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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-ninth session

Bonn, Germany

28 June – 8 July 2015

**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 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/39COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports are also available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

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.

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NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003 to present

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

- Political and military crisis in Côte d'Ivoire from 2002 to 2010
- Poaching of wildlife and fires caused by poachers
- Over-grazing by large cattle herds
- Absence of effective management

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4336>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (1988-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 97,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme and Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

January 2013: IUCN Reactive monitoring mission; June 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Conflict and political instability
- Lack of management control and access to the property

- Poaching
- Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure
- Bush fires

Illustrative material <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available online at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents>. The report provides the following information:

- The aerial survey of the property took place in April 2014, enabling a comparison with the survey undertaken in 2010. There is evidence of an overall growth in the abundances and populations of bovid, although a decline is observed in the buffalo population. A survey of chimpanzees was ongoing in January 2015. A survey of elephants is required but not yet foreseen;
- The Ministry of Industry and Mines confirms that there are no mineral exploration or exploitation licenses within the property, and that no Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been carried out for mining projects to the north of the property. However, illegal gold mining has significantly increased since end 2014, and steps are being taken to respond to this serious threat to the property;
- An updated management plan 2015-2024, taking into account the rehabilitation plan, was approved in December 2014. Implementation of the full rehabilitation plan will commence in 2015. In the meantime the rehabilitation of infrastructure, including boundary markers, continues;
- Significant funding is made available by the State Party and its partners for the sustainable management of the property, including since October 2014 a debt swap with Germany in the amount of 10 million euros;
- The Park Director and the Mobile Brigade have relocated to Bouna closer to the property which has enabled the strengthening and intensification of surveillance activities. This in turn has resulted in a significant reduction of anthropogenic pressures such as poaching, encroachment and illegal grazing;
- 23 Villager Associations for Conservation and Development (AVCD) were established in the villages surrounding the property. In 2014, participation of local people in patrols represented 20% of total patrol effort. Engagement with local communities has also included alternative livelihood projects and awareness raising activities;

Progress towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is also presented in the report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation that no mining licenses have been awarded inside the property is welcome. However it should be recalled that the 2013 mission identified two mineral exploration permits immediately to the north of the property. The potential impacts of these permits on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property should be assessed, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

It is noted with concern that illegal gold mining has significantly increased since end 2014. Given that illegal gold mining affects not only the property but most protected areas in Côte d'Ivoire, political support from the national level is crucial, including the provision of adequate resources to address the threat, and strong legal follow-up to deter transgressions.

The State Party has made significant progress in addressing anthropogenic pressures on the property. The reductions in agricultural encroachment and illegal grazing between 2010 and 2014 (approximately 71% and 98%, respectively) are particularly commendable, as well as the increasing participation of local people in patrols. Poaching has also diminished, but remains a significant threat in particular in view of the steep increase of illegal gold mining, including in areas of high biodiversity within the property.

The updating of the management plan which includes the rehabilitation plan is welcome. The rehabilitation plan should be implemented as a matter of priority in order to enable the efficient implementation of other management activities, including patrols. Adequate human and financial resources should be provided to ensure the efficient implementation of both these plans.

