigration Control Committees (CCI), of persons residing in the villages located alongside the road. The impact of the immigration regulation mechanism is positive. The gates enable ICCN to strengthen its role of site manager and that of the CCI to encourage an increase in the level of compliance of villagers to conservation objectives, to limit misunderstandings and further settlements in the villages. However, since the rehabilitation of the RN4, traffic has increased by a factor of 25. This important increase implies additional constraints with regard to efficient control of vehicles and passengers, considering the limited resources (staff, budget) and the fact that ICCN, not authorized to close the gates at night, is under the obligation to maintain around-the-clock teams at the gates. The financial sustainability of the control system is also compromised by the impossibility of enforcing payment of the toll.

- i) *Take measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the guard force and to improve its efficiency;*

The mission noted a clear improvement in the surveillance mechanism. Contrary to the situation in 2006, patrols have access to the entire property and an efficient patrol monitoring system is established and operational. Regular overflights enable the monitoring of areas of difficult access, the state of forest clearing and to detect infiltration in the closed-down quarries. However, trapping and snaring to supply the bush meat market remains very widespread throughout the Reserve.

In order to consolidate the encouraging progress achieved by ICCN and its partners in the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, the mission formulated a series of recommendations that update the corrective measures adopted by the Committee in 2006, and which are integrated into the draft decision.

Prior to the preparation of the mission, the World Heritage Centre prepared, in consultation with ICCN, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which was then discussed and improved during the mission. Based on this draft, the mission prepared with the managers and partners of the property, a proposal defining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It comprises eight indicators intended to measure the restoration of the biological values of the property, integrity and management:

- *Restoration of the biological value:* these indicators shall concern the forestry cover (no increase in deforestation) and the indications of increases in wildlife (positive changes in indications concerning the different species and the different zones of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve)
- *Integrity and management:* these indicators shall concern surveillance efforts (intensity, distribution) the level of illegal activity and the legal definition of an integrated protective area as well as the stabilisation of demographic pressure in the Reserve in relation to its current level.

The mission considered that if security conditions remain in place, and if the efforts for the implementation of the corrective measures continue, the achievement of these indicators could be attained in three years.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are satisfied with the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures. The re-establishment of security has enabled the start of the rehabilitation of the property. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has seriously been degraded since its inscription on the World Heritage List, with very large-scale reduction of the threatened species that justified this inscription. Consequently, it is necessary to continue efforts to achieve the regeneration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the implementation of the eight indicators proposed by the mission would enable the identification of a tendency showing progress in this regeneration process. These indicators should be achieved before the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger can be envisaged.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore consider that the property should be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, in view of the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures and improvement in the security situation, they consider that it is no longer necessary to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to this property.

To ensure the monitoring of these indicators, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that before end-2010, a study should be carried out to develop the methodology to be used for the 2010 inventory enabling the evaluation of tendencies in the populations of the species.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note of the conclusion of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been seriously degraded but that the security conditions are now in place to enable a beginning of the regeneration of the values and integrity of the property;
4. Considers that in order, to measure the restoration of the biological values of the property, its integrity and management, as established by the joint 2009 monitoring mission in co-operation with the ICCN management authority, the indicators that describe the Desired state of conservation must be achieved for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger ;
5. Also takes note of the efforts made by the State Party and the management authority in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) ;
6. Urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures as updated by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring in 2009, to restore the Outstanding Universal Value of the property:
 - a) Continue efforts to resolve problems concerning the FARDC military involved in large-scale poaching in the south-west peripheral area of the property,
 - b) Officially cancel all the artisanal mining rights as well as those, encroaching the property, granted by the Cadastre mining operation;
 - c) Take measures to mitigate impacts linked to the increase in traffic in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, and notably to secure the necessary technical and financial means to contribute towards the maintenance of immigration regulation and strengthen the surveillance and anti-poaching mechanism;
 - d) Finalise and approve the management plan for the property, with the creation of an integrated protective area having national park status;
 - e) Integrate the activities of the Immigration Control Committees (CCI) and the Local Committee for Monitoring and Conservation of Nature (CLSCN) in the management activities of the subsistence areas (agricultural and hunting areas), for which management modalities should be indicated in the management plan;
 - f) Prepare a zoning plan for the contiguous forestry areas to protect the property from negative unsustainable deforestation impacts;
 - g) Legalise and upscale the ICCN pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, and secure the right to close the RN4 to traffic at night and the establishment of a toll system;
 - h) Continue efforts to strengthen and reinvigorate the surveillance mechanism and render it more effective;
 - i) In co-operation with the Ugandan Government, halt illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the border between north-eastern DRC and Uganda;
7. Requests the State Party to ensure the monitoring of these indicators and to undertake, before end-2010, the study to prepare the methodology to be used for the 2012

inventory to enable the monitoring of any increases in wildlife numbers. The State may wish to request assistance from the World Heritage Fund for this purpose;

8. *Also requests the State Party to finalise, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of integrity as well as the draft Desired state of conservation in view of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the proposals developed during the monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee ;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2010, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
10. *Decides, in view of progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures and improvement in the security situation, to no longer apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to this property;*
11. ***Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) 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

30 COM 7A.9; 31 COM 7A.9 ; 32 COM 7A.9

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 215,000 for Technical cooperation and training. Additional support of USD 27 000 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: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive 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

The Simien National Park was inscribed under criteria (vii) and (x) for its spectacular afro-alpine landscape and endangered endemic species. Severe declines in the endemic Ethiopian Wolf and *Walia ibex* populations and expanding agriculture and grazing in 80% of the property led to inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996. The most recent monitoring mission of 2006 proposed four key corrective measures, as note above, as well as a number of other recommendations. A mission was requested by the Committee at its 32nd session, however it was not possible to find a suitable time for the mission and hence, it has been necessary for this to be postponed with the agreement of the State Party, until after the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee.

A comprehensive report was received from the State Party on 18 February 2009, with information on the status of implementation of the corrective measures and of the other recommendations of the 2006 mission.

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*

In its 2008 report, the State Party confirmed that it had completed the demarcation in the field of the extension to include the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain. The remaining issue is the relocation of Arkuasiye village, an illegally established settlement situated in the corridor connecting the existing National Park with the extension area. An International Assistance request was approved to support this relocation in June 2008. The State party report notes that it has established a steering committee for the relocation, chaired by the head of the North Gondor Zone Administrator and a task force whose members include representatives of the village. The task force was able to develop a mutually agreed plan for the relocation of homes to Cheroleba. Some relocation of homes has begun and the State Party hopes to conclude the process by June.

b) *Re-gazettment of the new National Park boundaries*

While the new Park boundaries have been demarcated in the field, they still need to be legalized through a re-gazettment. The State Party report mentions that a draft proclamation with supportive documents has been prepared in Amharic and is being translated into English for submission of both versions to the Government. The report does not provide an indication of the projected timeframe for the new boundaries to be legalized.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that once the re-gazettment is completed, the State Party would need to submit a boundary modification to the World Heritage Committee to request the recognition of the newly gazetted Park by the World Heritage Committee.

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*

The 2006 mission considered uncontrolled grazing as one of the major threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Recognizing that it would be difficult to completely halt this grazing, at least in the short term, the mission recommended to develop a strategy to better manage the problem and limit its impact on the OUV and integrate this strategy into the new management plan.