The results of the aerial survey will enable further definition of the indicators of the DSOCR that relate to conservation of bovids. However, in order to further define the biological indicators of the DSOCR in a holistic manner, data should also be available on the populations of chimpanzees and elephants. Although the chimpanzee survey, expected to be completed by end April 2015, is collecting some preliminary results on elephants as well, a specific survey may still be required in order to enable more conclusive results for elephant. It is noted that a study was undertaken in June 2014 to define a methodology for biological monitoring of the property, which should be finalized and implemented to ensure regular monitoring of the recovery of wildlife populations throughout the property, in order to facilitate the review of progress achieved towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the continued progress achieved by the State Party in addressing anthropogenic threats to the property, and commends the State Party in particular for significantly reducing the number of recorded incidences of agricultural encroachment and illegal grazing, and for the increasing participation of local people in patrols;*
4. *Also welcomes the State Party's confirmation that no mining licenses were awarded within the boundaries of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) for the two exploration licenses located immediately to the north of the property, which should include an assessment of their potential impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
5. *Notes with concern the reported rapid increase of illegal gold mining and the associated risk of poaching, and urges the State Party to provide political support at the national level to ensure adequate provision of human and financial resources and strict law enforcement to address this threat;*
6. *Requests the State Party to implement the rehabilitation plan as a matter of priority, to ensure the effective implementation of other management activities;*
7. *Also notes that the results of the aerial survey will enable further definition of the biological indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and also requests the State Party, in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to define the biological indicators and the timeframe to achieve them as soon as further data are available on chimpanzee and elephant populations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to implement a robust and consistent biological monitoring methodology to ensure regular monitoring of the recovery of wildlife*

populations throughout the property, which should facilitate the future review of progress achieved toward the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

9. ***Requests furthermore*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
10. ***Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of one of the States Parties reports on the state of conservation of the property)

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) need to be read in conjunction with Item 9 below.

4. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii) (viii) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1994-present

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

- Increased poaching of wildlife
- Incapability of staff to patrol the 650 km long boundary of the Park
- Massive influx of 1 million refugees occupying adjacent parts of the Park
- Widespread depletion of forests in the lowlands.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1980-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 268,560

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,731,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of: Italy, Belgium and Spain, and the French-speaking Community of Belgium as well as the Rapid Response Facility (RRF).

Previous monitoring missions

April 1996 - March 2006 - December 2010: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission ; August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reinforced monitoring mission ; March 2014 : World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Attribution of a petroleum exploration permit inside the property
- Poaching by the army and armed groups
- Encroachment
- Extension of illegal fishing areas
- Deforestation, charcoal production and cattle grazing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/> (pages 33 – 44). The report notes the following points:

- It is recalled that the oil company SOCO announced in June 2014 that it would stop its activities in Virunga National Park unless the Congolese Government and UNESCO agree that these activities can be compatible with its World Heritage Status. No confirmation is provided on whether the Congolese Government has cancelled the oil exploration licenses covering the property, as was requested by the Committee;
- Security in the site has been improving, following several military operations against rebel groups and efforts to demobilize rebel forces. Nevertheless, security remains problematic especially in the northern and central areas of the property where military operations are still underway. The total number of rebel groups operating in the property diminished from 13 to 8. As part of a new stabilization plan, 600 soldiers of the Congolese Army have been removed from the site, and a new contingent of 280 soldiers is placed under the command of the park authorities for joint operations. 107 new guards were recruited and trained, bringing the total number to 480. Consequently, the number of ranger patrols was increased by 54%, resulting in 75% of the site now covered by patrols;
- Elephant poaching has diminished, with 13 cases recorded in 2014 compared to 25 in 2013;
- Some progress was made on the critical issue of encroachment, with close to 50 km² evacuated at Ndwali. It is planned to re-launch the process of peaceful evacuations this year;
- Deforestation for charcoal production is a continued problem, involving mostly Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels, which continue to occupy large areas on the western borders of the park. The park is continuing its efforts to provide alternatives through the Virunga Alliance, mainly through the development of hydropower on the rivers originating from the site, which is thought to potentially be an important factor to jumpstart development in the areas neighboring the park, which are characterized by high levels of poverty.
- The Management Plan of the Park was validated and approved by the General Directorate of ICCN.

Further details on the implementation of the corrective measures are available in the report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While noting the commitment by SOCO, it needs to be pointed out that the company made it at a time when its seismic exploration activities in the property were being finalized. According to a statement of the company, it is expected that the results will be available by mid-2015. However, the main concern is that so far, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has not cancelled the

oil exploration permits granted within the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee. On 8 January 2015, the Delegation Heads of the European Union, World Bank, UNESCO and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ambassadors of Germany and Canada sent a joint letter to the Prime Minister expressing concern that the oil exploration permits covering the property have not yet been cancelled, recalling the commitments made by the State Party in the Kinshasa Declaration. In his reply, the Prime Minister pointed out that no decision has been made on authorizing oil exploitation in the park and that in the event DRC would want to go forward with oil exploitation, it would seek a minor boundary modification, citing the case of Selous Game Reserve (Tanzania). It should be recalled that the Committee approved the boundary modification of Selous Game Reserve in an “exceptional and unique” manner (Decision **36 COM 8B.43**). UNESCO replied to the Prime Minister, in April 2015, to explain that the situation of both properties are not comparable, and recalled that in both cases the process of significant modifications of boundaries should be applied.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its established position that oil exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties. Furthermore, modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties that are related to extractive industry should be dealt with through the procedure for significant modifications of boundaries, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines* given the potential impact of such projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The Committee is also recommended to recall that the Statement of OUV of the property refers on several occasions to the importance of Lake Edward and its floodplains and therefore removing this area from the property would significantly affect its OUV.

The improved security situation in the property reported by the State Party is noted, although at least 8 armed groups are still operating within its boundaries and military operations are continuing to affect parts of the property. It is especially encouraging that patrol coverage has increased to 75% of the park, and that park staff are now in control of all remaining important areas for large mammals in the property. Indicators show improving trends for gorillas and hippopotamus, and stabilization of the number of elephants.

It is hoped that these positive developments will expedite the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee. In particular, it is hoped that progress can be made in addressing the crucial issue of encroachment. The 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission estimated the total encroachment at 8 to 9% of the surface of the park. Many areas have been occupied for more than 10 years now and it will become more and more complicated to evacuate them. It is therefore crucial that the improvement of security is used as an opportunity to re-launch the dialogue with the communities and to proceed with the evacuation process. It is important that the provincial and national authorities fully support this process.

It is recommended that the Committee express its encouragement to the work of the Virunga Alliance, which aims to support sustainable economic development around the park and that it encourages private, bilateral and multilateral donors to support this initiative.

It is also recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.37** and **38 COM 7A.42**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the continued efforts deployed by the park staff to continue to ensure the conservation of the property despite life threatening conditions,*

and expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in operations for the protection of the property;

4. Welcomes the improvement of the security situation and the fact that park surveillance coverage has increased to 75% and that all critical areas for large mammals are under control of the park management;
5. Reiterates its significant concern about the fact that the State Party has not cancelled the petroleum licenses in the Park, as requested in its previous decisions, and strongly urges the State Party to cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property without further delay and to make a clear commitment not to authorize further oil exploration or oil exploitation within the established boundaries of the property as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979;
6. Also reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration or exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
7. Notes with concern that the Prime Minister in its letter dated 26 January 2015, while affirming that the Government so far has not approved oil exploitation in Virunga National Park, acknowledges that the State Party might seek a minor boundary modification to enable exploitation to go ahead;
8. Reiterates its position that oil exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties and underlines that modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties that are related to extractive industry should be dealt with through the procedure for significant modifications of boundaries, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines given the potential impact of such projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
9. Recalls that the Statement of OUV of the property refers on several occasions to the importance of Lake Edward and its floodplains for its OUV and therefore, considers that removing this area from the property would have a significant negative impact on its OUV;
10. Expresses its continued concern about the serious threats to the OUV of the property, in particular the encroachment of close to 10% of its surface by illegal settlements and uncontrolled agriculture and the limited support park staff is receiving from the Government to address these threats, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011;
11. Encourages the work of the Virunga Alliance, which aims to support sustainable economic development around the park, and also encourages private, bilateral and multilateral donors to support this initiative;
12. Also urges the State Party to expedite implementation of the corrective measures, as updated by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
13. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

14. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism of the property;
15. **Also decides to retain the Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

5. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

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

- Adverse refugee impact
- Irregular presence of armed militias and settlers at the property
- Increased poaching
- Deforestation

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

A draft has been developed during the 2009 Reactive Monitoring mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents>), but the indicators still need to be quantified based on the results of a census of large mammals.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4081>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 119,270

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 980,000 from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), and the Governments of Italy and Belgium and by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF)

Previous monitoring missions

1996-2006: several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme; December 2009: joint IUCN/World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Presence of armed groups, lack of security and political instability rendering a large part of the property inaccessible to the guards
- Attribution of mining permits inside the property
- Poaching by armed military groups
- Villages in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the park
- Illegal mining and deforestation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/> (pages 10 to 30).