A draft strategy to address this recommendation was already submitted to the World Heritage Centre before the 32nd session. This included zonation of the property to establish areas where grazing will be excluded, the introduction of stocking limits, the reduction of livestock numbers through the introduction of more intensive animal husbandry techniques, the improvement of veterinary services and the enhancement of community – park collaboration. The State Party reported that the estimated cost of implementing the strategy is USD 11 million over a 5 year period making the mobilization of significant additional financial resources necessary. The State Party did not report on any steps towards implementation of the strategy at this stage.

The State Party submitted a new version of the draft management plan for the property in early 2009. However, compared to an earlier draft of May 2008, the activities to address the grazing problem have been removed from the management plan. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN were informed that this was done by the planning team as the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority apparently objected to include them, given that according to the national legislation, grazing is prohibited in National Parks. The World Heritage Centre and

IUCN are concerned about this development as the plan now includes no strategy or activities to manage the problem or alternatively enforce the prohibition. It also puts into question on the status of the grazing strategy. This important issue will have to be addressed during the next monitoring mission. The report does not provide any information if the management plan has been approved.

- 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 previous reports, a detailed and comprehensive proposal for an alternative livelihood project was developed with financial support from the World Heritage Fund. The proposal has identified 29 viable business activities that could generate up to 725 job opportunities. However, implementation is estimated to require USD 8.7 million and the State Party notes that international funding assistance is required to start it.

- e) *Other issues:*

On the Bwahit – Dilyibza road, the State Party report confirms that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the chosen road alignment, which does not cross the new park extension, has now been concluded. The State Party mentions that the study includes recommendations for limiting impacts, but the recommendations are not included in the report. The State Party further confirms that measures to control vehicular traffic on the Debarak – Mekane Road, which does cross the property, are being implemented. These include closure of the road from 6 pm to 8 am, checkpoint at the entry points to the park and measures to control soil erosion. There are also continued plans to re-align this road outside the property, and certain local districts (Woreda) have started preliminary work, but additional financial resources will have to be identified to ensure its construction.

The report further notes that the populations of *Walia ibex* and Ethiopian Wolf continue to grow and further mentions that the operating budget of the park has also increased since the 2006 mission, and that the revenue from tourism has also increased. .

The World Heritage Centre received information that the State Party has recently decided to shift the management of the property again from the regional level (Amhara Parks Development and Protection Authority - PaDPA) to the federal level (Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority). No information is provided on this in the report. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that if this is the case, it will be important to ensure that the momentum gained for the conservation of the property since it was managed by PaDPA is maintained and that sufficient resources are provided from the federal budget.

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. The extension of the boundaries of the National Park is a key element to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value, as the majority of the *Walia ibex* and Ethiopian Wolf actually occur outside the current boundaries of the World Heritage property. It is therefore very important to complete this process through the re-gazettment, and adjust the boundaries of the World Heritage property once they have been legalized. At the same time, the two main threats to the property, the agricultural use of part of the property and the grazing of livestock need to be addressed, as they affect its values and integrity. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the important strategies that have been developed to address these issues but are concerned that the grazing strategy is not reflected in the management plan. The planned mission will have to clarify if the strategy still applies or what other measures are planned to address this key threat. It is further crucial to identify the resources to implement the strategies.

IUCN also notes that it has received reports regarding the construction of essential infrastructure in the region. While welcoming the increased availability of roads, schools and medical buildings for the local population, IUCN recommends that the State Party ensure that these facilities are located outside the boundaries of the extended National Park.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the difficulty in arranging the mission to the property in May 2009, which is now planned for July 2009.

As part of its report in 2008, the State Party had also submitted an initial draft of a revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN propose that these drafts be reviewed during the proposed monitoring mission, and will be presented for approval at the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee. The establishment of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the findings of the mission will be important in providing a clear basis for the World Heritage Committee to consider the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 34th session in 2010.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in particular, the efforts to extend the property to include key habitat areas for the Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf and the development of strategies to address the threats from grazing and settlements;*
4. *Requests the State Party to urgently re-gazette the newly established boundaries and start implementing the strategy to address the grazing pressure and the Alternative Livelihoods Development Project;*
5. *Expresses its concern that no measures to address the grazing strategy are included in the management plan and urges the State Party to ensure that this key threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is addressed as part of the management plan;*
6. *Calls upon the international community to financially support the implementation of the management plan and also requests the State Party to organize a donor conference with the assistance of UNESCO and IUCN to identify potential donors and funding;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party and the World Heritage Centre / IUCN to carry out, as soon as possible, the mission to the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) to assess its state of conservation, review the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, 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 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. **Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

10. Aïr 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 defined.

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 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 yet by the World Heritage Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.10; 31 COM 7A.10; 32 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

September – October 1998: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2005: IUCN reactive monitoring 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.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573>

Current conservation issues

The political instability and civil conflict, as a result of the Touareg uprising in the early nineties, has prevented effective management presence and facilitated increased poaching by armed nationals and foreigners. As a result of impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity, the property was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. At the time, poaching by military personnel was identified as the primary threat to the biodiversity values of the property. Other threats included poisoning of wildlife and destruction of trees for fodder and fuel. An IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property in 2005 and confirmed continued threats from poaching. The mission also noted that soil erosion caused by loss of vegetation cover was threatening the fragile ecosystem as a result of livestock pressure, excessive wood collection and unsustainable agricultural practices. In addition, the mission identified critically low populations of threatened wildlife species including Addax, Dama Gazelle and Red-necked Ostrich. In 2006, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project “Co-management of Natural Resources in the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves and adjacent areas” (COGERAT) started to address the pressures on the natural resources. Unfortunately, since 2007, renewed fighting in the north of Niger is once again causing political instability in the region where the property is located. The COGERAT project is continuing despite on-going security problems and has adapted its implementation strategy by giving more responsibility for project activities directly to the local communities.

On 2 March 2009, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, which notes the following progress in implementing certain corrective measures and the need for increased international support:

- a) *Re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to allow better control of natural resource use within the property*

With a gradual return of security, the conservation team of the property was able to return to its base in Iférouane and is conducting daily activities in the property including limited surveillance. They have also been equipped with an all terrain vehicle, communication equipment and navigation tools. It is not clear from the report what part of the Reserve is covered by these surveillance activities. In the framework of COGERAT, four project units have been established in the municipalities of Gougaram, Iférouane, Tabelot and Timia.

- b) *Establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents*

Two land commissions have been established at the regional level in Tchirozéine and Bilma and a first commission has been established at the municipality level in Tabelot. Members of this first village commission were trained in i) evolution of Land Policy in Niger, ii) legal framework and relevant legal codes, iii) implementation of the Rural Code and role of land commissions and stock management, iv) natural resource management and local stakeholder perceptions, and v) the principles and approaches of COGERAT project implementation and administration. It is not clear from the report what has been the impact so far of the commissions that were established in clarifying land use and access rights.

- c) *Significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal natural resource extraction*

The State Party has begun building surveillance capacity in the municipalities of Timia and Tabelot. Eleven community brigades are involved in surveillance in the property to support the conservation team and COGERAT units to combat poaching and illegal wood harvesting. To support these surveillance activities an action plan for the different municipalities for sustainable resource management of the property was developed and 20 environmental co-management committees and 4 local co-management bodies were established in the Timia municipality. No information is provided on the impacts of these efforts to curb illegal resource use.

An ecological and socio-economic monitoring network is being established using observation sites where climate, environmental and socio-economic information is being collected. No information was provided on the data that were collected so far. The COGERAT project is also conducting research on local knowledge regarding changes in the property.

- d) *Immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and thatch from the property*

COGERAT has conducted studies on wood and thatch use. The research has identified zones of harvesting, harvesting methods used, users and the flow of the resource. The results of these studies are being used to develop an action plan for management of thatch and wood resources. The results have also been used on a regional level to increase stakeholder awareness on the need for conservation of the property's ecosystem. The State Party reports that alternative technologies to address the excessive wood and thatch collection will be popularized at household level during the coming years.

- e) *Initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce destabilization of soils by motorized traffic*

The COGERAT project aims to restore 55,000 ha of degraded habitat within the property. A restoration action plan for degraded land has been developed and is now being implemented. The achievements so far include the following results: restoration and seeding

of 406 ha of degraded lands; stabilization of 30 ha of moving dunes; protection of 75 ha of naturally regenerated areas; construction of 3 dikes, protecting 520 m of banks of seasonal streams (koris) to prevent their undercutting and collapse; construction of infiltration areas to support groundwater restoration establishment of 40 ha of plantations; development of 2000 m of hedges as demonstration area and biological protection of 1500 m of koris banks. The report notes that these restoration activities are being intensified this year.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the efforts of the State Party to start implementing the corrective measures. Unfortunately, the report provides no clear information on the current security situation in the property and the impacts on the conservation activities. The report also provides little information on the impacts of the efforts to implement the corrective measures on the state of conservation of the property, in particular when comparing them to the scale of the property. The World Heritage and IUCN note that the ecological restoration of degraded lands so far only covers a small percentage of the targetted 55000 ha, which in itself is small compared to the size of the property (7.7 Million ha). More support will therefore be needed to accomplish this task and to achieve this the international community needs to be encouraged to expand its support for the full implementation of these corrective measures.

The World Heritage and IUCN further note that the State Party report mentions the development of a number of strategies for the recovery of the property (action plan for sustainable resource management of the property, restoration action plan for degraded land), as well as studies on wood and thatch use and recommends that the State Party provides copies to the World Heritage Centre for information.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no additional information was provided on the status of the biodiversity of the property. Data provided in the 2008 State Party report indicated a serious decline in the populations of critical wildlife species. According to the IUCN Redlist of threatened species review in 2008, key species in the property continue to decline or be found in very low levels. The critically endangered Addax is limited to small isolated groups based on sporadic reports from the field. The 2008 State Party Report concluded that Addax was extinct in the property. IUCN encourages the State Party to clarify the status of this species and to discuss the feasibility of establishing an Addax recovery plan with IUCN's Species Survival Task Force and the Antelope Specialist Group in particular. IUCN also notes that the critically endangered Dama Gazelle may also still be present in the property. The wild population is now around 500 individuals globally.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore reiterate their recommendation that a comprehensive wildlife survey be undertaken to establish the presence and absence of key species and the need for specific wildlife restoration and encourages the State Party to discuss the results with IUCN species specialists. Such a study would be a basis for defining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN also notes that the UNDP/GEF project "Integrating the Sustainable Management of Faunal Corridors into Niger's Protected Area System" was approved in November 2008 and encourages the State Party to provide information on the activities of this project that are relevant for the conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

10. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,

11. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
12. Welcomes the fact that in spite of the continuing security problems, the implementation of the corrective measures has now started with support of the Co-management of natural resources of Aïr-Ténéré and its surrounding areas project (COGERAT), but notes that given the size of the property it will take time before a positive impact on the recovery of the Outstanding Universal Value can be registered;
13. Urges the State Party to continue and increase its efforts to fully implement all the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2005 monitoring mission;
14. Calls upon the international community to increase their support for the implementation of the corrective measures;
15. Requests the State Party to provide copies to the World Heritage Centre of the strategic documents that have been developed for the recovery of the property (action plan for sustainable resource management of the property, restoration action plan for degraded land) as well as the studies on wood and thatch use;
16. Reiterates its request to the State party to organize before the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010 and, in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its relevant specialists groups, a comprehensive survey of the property, in particular populations size and distribution of threatened species to evaluate the status of its Outstanding Universal Value and develop population recovery and rehabilitation programmes;
17. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, 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 34th session in 2010;
18. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property as soon as the comprehensive survey mentioned above is available and before the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2011 to assess its state of conservation and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures in view of establishing the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, update the corrective measures and set a timeframe for their implementation;
19. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, an overview of current and projected budgets for the management of the property, status of anti-poaching activities, and information on trends in wildlife populations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
20. Decides to retain Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

16. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2003

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

2003

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

- a) Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage;
- b) State of war in the country.

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

This will be defined as soon as the situation allows it.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
- b) Emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;
- c) Establishment of a local management unit on the site;
- d) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
- e) Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.20; 31 COM 7A.17; 32 COM 7A.16

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 approved in 2003 for Emergency assistance (USD 5,000 disbursed, returned to the World Heritage Fund)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

November 2002: UNESCO mission for the Makhool Dam project

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project;
- b) Fragile mud brick structures;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130>

Current conservation issues

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee noted its concern for risks of damage due to the rising waters of the Tigris River and requested the State Party to take possible emergency measures and carry out maintenance work. It also recalled the identified corrected measures to be implemented, notably the establishment of a local management unit, the preparation of a conservation and management plan as well as the protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures. It had also requested the State Party to invite, should the situation allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive monitoring mission. Due to the security constraints, such a mission was not possible.

However, within the framework of UNESCO's assistance to the Iraqi authorities, a member of the UNESCO-Iraq office visited the property in November 2008 for a few hours. The report of this visit notes the acceptable state of conservation of the property but stresses the lack of maintenance and the decay of building materials. The report recommends regular maintenance and cleaning, the recording of possible risks and the establishment of paths for visitors. Concerning the issue considered as the most alarming by the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage - the destruction of the site by the raising level of river water during the rainy seasons, the report does not record any specific damage to the site but notes however that 2008 was particularly dry.

The State Party submitted a report dated 8 March 2009, in Arabic. It notes that the property is in good condition in terms of security and confirms the establishment of an administrative unit on the property, composed of an archaeologist, an administrator, and other specialists in documentation, restoration and research. 12 permanent guards are assigned to the fenced property. The report also notes that a specialised team has started gathering documentation on all archaeological and conservation works previously carried out at the site in view of a publication.

However, as in its 2008 report, the State Party mentions the collapse of some parts of the eastern bank of the property on the shore of the Tigris River. It recalls the correspondence between the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and the Ministry of Water Resources, requesting the building of stone barriers that could not be implemented due to the lack of funds. The State Party continues to request technical assistance and scientific advice from the World Heritage Committee regarding the issue of subsidence.

Regarding the conservation of the fragile mud brick structures, the report mentions a restoration project at Tabira Gate, the only part of the "city" described in the report as not in good condition, and for which funds have been allocated for a project to begin "soon". .

The State Party report provides a verbal description of the property in response to the World Heritage Committee's request for details concerning the property's boundaries, but does not provide the needed map.

The State Party report also indicated its intention to establish an archaeological school in Ashur to benefit all governorates in training future archaeologists and conservation specialists, to take advantage of the ongoing conservation work.