The report indicates an improvement in the security situation: the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) is no longer active in the property and several local rebel groups have surrendered. However, some other groups are causing insecurity conditions in the Kasese and Itebero sections, in the lowland sector. This improvement has allowed the staff of the property to strengthen the surveillance mechanism and the level of coverage has increased to 43% in 2014 (29% in 2013).

Although the sectors of Kasese and Itebero are still occupied by rebels, this does not hinder the work of the guards of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN).

The State Party indicates progress in the implementation of the corrective measures:

- Of the 58 recorded illegal mining quarries in the property, 23 have been closed, 31 are currently abandoned and 4 are active. However, the inventory work of the quarries continues;
- To strengthen its surveillance mechanism, the property has acquired equipment and has organized training sessions on the techniques of patrols, notably the monitoring tool SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool). Two patrol posts have been built and three others have been renovated;
- Increase in the cases of elephant poaching. The fact that elephants have only been found in the Kasese sector is noted;
- No progress has been accomplished concerning the annulment of illegal land titles and the evacuation of farmers in the ecological corridor. Documentation on occupation continues, no new title has been attributed in the Park and the natural regeneration of parcels already evacuated continues;
- Socio-economic and biological studies are in progress to finalize the zoning of the property to resolve the issue of villages located in the property;
- With UNESCO support, a "National Forum on Governance and Enhancement" of the property is planned for April 2015 with the objective of ensuring the involvement of the populations in the implementation of the General Development and Management Plan (PGAG);
- A census of the principal wildlife populations was begun in October 2014. At the time of preparation of the report, only two sectors had been visited. Preliminary data does not permit an analysis regarding the tendency of populations;
- The joint Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its 38th session was postponed awaiting the finalization of the inventory.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The improvement in the security conditions and the evacuation of some armed groups have permitted the renewed control of certain formerly occupied sectors, a significant increase in the level of surveillance coverage and the evacuation of a part of the artisanal mining exploitations. However, some zones are still inaccessible and surveillance coverage remains less than half of the property. The reestablishment of security remains the condition *sine qua non* for the implementation of the corrective measures and the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee notes with satisfaction the important efforts undertaken by the State Party to strengthen surveillance and mobilize funds, as well as the actions to evacuate the illegal mining quarries and ensure the security of the property.

The lack of progress in the evacuation of the biological corridor, between the lowland and highland sectors, remains an important concern. It is also important to accelerate the implementation of the strategy for the resolution of conflicts and the development of a zoning plan for the property. It is hoped that the « National Forum on Governance and Enhancement » will result in the adhesion of all the actors of the PGAG and allow in the medium term the evacuation of the ecological corridor and the restoration of plant species of the property to retain the values and the conditions of integrity. It is

recommended that the World Heritage Committee requests the State Party to ensure that the options identified guarantee the conservation of the OUV.

It is also recommended that the Committee welcomes the commencement of the inventory work of the property, requested many years ago. The results of these studies are crucial to enable the evaluation of the state of conservation of the OUV of the property. It is not possible to draw definite conclusions based on information limited to the preliminary data of the inventory exercise. In the highland sector, the results concerning the gorillas appear encouraging, with a slight increase of the population. However, the quasi absence of gorillas in the west Nzovu sector and the extremely rare viewing of elephants is very worrying. It indicates that the impact of the presence of armed groups in the lowland sector has caused an important erosion of the OUV. It is hoped that the results will be more encouraging in the sectors that have not yet been inventoried.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures, establish a timeframe for their implementation and finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as soon as the results of the inventory are available.