Finally, concerning the project to build a dam south of the site that would cause severe damage, the State Party report mentions that the project has been put on hold for five years and that it might never be resumed.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies commend the State Party for its efforts to set up a management structure at the property but are concerned by the lack of conservation and security measures established on site. In light of the urgent needs of the property, the establishment of an archaeological school at the site should only proceed if this can be ensured without diverting resources from needed conservation work.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes the efforts of the State Party to set up a management structure on site;*
4. *Requests the State Party to take all possible emergency measures to protect the eastern part of the property from the rising waters of the Tigris River, to undertake necessary maintenance and conservation work to avoid further damage, and to ensure continuing and permanent site security;*
5. *Encourages the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures previously identified:*
 - a) *Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;*
 - b) *Emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;*
 - c) *Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;*
 - d) *Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.*
6. *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 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 34th session in 2010, as well as to provide a detailed map of the boundaries of the property;*
7. *Calls upon the international community to assist; in every way possible, the State Party in the protection of this property;*
8. *Also requests the State Party, should the conditions allow it, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Ashur to assess the state of conservation of the property;*

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, **by 1 February 2010**, an updated report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
10. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

17. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2007

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

State of war in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

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

This will be defined as soon as the situation allows it.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of a local management coordination unit on the site;
- b) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
- c) Maintenance and emergency conservation activities.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 8B.23; 32 COM 7A.17

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 from the Nordic World Heritage Fund for training and documentation aiming at the preparation of the Nomination File.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

State of war in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276>

Current conservation issues

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee noted its concern related to the destruction of archaeological remains and called upon the State Party to implement the corrective measures identified, in particular: the establishment of a local management unit on the site, the preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan and maintenance and emergency conservation activities. It had also requested the State Party to invite, should the situation allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission. Due to the security constraints, such a mission was not possible.

The State Party submitted a report, in Arabic, dated 8 March 2009, which stressed that the large size of the property made it difficult to work on without constraints. . The report notes that the military base within the property has not been removed despite the request from the State Board of Antiquities. The report also notes as well expansion projects for the new city that appear, so far, not to reach the boundaries of the property, and whose extent is being planned in positive collaboration with site authorities.

The report also provides information, further to a survey by the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, on the alarming state of conservation of some monuments within the property, affected by weathering, lack of maintenance and facts of war (gunshots marks and destruction by heavy weaponry), in particular:

- a) The Malwiya Mosque: parts of the outside wall destroyed by humidity and salinity; the plaza level of the mosque affected by the irons bars and reinforced concrete (remnants of the maintenance work of the previous regime, which had intended at that time to roof the whole mosque with concrete)>This work caused the removal of all original floors made of Farshi brick.;
- b) The Malwiya Minaret: no restoration of the upper part bombed in 2006; damage to the entrance due to gunshots; cracks in the staircase;
- c) Al Khalifa Palace: Bab Al Amma (the public gate) damaged by humidity and salinity; cracks in the body of the main Iwan; collapse of tiles of the western Iwan of the circular pool.
- d) Abu Dalaf Mosque: collapse of tiles from the vault of the prayer house; gunshot damage to the staircase of the minaret; bases of the walls affected by humidity and salinity.

The State Party is requesting technical assistance and scientific advice from the World Heritage Centre “to rescue the buildings that were exposed to the natural factors like humidity, rains, underground waters, winds, erosion etc. , and how to conserve these buildings over a wide geographical area and under abnormal security conditions.”

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are very concerned by the reported damages to the property and recommend that an International Assistance Request be submitted as soon as possible so that means can be found to provide the expertise needed.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.17** adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Requests the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures identified:
 - a) Establishment of a local management unit on the site,
 - b) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan,
 - c) Maintenance and emergency conservation activities;
4. 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 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 34th session in 2010;
5. Encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request for technical cooperation in order to address the damages to the property, and the need to develop remedial strategies which take into account the geographical extent of the property and its present security conditions ;
6. Calls upon the international community to assist; in every way possible, the State Party in the protection of this property;
7. Also requests the State Party, should the conditions allow it, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Samarra to assess the state of conservation of the property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

(cf. 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 are possible, such as the implementation of those foreseen within the UNESCO action plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

The timeframe is linked to the evolution of the overall situation on the ground. More specifically, the implementation of these is subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.34; 31 COM 7A.18; 32 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; August 2007, January and

February 2008: missions for the application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism; March 2009: World Heritage Centre mission.

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.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148>

Current conservation issues

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee was informed about the on-going activities carried out by the Israeli authorities in the Old City of Jerusalem and of the progress in the implementation of the UNESCO action plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City. An up-date was also presented to the World Heritage Committee concerning the issue of the Mughrabi Ascent. The World Heritage Committee, in its Decision **32 COM 7A.18**, strongly supported the implementation of the action plan and reiterated its concern about the archaeological excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities. Concerning the Mughrabi Ascent, the World Heritage Committee recalled that no measures, unilateral or otherwise, should be taken which will affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, requested the Israeli authorities to continue the cooperation engaged with all concerned parties, in particular with Jordanian and Waqf experts and asked the World Heritage Centre to organize a technical follow-up meeting at the site with all concerned parties for additional exchanges of information to enable all necessary inputs to be considered. The Reinforced Monitoring mechanism, applied since the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee, was thus re-conducted.

In March 2009, 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 22 March 2009 and by the Jordanian Permanent Delegation on 4 May 2009.

It is to be noted that 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).

I. Report from the Israeli authorities

The report of the Israeli authorities presenting the activities and projects is summarized hereunder:

a) Status of plans affecting the Old City:

The Outline Town Planning Scheme (No 2000) for the whole Municipal area has been approved for deposition with modifications, in the District Planning Commission. The Commission's decision includes important remarks concerning the conservation of the built heritage, such as the definition of three zones of conservation: The Old City, the visual basin of the Old City and the Historic City; a set of conditions and of planning principles relating to the above areas and guidelines for preparing detailed plans, including conservation directives.

The process for planning, renewal, revitalization and preservation of the Old City is in its third stage. The work includes a list of prioritized projects including infrastructure and sites for immediate conservation. In addition, a catalogue of listed buildings, monuments and elements in the public realm is being completed. These sites are cross-referenced to the UNESCO Action plan.

b) Conservation projects:

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

Prefaced by a thorough survey, the goal of this project lead by the IAA is to consolidate an agreed list of monuments in the public realm. Work commenced this year on the so called Ottoman Tombs inside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. This included the consolidation and conservation of the compound and the removal of extraneous vegetation.

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

A comprehensive state of conservation survey undertaken by the Israel Antiquities commenced in 2007. Work continued last year on the towers between Burj el-Laqlaq on the north-eastern corner of the Old City and Herod's Gate (Bab es-Zahare). Further conservation was conducted at the Zion Gate and on the internal and external faces of the southern wall of the Old City.

(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:

- The repair of the outer wall of the Zawiyeh al-Khanthaniyya to the south of the el-Aqsa Mosque continued.
- Al-Aqsa – Continued repair of the Zakhariah and Arbain shrines. Work on the roof to prevent leakage with lead sheeting on a wooden frame is an ongoing project.
- Dome of the Rock: the Veneto School of Conservation from Venice has continued its project to analyse the state of the dome. Work started to consolidate the wood of the dome. Replacement of marble wall facing on the inside of the monument continued. Leakage around the crowning crescent was sealed.
- Solomon's Stable (Marwani Mosque): Work continued on the fifth of the thirteen vaults.
- Maintenance – general works including grouting and the replacement of broken stones continued at Bab el-Hadid and Ardawiyah Madrasa.