Finally, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.38**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Warmly welcomes the efforts of the State Party in securing the property, strengthening surveillance and closing down the artisanal mining quarries, in accordance with the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, and encourages the State Party to ensure the continuity of its efforts;*
4. *Notes that the restoration of security is the pre-condition for the implementation of the corrective measures and the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Notes with concern the lack of progress in the evacuation of the ecological corridor, crucial to ensure the ecological continuity between the highland and lowland sectors, and reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel the land permits illegally granted within the property, to evacuate the farms installed illegally and to restore the plant species and the connectivity;*
6. *Takes note of the studies in progress on the zoning of the property and the convening of the “National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property”, and requests the State Party to ensure that the recommendations issued and the options identified concerning the evacuation of the corridor and the zoning of the property guarantee the conservation of the OUV of the property;*
7. *Welcomes the commencement of the inventory of large mammals throughout the property, permitting an assessment of the state of conservation of its OUV, but expresses its utmost concern concerning the quasi absence of the gorillas in the western Nzovu sector and the extremely low level of viewing of elephants that indicates that the impact of the presence of armed groups in the lowland sector has caused an important erosion of the OUV;*

8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the results of the inventory are available, to assess its state of conservation, update the corrective measures, and establish a timeframe for the implementation and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
10. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
11. Also decides to retain the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (vii) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996; 1984 -1992

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

- Increased poaching
- Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the flagship species of the property

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

A draft was prepared during the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>) but indicators need to be quantified on the basis of the results of the aerial surveys.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 13 (from 1980- 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 323 270

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 910,000 from the United Nations Foundation, the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain and the Rapid Response Facility.

Previous monitoring missions

2006 and 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict and political instability

- Poaching by nationals and trans-border armed groups
- Unadapted management capabilities to address the poaching crisis

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/> (pages 26 – 31).

Security challenges have also led to a renewed wave of elephant poaching, with at least 133 elephants poached between April and December 2014. In this period, park rangers were engaged in 25 violent encounters with poaching groups, armed with automatic rifles and grenades, and resulting in 14 poachers being killed. In 13 cases, the involved armed groups were documented to originate from South Sudan. In several cases, there is evidence that poachers used helicopters in their activities.

After a peak in April to June 2014, the number of elephants killed could be reduced progressively, following the acquisition of anti-poaching equipment (including a helicopter) and intensification of patrols covering 80% of the property (up from 60% in 2013) and 45% of the adjacent hunting areas (up from 20%). Unfortunately, recent reports received from the park management authority indicate that elephant poaching intensified again this year with a new group of poachers presumably originating from Sudan operating from the Azande hunting area. Another 31 elephant carcasses were found in February and March 2015.

Other measures taken by the State Party and African Parks to address this emergency are reported as follows:

- The Vice Prime Minister in charge of security visited the site with the Governor and the security committee and made strong recommendations to the Government to address the issue;
- Mixed operations between the Congolese Army (FARDC) and park rangers, with support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo MONUSCO and United States Africa Command force (AFRICOM). FARDC provided park rangers with arms and ammunition;
- Two FARDC colonels implicated in poaching were transferred elsewhere;
- Strengthened cooperation with local communities and traditional chiefs to provide intelligence on poaching activities;
- Anti-poaching operations were restructured and a 24/7 operational control room was installed;
- Cooperation efforts with the management of Lantoto National Park in South Sudan;

Increased pressure in the hunting areas as a result of increasing population densities and illegal logging and artisanal mining are also reported. A new management plan 2015 – 2017 is under preparation in response to the current emergency situation.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

At the time of writing this report, the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, requested by the Committee at its 38th session in 2014, could not yet take place due to the security situation. An experienced guard was killed on 25 April 2015 following a confrontation with a group of armed poachers who attacked the patrol unit of the property.

While last year's report noted a significant improvement of the security situation as a result of efforts to fight the rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the impact of the war in the region created a new security problem and led to a renewed poaching crisis affecting the property since April 2014. In its report, the State Party notes that in March 2014, the elephant population was estimated at 1700 animals, so with at least another 164 elephants lost between April 2014 and March 2015, population numbers might plummet under the 1500 mark very soon. The elephant population of Garamba was estimated at more than 22000 in 1976 and at more than 11000 at the start of the conflict in 1995. More than 90% of the original elephant population has thus been lost. Already the Northern White Rhino, the last known wild population of which occurred in the property, has been considered extinct in the wild, with no sightings since 2006. Poaching is also targeting the small remaining population of the endemic Congolese giraffe, estimated at less than 40 individuals in 2013 and at least three more giraffe were

reported to have been poached since the previous session. The continued erosion of wildlife populations is threatening the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which was inscribed on the basis of its exceptional biodiversity. If the tide can not be turned soon, the populations of elephant and giraffe might be heading to extinction, resulting in an irreversible loss of OUV.

In the face of this dire situation, the relentless efforts of the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN, the park management authority) and its partners, in particular the African Parks Foundation, to continue anti-poaching activities and halt the decline are commendable. It is welcomed that park rangers received more equipment, including weapons, ammunition and a helicopter. The increased cooperation with the FARDC, AFRICOM and MONUSCO are encouraging, as the poaching can not be dissociated from the wider security issues affecting the region.

The continued reports of the use of helicopters and the alleged involvement of national and foreign military in the poaching is extremely worrisome and it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee invite the Director General of UNESCO to call on the State Party as well as neighbouring States, in particular Uganda and South Sudan, which is planning to become a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, to ensure that military operations in the region do not impact on the OUV of the property. The organization of a high level meeting between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching is suggested.

There is also concern about the increased pressure on the hunting areas adjacent to the property, in particular from artisanal mining, and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop a conservation strategy for the hunting areas so that they can act as buffer zones, given their importance for the conservation of the property's OUV.

It is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.39** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the renewed poaching crisis which erupted in April 2014 and which led to the poaching of at least 164 elephants and three Congo giraffe and expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of the guard killed in operations for the protection of the property ;*
4. *Notes with great concern that the probable extinction of the Northern White Rhino in the property and the continued erosion of the populations of other wildlife species, in particular the loss of more than 90% of the elephant population and the continued decline of the relict population of Congolese giraffe, if not halted soon, could lead to an irreversible loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Commends the State Party, in particular the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) and the African Parks Foundation, for their efforts to strengthen anti-poaching efforts to address this crisis, by reorganizing anti-poaching operations, bringing in additional field equipment and a helicopter to enable better aerial support for anti-poaching activities and urges the State Party to give the utmost priority to halting the poaching crisis;*
6. *Welcomes the increased cooperation with the Congolese Army (FARDC), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) to restore security in the*

region, control the armed groups, stop cross-border incursions and address the poaching crisis;

7. Also expresses its utmost concern about continued reports of the use of helicopters and the alleged involvement of elements of the army in elephant poaching in the property;
8. Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to call on the State Party as well as neighbouring States, in particular Uganda and South Sudan, to ensure that military operations in the region do not impact on the OUV of the property and to organize in cooperation with MONUSCO a high-level meeting between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue;
9. Further expresses its concern about the increased pressure on the hunting areas adjacent to the property, in particular from artisanal mining, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a conservation strategy for the hunting areas so that they can act as buffer zones, given their importance for the conservation of the OUV of the property, including the conditions of integrity;
10. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures to rehabilitate the OUV of the property;
11. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to re-asses its state of conservation, to update the corrective measures and establish a new timeframe for their implementation and to finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
13. Decides to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism of the property;
14. Also decides to retain the **Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii) (ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-present

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

- Impact due to conflict
- Increased poaching and illegal encroachment affecting the integrity of the site

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>. However, core indicators of the results of the inventory of flagship species still needs to be quantified.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4575>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1985-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 149,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 320,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy and Belgium

Previous monitoring missions

2007, 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Poaching by the army and armed groups
- Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries
- Impact of villages located within the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 March 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/> (pages 57 – 74).