(iv) The Holy Sepulchre

The report received from the Israeli authorities also mentions works carried out at the Holy Sepulchre, notably that the Franciscans conducted a project to consolidate the 12th century frescos in the Chapel of the Invention of the Cross using an Italian team of restorers.

The Greek authorities have continued grouting works in the rooms north of the Rotunda. Further conservation of the belfry architectural elements was conducted by the IAA for the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

c) *Archaeological excavations:*

(i) Western Wall tunnels

The report of the Israeli authorities mentions excavation works carried out in the Old City, notably those in the vaults under the Great Bridge (Street of the Chain) which produced extremely important information concerning the founding of the bridge in the Herodian period and the subsequent expansion and reconstruction that formed part of Roman Jerusalem as Aelia Capitolina. Further excavation exposed rooms of the Hasmonean (Hellenistic) period and remains of a Crusader building.

Continued major conservation works are being conducted in many sections of the site including the vaults below Madrasa Baladiyya, the Great Bridge, the Hasmonean aqueduct, and the Struthion Pool.

(ii) Salvage excavations

Small excavations were conducted at a number of sites in the Old City during the repairs of houses in the Muslim, Christian and Jewish quarters producing finds from the Umayyad, Mamluk and Ottoman periods.

d) *Construction works*

(i) Western Wall Plaza – Strauss building

An addition to an existing building, in order to accommodate the Western Wall police station and offices of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation is proposed. The plan is currently under discussion in the Planning Commissions prior to deposition. The IAA is now preparing historical documentation and a conservation file.

(ii) Ohel Yizhak Synagogue

The rebuilding of the synagogue destroyed in the 1936 riots was completed and conservation was conducted in the huge Mamluk vaults around the structure.

It is to be noted that this building is located in the Muslim Quarter, adjacent to the Hamman Al-Ain. The plans of this reconstruction (concrete structures higher than the surrounding urban fabric) were not made available to the World Heritage Centre.

(iii) Zion Gate underground parking

A plan has been submitted to the District Commission. IAA is meanwhile organizing funds in order to carry out the necessary excavation for evaluation of the feasibility of the project.

(iv) Criteria for issuing building permits

This proposal aims at solving a burning issue in the Old City until the approval of an overall plan. Prepared by the Municipality, the District Planning bureau and the master-plan team, it now awaits discussion in the Local Planning Commission.

e) *Plans and activities outside the Old City walls*

The report also mentions a series of projects located outside the Old City walls, such as a East city commercial centre, including the neighbourhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Wadi Joz; the development of the public realm in the East city, a wholesale market at the foot of the Rockefeller museum; a square at the north-western corner of the Old City and the last stage of the building of the Mamilla area. Excavations at Mont Zion, the Givati car park, Silwan, etc. are also mentioned as well as the project to establish a buffer zone being the visual basin of the Old City, within the context of the Town Planning scheme.

II. Report from the Jordanian authorities

On 4 May 2009, the Permanent Delegation of Jordan addressed a short report to the World Heritage Centre, by which it provided information on the works carried out by the Ministry of Awqaf in the Haram ash-Sharif, such as:

- a) ongoing restoration of mosaics and polychromatic wood in the Dome of the Rock, in collaboration with an Italian institution (Istituto Veneto per i beni culturali);
- b) restoring the surface of the roof of Al Aqsa Mosque in its eastern part;
- c) restoring part of the courtyards of Al Aqsa Mosque;
- d) restoring the southern wall of the Khanthaniah school at the southern wall of Al Aqsa Mosque;
- e) executing 95% of the fire alarm system for Al Aqsa;
- f) restoring about 50% of the internal marble walls of the Dome of the Rock.

The report stresses the difficulties of bringing restoration materials within the compound of the Haram ash-Sharif and the fact that the Waqf was not allowed by the Israeli authorities to build the crescent above the Dome of the Rock. It is also mentioned that on Sunday 5 April, the Israeli authorities *“extracted an ancient archaeological large stone from the Omeyyad palaces south of the Al Aqsa Mosque and transferred it to an unknown place”*.

The remain of the report focuses on the excavations carried out by the Israeli authorities *“underneath and around Al Aqsa in different unknown directions, in Al Boraq Yard (Magharbeh Quarter) and in different locations inside the Old city of Jerusalem [...] besides Waqf properties of Hamman Al-Ain and Hammam Al-Shifa”*.¹

It also mentions the building of the new synagogue in the area. Part of the report refers to the issue of the Mughrabi ascent (see below, item V) and express the concern of the Jordanian authorities regarding the access to the site by the Jordanian technical team *“to make the necessary measurements and survey to develop and complete the Jordanian proposed conceptual design”*.

III. Action Plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem

A mission from the World Heritage Centre to Jerusalem took place from 9-15 March 2009, during which the feasibility of the remaining activities foreseen within the first phase of the action plan funded by the Italian Government was examined:

- a) Development of a World Heritage Education programme, the target group of which are 12-16 year old students, within the framework of the UNESCO Special Project “Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion”. Already available materials will be distributed, including *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*. During the mission, It was agreed with the staff of the Burj Al Luq Luq Social Centre (a NGO with which the previous cultural activities -the DREAMS

¹ 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. These archaeological campaigns are 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.

Centre project- had been carried out in the first phase of the action plan) that they will dedicate to World Heritage issues two of their summer camps in July/August 2009.

- b) The foreseen development of an Apprenticeship programme supporting the costs of a training-on-the job activity for unemployed young people (16-25 year olds) is not feasible in the present conditions and has been abandoned.

Concerning the restoration of the church of St. John Prodromos in Jerusalem, funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the activities of the first phase are focusing on preliminary studies and the architectural design in order to define the detailed restoration interventions that will be carried out in the following years. During the above mentioned mission, discussions were held with the technical office of the Greek-orthodox Patriarchate and the international expert identified, in order to launch the studies for the preparation of the detailed conservation project

In addition, the first of the identified priority projects in the action plan -the restoration of the Armenian Cathedral of St. James-, has found a sponsor in the Pro Sacris Locis Foundation. The project is being developed directly by this Italian catholic foundation, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has accepted to be associated to the initiative and to provide its technical and scientific assistance.

IV. Other projects

The first phase of the development of an Architectural Heritage Preservation Institute, in partnership with the Welfare Association and thanks to funding from the European Commission, has been completed, notably the development of the curriculum and a pilot training course. The second Steering Committee meeting took place in Jerusalem on 12 March 2009 and was the opportunity to discuss the plan of activities and budget for the coming months.

The project for the Al Aqsa Centre for Restoration of Islamic Manuscripts, located in the Madrasa Al Ashrayfiyyah within the Haram ash-Sharif, funded by the Welfare Association and the United Arab Emirates, has been completed. UNESCO is now seeking funds for a second phase of the project, focusing on the restoration capacity-building that is essential to ensure the sustainability of the Centre.

The project for the “Safeguarding, Refurbishment and Revitalization of the Islamic Museum of al-Haram ash-Sharif and its Collection”, funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has started. It will mainly consist in the following: assess and inventory the collections, improve conservation measures, upgrade storage and exhibitions spaces and develop the conservation, management and administrative capacities.