Conservation activities have been hampered by the outbreak of Ebola close to the property, which resulted in a 4 month shut down of all activities to minimize the risk of spread of the virus.

Following progress is reported in the implementation of the Corrective Measures:

- The security continued to improve thanks to the continued cooperation with the administrative, political and military authorities in the framework of “Operation Bonobo”, but there has been no further formal meeting of all parties engaged;
- Anti-poaching efforts continue to be strengthened through the training of park rangers, however, armed incursions of poacher gangs continue in particular in the north-east and south of the property. Law enforcement is regularly monitored and the introduction of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) is underway. Patrols report more sightings of elephants. Most permanent poacher camps have been removed from the property, and there is a marked decrease in the number of heavy weapons confiscated from poachers;
- The planned inventory was again postponed, as a result of the Ebola outbreak. There is not yet a comprehensive ecological monitoring system in place, although key species like Bonobo are monitored in certain areas with the assistance of research projects;
- Efforts for the participatory boundary demarcation are continuing, with works in two more problematic areas completed. No progress was made in creating an ecological corridor to link the two sectors of the park;
- Socio-economic studies in the Yaelima communities living inside the park have started, in order to develop an appropriate strategy to address this issue. “Operation Bonobo” also visited the villages occupied by the Kitawala sect, which had never been visited by park staff before.

The management plan is still not validated but implementation is nevertheless underway and management tools have improved with the development of a business plan, an operational plan and regular monitoring of implementation. Funding remains an important issue especially with the expiration of EU funding through RAPAC – (Réseau des aires protégées d'Afrique central-Central Africa network of Protected Area)

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

“Operation Bonobo”, which started in 2011, seems to be gradually bringing tangible results in terms of securing the property, restoring the authority of the State, and in particular of the park management authority, and curbing the widespread poaching by armed gangs and uncontrolled military.

At the same time, important efforts are underway to put in place basic park management operations. It deserves to be reminded that the challenges are enormous, given that Salonga National Park is one of the largest and one of the most remote terrestrial World Heritage properties, lacking basic management infrastructure. The on-going efforts of the State Party, in cooperation with its financial and technical partners, need to be welcomed. At the same time, it is clear that time and significant financial resources will be needed to build up the management of the property. For the moment, the property is totally dependent on donor funding to cover even its running costs. Given the challenges, it is crucial that donors ensure a long-term engagement in order to build up management capacity and infrastructure and support the ecological restoration of the property. The State Party should also gradually take more financial responsibility to cover recurrent costs and a sustainable financing mechanism should be developed.

It is unfortunate that the inventory had to be postponed again, as a result of the Ebola outbreak. The results will be crucial to understand how far the wildlife populations have been eroded, to quantify the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to estimate the timeframe needed for the ecological restoration of the property. It will also provide more insight in how far the poaching has been brought under control.

The report states that no progress was made in securing a biological corridor between the two components of the property, but no further information is provided. The creation of this corridor is important in terms of the integrity of the property. With human populations moving into the area, its establishment is urgent.

The start of the socio-economic studies in the Yaelima communities is a positive development and should provide useful data to develop a strategy on how to address the issue of these resident communities in the park, in a participatory way. In particular, it will be important to quantify the impact of their subsistence activities on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and get a better understanding of the population dynamics in the villages. The dialogue started with the Kitawala settlements is also a positive development. The progress made on the participatory boundary demarcation will further diminish tensions with the communities.

It is recommended that the Committee express its utmost concern that, once more, the State Party didn't provided information on the status of oil exploration and exploitation projects, in spite of the repeated requests by the Committee (**36 COM 7A.7**, **37 COM 7A.7**, **38 COM 7A.40**) and firmly reiterate its demand to provide the information and to annul any concessions, which would overlap with the property.