V. The Mughrabi Ascent

At its 31st session (Christchurch, New Zealand, July 2007), the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision **31 COM 7A.18**, by which it 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”*. Accordingly, two professional meetings took place in Jerusalem on 13 January and 24 February 2008 between Israeli and Jordanian (including Waqf) experts.

The Reinforced Monitoring mechanism, requested by the Executive Board at its 176th session (176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting decision) and by the World Heritage Committee at

its 31st and 32nd sessions respectively (Decisions **31 COM 5.2.**, **31 COM 7A.18** and **32 COM 7A.18**), was applied for Jerusalem with regard to the Mughrabi Ascent. Six reinforced monitoring reports were prepared by the World Heritage Centre in this respect (October 2007, February 2008, March 2008, May 2008, October 2008, and February 2009) and forwarded to the concerned parties and the members of the World Heritage Committee.

In its Decision **32 COM 7A.18**, the World Heritage Committee also requested the Israeli authorities *“to continue the cooperation engaged with all concerned parties, in particular with Jordanian and Waqf experts”* and asked the World Heritage Centre to *“organize a technical follow-up meeting at the site with all concerned parties for additional exchanges of information to enable all necessary inputs to be considered”*.

The World Heritage Centre undertook the relevant consultations and the date of 12 November 2008 was agreed upon by all concerned parties. On 10 November 2008, a letter from the Permanent Delegation of Jordan informed that the Jordanian Government requested the foreseen meeting to be postponed *“until a date when it can get its own experts and equipment on the site in order to take the appropriate measurements, necessary to finalise the design of the project”*. The letter also informed the World Heritage Centre that *“the Jordanian government is in touch with the Israeli Government in order to facilitate such a task”* and that therefore *“any further meeting [...] should take place with a finalised Jordanian design”*. The follow-up meeting was therefore postponed.

In the meantime, the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO forwarded to the World Heritage Centre, in a letter dated 31 August 2008, the decision *“regarding the town planning scheme for the Mughrabi ascent”* which had been translated into English. The Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Commission *“decided to approve the plan for validity”*, subject to a series of stipulations. One of the objectors has requested, and granted permission, to appeal to the National Council for Planning and Construction. By letters of 21 December 2008 and 29 January 2009, the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO informed that this appeal was presented and discussed on 20 November 2008, but that no decision has yet been published. The Israeli National Commission for UNESCO also indicated that *“no works or archaeological activities are taking place on the Mughrabi Ascent”*.

In a letter dated 6 February 2009, the Jordanian Authorities indicated that *“Jordan is still concerned that the Israeli Authorities are denying the Jordanian technical experts access to the site in order to enable them to take the required measurements and missing information to finalize the Jordanian design”*. In that letter, it is also stated that *“Jordan’s Government stresses its right to send the Jordanian experts to the site, and reiterates its refusal to all unilateral actions undertaken or [that] will be taken by Israel in this regard, which do not comply with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee”*. On 24 February 2009, another letter was addressed to UNESCO by the Permanent Delegation, *“concerning the accessibility of the Jordanian experts and their equipment to take the appropriate measurements”*, providing a list of ten names of experts (as well as a list of equipment) for whom the Jordanian authorities wish to get the authorization to access the site.

In a letter dated 27 February 2009, the Permanent Delegation of Israel to UNESCO stated that *“Israel remains committed to ensuring that all procedures in relation to the process of approval of the proposal will continue to be conducted in a transparent and professional manner and in accordance with the resolutions adopted unanimously on this issue within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, including in particular Decision **32 COM 7A.18** adopted at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Quebec this July which Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as members of the Committee, both supported”*. Further to this, a letter dated 31 March 2009 states that *“the planning process continues in a completely transparent manner”* and that *“the next stage will be the preparation of a detailed design in*

accordance with the approved planning principles yet to be gazetted". The letter also indicates that "there is no obstacle to holding a further technical follow-up meeting" and that "the Jordanian Authorities are invited for the purpose of discussing the details of the aforementioned design currently being prepared by the Israeli authorities".

VI. The 181st session of the Executive Board of UNESCO

From 14 to 30 April 2009, the Executive Board of UNESCO held its 181st session. The issue of Jerusalem was presented within two items of the Agenda, i.e. the Report of the Director-General (181 EX/5) and the specific item about the Old City of Jerusalem (181 EX/12). The Permanent Delegation of Jordan distributed a note dated 14 April concerning item 5, focused in particular on the issue of the authorisation of access to the site for the Jordanian experts. The Executive Board adopted Decision 181 EX/5 *"regretting the postponement of the follow-up meeting, due to circumstances that have impeded Jordanian experts from having access to the Mughrabi Ascent site"*, and by which it *"affirms the necessity of cooperation in order to arrange for access to the Mughrabi Ascent site, and calls on the Director-General to organize a follow-up meeting of experts as soon as possible, once the parties concerned have reached an agreement"*.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.18

The Draft Decision will be presented to the World Heritage Committee in the form of an Addendum (Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add.2*)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii)

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

2000

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

- a) Damage to the external walls and demolition of hydraulic works of Shalamar Gardens;
- b) Serious state of degradation of the historic monuments and garden complex within the property.

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

- a) Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens approved and implemented;
- b) Foundations of the water tanks of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens protected and consolidated as archaeological relics;
- c) External walls of Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort preserved and protected;
- d) Boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens redefined and extended;
- e) Encroachments and urban pressure adequately controlled;
- f) Safeguarding programme with corresponding timeframe and financial resources elaborated.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Implementation of master plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
- b) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks and preservation of the remaining third tank of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, as well as overall preservation of the hydraulic works as archaeological relics;
- c) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
- d) Redefinition of boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens and submission of proposal for extension to the World Heritage Committee, taking into account the recommendations to include the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and Tomb of Rangjit Singh, proposed following the 2003 and 2005 missions;
- e) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressures, including removal of parking for busses in the immediate vicinity of Lahore Fort;

- f) Prioritisation for allocation and use of available resources according to the management objectives determined in the master plans.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A definite timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures was not agreed with the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.27; 31 COM 7A.24; 32 COM 7A.23

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 Emergency Assistance; USD 69,729 Technical cooperation; USD 18,000 Training assistance

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000, Norwegian Funds in Trust, Japanese Funds-in-Trust, United States Embassy in Pakistan

Previous monitoring missions

October 2000: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; April 2001 and June 2003: UNESCO experts advisory missions; November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; February 2009: UNESCO Tehran Office/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Demolition of two of the tanks and partial demolition of a third tank of the hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens;
- b) Encroachments and urban pressure;
- c) Inadequate management mechanisms (including incomplete legislation, lack of financial resources);
- d) Lack of definition of boundaries of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171>

Current conservation issues

During its 32nd session, the World Heritage Committee requested that the State Party develop 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; and present a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property. The World Heritage Committee also asked the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission so as to assess the progress made towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 1 February 2009, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, outlining progress as follows:

a) Draft statement of OUV

The State Party report does not include a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and does not mention whether this is being prepared.

b) Progress made in addressing the corrective measures

With regard to the above-mentioned corrective measures, the report presented by the State Party contains the following information:

i) Implementation of master plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens

The master plans of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens have been prepared and published, and the Directorate General of Archaeology, Government of Punjab (DGoA,P) is fully determined to their implementation. Mechanisms for implementation including through the establishment of a Steering Committee, a Technical Committee, a Punjab Heritage Fund (independent of annual government allocations), a Documentation Centre, a Special Projects management team, and new procedures to ensure selection of qualified contractors and craftsmen, are described in detail in the State Party report.

ii) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks

Following the consolidation and restoration of the remaining hydraulic structures, the State Party report notes that a permanent boundary wall (i.e. fence) is being built around the area, and that once this is complete, archaeological excavations will be undertaken within this perimeter.

iii) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens

The State Party report describes ongoing extensive actions for repair and strengthening of the badly deteriorated external walls of Lahore Fort. Other activities include the creation of walways in the Moat area, partial conservation of the Ath Dara Pavillion and of a water tank in Jahangir's quadrangle, and the waterproofing of the Moti Mosque. At the Shalamar Gardens, the work carried out involved the re-establishment of ancient fountains, and the conservation of the external wall. All of these activities, some of which started already in 2006, are still on going. The report describes progress as incremental and implies that many years will be necessary to complete this work.

iv) Redefinition of the boundaries

The State Party reports that a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

v) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressure

The State Party has reiterated its intention to establish a 50 feet wide buffer zone where no buildings would be allowed around the Shalamar Gardens. Negotiations are apparently underway with City authorities for the setting up of this buffer zone as well as for the removal of the Rim Market and Bus Stand in the vicinity of the Lahore Fort. A parking lot on the road between the western wall of the Fort and the tomb of Ranjit Singh has been removed.

vi) Prioritisation for allocation and use of available resources

The State Party report notes that the main source of expenditures on the World Heritage property is the annual development programme of the Government of Punjab, through its 5 year spending programmes for preservation and restoration of Lahore Fort, and separately Shalamar Gardens. These funds are being supplemented with resources derived from the newly established Punjab Heritage Fund, and a grant from the United States Embassy for the restoration of the Alamgiri Gate at Lahore Fort. While the State Party report does not discuss how available funds are being prioritised according to the management objectives of the approved master plans, it details activities undertaken in 2007-2008 under the Five Year

Programmes for the Preservation and Restoration of Lahore Fort and the Shalamar Gardens (see above under point iii).

A joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission took place from 4 to 6 February 2009. With regard to the progress accomplished by the State Party in the implementation of the above corrective measures, the mission report noted the following:

i) Implementation of master plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens

The two master plans for the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens have been formally adopted by the State Party on 14 February 2009 and their implementation has begun. The State Party is aware of the need to develop a Statement of OUV to guide its activities and assured the mission that this would be prepared "soon". This is crucial to ensure that the master plans are used in the most effective way. Equally important is the need for capacity-building among the staff of the Directorate General of Archaeology of Punjab (DOAP), to which the responsibility for managing the property has been transferred in recent years.

ii) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks

The work carried out since 2005 includes the erection of a fence around the area and the removal of garbage containers. The third tank remains to be restored and conserved.

iii) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens

The mission noted some conservation work under way, notably at the Royal Hammam and at the eastern and western gateways of the Lahore Fort, with support from the Getty Conservation Institute. Other repair works are being carried out by the State Party. However, large sections of the wall are still in a very dilapidated condition, especially along the southern and eastern side of the Fort. The area between the eastern wall and the fence has been filled with rubbish. The mission noted as well that it would be desirable to divert the traffic from the road passing right next to the north-eastern corner of the Fort, as well as to remove parking of vehicles and buses and street vendors from the area near the main entrance to the Fort.

iv) Redefinition of the boundaries

The mission was provided with an "official notification", dated 14 February 2009, concerning the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, as well as with two maps where these boundaries are indicated. There appears to be a discrepancy between the description of the buffer zone around the Lahore Fort in the "notification" and that which is shown in the correspondent map. Moreover, the Badshahi Mosque is included within the proposed buffer zone of the Fort – i.e. not within the property – while the Tomb of Ranjit Singh lies outside of the buffer zone. These proposed modifications have not been formally submitted by the State Party for consideration by the World Heritage Committee according to the provisions of paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

iv) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressure

Following the establishment of a buffer zone of 200 feet around the property, a court order has been apparently issued for the removal of all encroachments within this area. This, however, has not been implemented yet. The mission was informed by DOAP that the bus parking would be also removed, but not provided with a specific timeframe.

vi) Prioritisation for allocation and use of available resources

The DOAP has now been provided with funding (i.e. Rs 300 million, equal to approximately 3,7mio USD, for each of the two sites) for conservation works and is implementing many of

the activities foreseen in the master plans. However, there does not seem to be a prioritised plan for the use of these and other resources.

The mission noted, in conclusion, that some of the corrective measures had been carried out, at least in part, while others remained to be implemented. It set out a number of specific recommendations to assist the State Party in accomplishing all the agreed corrective measures, including the elaboration of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value; urgent measures to secure and conserve the external walls of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens; the documentation and protection of the remaining hydraulic features in the Fort and Shalamar Gardens; the elaboration of detailed conservation plans and guidelines to complement the master plans; and capacity-building activities for the staff of DOAP and officials at the provincial level. No clear timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures was discussed with the State Party.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS note the significant efforts made by the State Party to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the property, notably by formally adopting the master plans and starting their implementation. However, they also note that some important issues remain to be addressed for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including strengthening human resources and the organisation of capacity-building programmes, possibly through a request of International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund. This would require further activities and an extended timeframe for their implementation, which needs to be determined.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the State Party in the overall preservation and conservation of elements of the World Heritage property, notably by adopting the master plans and carrying out conservation works at the two sites of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
4. *Notes, however, that some of the corrective measures agreed by the World Heritage Committee remain to be implemented, in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the property;*
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 submit this to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2010, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property, according to the provision of paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to achieve the Desired state of conservation defined by the World Heritage Committee for the removal of the property*

from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and define a clear timeframe for the implementation of the relative corrective measures;

8. *Encourages the State Party to give consideration to the recommendations of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission of February 2009, and particularly to strengthen the human resources for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property, including through appropriate capacity building programmes, possibly with international assistance under the World Heritage Fund;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, including a clear timeframe, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
10. ***Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

27. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004, extension 2006

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2006

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

- a) Lack of legal status of the property;
- b) Lack of legislative protection of buffer zones;
- c) Lack of implementation of the management plan and of active management;
- d) Difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation (visits under the Kosovo Stabilisation Force / United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (KFOR / UNMIK) escort and lack of guards and security);
- e) Unsatisfactory state of conservation and maintenance of the property.

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

- a) Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;
- b) Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
- c) Implementation of the management plans, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša;
- b) Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljeviša, that was partly removed);
- c) Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**.

Long-term corrective measures:

- d) Ensure the adequate long-term administrative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

- e) Put in place strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
- f) Adequately delineate the boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings);
- g) Prepare detailed state of conservation reports as a basis for adapted monitoring, preventative conservation measures, and specific conservation projects to reverse decline;
- h) Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the management plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Urgent / short-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo;
- b) Regarding the long-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo no specific timeframe can be given at this stage due to the political situation.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 8B.53; 31 COM 7A.28; 32 COM 7A.27

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 699,335 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005; USD 503,500 by the Italian Government, USD 75,335 by the Czech Government and 121,000 USD by the Greek Government.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo; July 2008: UNESCO (BRESCE mission), 19-22 January 2009: UNESCO (BRESCE) mission;

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

Current conservation issues

Note: The Secretariat was informed by the Legal Advisor that "The UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 12.44 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement be achieved".

The World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) acknowledged the continuing difficulties to monitor the property and the challenges to the follow-up to the intersectoral mission of January 2007 and recalled its request, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory

protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan.

Following the discussion on these issues at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008) and as suggested by the Chairperson in her conclusions, the World Heritage Centre addressed a request for clarification to the Legal Advisor of UNESCO about the international “legal framework” of this matter. A Circular Letter dated 31 March 2009 entitled “Final Decision **32 COM 7A.27** concerning the “Medieval Monuments in Kosovo” was sent to all States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and to the Advisory Bodies including the finalized decision.

a) *Statement of Outstanding Universal Value/Significance*

Concerning the development, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, of a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value/Significance including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, the draft statement which was received in 2008 was reviewed by ICOMOS International and is being presented in Working Document *WHC-09/33.COM/8E* for examination.

b) *Update on the state of conservation and international cooperation*

An update report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the Permanent Delegation of Serbia on 30 January 2009, which indicated that the last monitoring at *Decani Monastery* took place on 17 January 2009, which noted that the monastery church is in good condition. However some deterioration at the facades has been noticed due to the lack of drainage and water gutter systems. It mentioned also the “boiler room” located in the buffer zones where structures were built. Concerning *Gracanica Monastery* the monitoring was carried out on 18 January 2009, it was noted that it was in a good condition with similar water effects on the lower walls. Several structures were built in the buffer zones, including residential wings, a new bell tower, a boiler room and garage. The threatened facade sculptures and wall painting are subject to conservation works carried out in stages and with NGO support. A workplan is suggested which includes the survey of the monastery complex, assessing priorities for projects, performing the works and monitoring and evaluation. In addition systematic excavation investigations should be performed. Concerning the *Church of the Virgin of Ljevisa in Prizren*, the structure is in good condition and the roofs and domes were covered in 2008 with lead metal plate. The Facades of the *Patriarchate of Pec* were restored in 2008 in accordance with the 2006 project.

As a follow up to the International Donors Conference (May 2005) and the 2007 Intersectorial mission and at the request of the Director General of UNESCO, the UNESCO Venice Office (BRESCE), in cooperation with UNMIK, organized an international expert mission to Kosovo from 19 to 22 January 2009.

The mission had the opportunity to update the information about the situation of the serial World Heritage property in Kosovo and visited the following parts of the property:

- *Gracanica*: The mission noted changes since the last mission at the monuments including certain construction activities in the compound of the Monastery. The technical experts notified some damages on the frescos surveyed and a more detailed report is about to be elaborated. The restoration of the frescos of the monastery may be proposed for financing through the contribution which the Russian Federation announced to the Director General of UNESCO;
- *Decani*: Special attention should be paid to the proposal of the Monastery authorities related to the re-construction of the dormitory that was burned down in 1946, as the plan proposed is not being cleared by the Institute for Protection of Monuments from Belgrade.

In the case of further attempts related to the construction of this building an ICOMOS expert mission could be sent to review the plans and proposed solutions;

- *Pec*: The mission noted that the facade of the three churches was recently repainted in dark red color. No information on this development was received by the World Heritage Centre in compliance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- *Church of Bogorodica Ljeviska, Prizren*: No changes have been noted by the mission since the last mission in July 2008. Although the keys of the completed monument were supposed to be handed to the Church representatives, this has not happened. At the moment UNESCO; is organizing the activities related to the restoration of the wall paintings; it is important to underline that the project should also include restoration of some external elements. Further works on the wall paintings could not be initiated prior to being sure that the architectural works are correctly performed and that no frescos could be endangered any more by atmospheric influences.

The mission noted that both the Director of the Center of Monuments from Serbia and the Director of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo did cooperate with the mission team.

In addition, the Assistant Director General for Culture and Chief Europe and North America of the World Heritage Centre met with the staff concerned with Kosovo at the European Commission Offices in Brussels (EC – DG Enlargement) on 3 April 2009. Cooperation opportunities related to the Forum for Technical Information Exchange on Cultural Heritage in Kosovo were discussed. Launched on 28 January 2009, the Forum is open to all relevant technical stakeholders with the common objective of preserving and promoting cultural heritage. Its main purpose is to facilitate information exchange in view of a coordinated approach of the cultural heritage in Kosovo, including with UNMIK and UN Habitat. The Forum is not a decision making body. The European Commission emphasized UNESCO's unique expertise in the field of cultural heritage and requested the participation of UNESCO at the technical level.

c) *Reinforced monitoring mechanism*

The entire mission of January 2009 concluded that the monitoring of the World Heritage property in Kosovo has to be reinforced. Due to the complex situation of the protection of heritage in Kosovo, underlining that the Church is the owner of this heritage, but considering the real will of all the parties to support and improve their efforts to protect World Heritage in Kosovo and the evolution of the cooperation among the managers of heritage, more frequent reporting could be developed as an intermediate solution.

On 29 October 2008 the Republic of Serbia wrote to the Director General of UNESCO and requested to “*approve reinforced monitoring of the “medieval monuments in Kosovo ”in order to ensure timely implementation of the World Heritage Committee’s decisions relating of these monuments in danger”*”.

Following the January 2009 mission and the finalization of the Decision of the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee and its transmission to all State Parties on 31 March 2009, the Director General of UNESCO decided to activate the Reinforced monitoring mechanism carefully considering the specific circumstances of this property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54**, **31 COM 7A.28** and **32 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32d (Quebec City, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the information provided by the state of conservation report of January 2009 and the results of the mission of the UNESCO BRESCE Office to the property in January 2009;
4. Notes that the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been submitted and has been reviewed by ICOMOS;
5. Welcomes the Decision by the Director General to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to this property on 1 April 2009;
6. Reiterates its request, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones; adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan;
7. Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to address the Desired state of conservation defined, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. Decides to retain the **Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger**, and to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010.

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

30 COM 7A.33; 31 COM 7A.31; 32 COM 7A.30

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.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit a state of conservation report as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) nor was additional information received throughout the year regarding the state of the property. Consequently, progress made on the implementation of the corrective measures identified and on the recommendations from the 2008 reactive monitoring mission is difficult to assess.

In 2008, the mission report noted efforts made by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property and to implement the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, including the implementation of emergency measures, the formulation of an Integral plan for the conservation and development of Coro y La Vela, the creation of an office to address urgent problems, implementation of financing systems for built heritage and the structural consolidation and interventions at buildings in the core and buffer zones of the property and the completion of an integrated drainage system. Other progress was also noted in the 2008 state of conservation report. However, it was also noted that important benchmarks had yet to be accomplished, most importantly the setting up of a management structure to effectively and adequately address the conservation and management of the

property and the securing of funding to sustainably implement the formulated Integral Plan. It was also noted that standardised and prioritised conservation plans were lacking, including definitions for intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS remain concerned about the state of conservation of the property, in light of the vulnerability of the earthen architecture constructions and the deficiencies in the institutional arrangements to guarantee the conservation of the property that can only be overcome with the official approval of the Integral Plan. Comprehensive conservation plans are also critical to delineate a precise course of action for interventions at the property to conserve its Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity. In addition, capacity building needs to be strengthened to address decay factors and public awareness and involvement needs to be enhanced.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the progress made on the implementation of the corrective measures, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;*
4. *Also regrets that the State Party did not submit a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and reiterates its request to develop it in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008);*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
7. ***Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***