It is also recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.40**, adopted during its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note of the fact that “Operation Bonobo” seems to be gradually bringing tangible results in terms of securing the property, restoring the authority of the park management and curbing the widespread poaching by armed gangs and uncontrolled military;
4. Welcomes the significant efforts of the State Party, in cooperation with its financial and technical partners, to put in place basic park management operations and implement the corrective measures, taking into account the significant challenges related to the size of the property, its remoteness and its poorly developed infrastructure;
5. Calls on the donor community to ensure a long-term engagement, in order to build up management capacity and infrastructure of the property and support its ecological restoration, and urges the State Party to take more financial responsibility to cover recurrent costs and speed up the efforts to set up a sustainable financing mechanism;
6. Requests the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures, as updated by the 2012 reactive monitoring mission, to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake inventories of flagship species to quantify the state of the OUV of the property and the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as well as to establish a realistic timeframe for its achievement;
8. Notes the lack of progress in securing a biological corridor between the two components of the property, and also requests the State Party to increase its efforts to ensure the ecological continuum between the two components of the property in order to sustain its long term integrity;
9. Expresses its utmost concern that the State Party, despite repeated requests at its 36th, 37th and 38th sessions, has not provided detailed information regarding the oil exploration and exploitation projects in the central basin that risk encroaching onto the property, and urges the State Party to provide this information immediately and to annul any concessions, which would overlap with the property;
10. Reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
12. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism;
13. Also decides to retain **Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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 to present

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

- Impact of the conflict : looting of the infrastructures, poaching of elephants;
- Presence of gold mining sites inside the property.

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted in 2009, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 103,400

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted in the framework of the project "Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict" funded by Belgium: Phase I (2001-2005): about USD 250,000. Phase II (2005-2009): USD 300,000. Phase III (2010-2013): USD 350,000. United Nations Peacebuilding Fund: USD 550,000

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and May 2006: UNESCO World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2009 and 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2015 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/> (pages 50 to 56). The report notes a general improvement in the security situation related to the arrest of many local rebel groups, which has enabled the personnel to greatly increase its patrol efforts. Thus the surveillance coverage rate rose to 48% in 2014 against 25% in 2013.

In its report, the State Party informs of progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular:

- Arrest of a dozen soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) involved in poaching, including of okapi, and other illegal activities;

- Awareness raising and lobbying of the Governor of the Province to ensure security of the property and its surroundings. Placing a new military contingent at Epulu, within the property, to strengthen and increase mixed ICCN-FARDC operations;
- Following a statement from the Governor of the Province, dated September 2014, ordering the closure of artisanal mining quarries, the evacuation process began in November 2014 and is ongoing with the support of the FARDC. Thus seven quarries (gold and diamonds) have already been closed in the four central sectors of the property;
- Steps to cancel the mining permits attributed to the Kilogold Society and encroaching on the property are underway, and in the meantime the exploitation of the parcels has been suspended;
- Three workshops were held with participants from the Reserve, the administrative authorities and local communities, to strengthen communication and involve them in the conservation of the property. They aimed to share information about the Reserve's activities held in the course of the year: road rehabilitation, zoning plan for the property and evacuation of the mining quarries;
- The Management Plan, which is still not validated, is out of date and needs updating.

The State Party notes that the lack of financial resources remains a major constraint for the implementation of corrective measures.

Following the Reactive Monitoring mission of 2014, the UNESCO Office in Kinshasa mobilized support of USD 550,000 for the property. This support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund aims to strengthen community dialogue and reconcile the Park with local populations.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The security situation has greatly improved thanks to the joint ICCN-FARDC operations. Significant efforts have been made by the management authority to extend surveillance to 48% of the property. It should be noted that prior to the attacks of the Simba in 2011, the surveillance coverage had reached almost 60%. The measures taken against the soldiers involved in poaching are also very encouraging. Security in the region is the primary condition for the ICCN to face the challenges related to the conservation of natural resources of the property, and thereby initiate the rehabilitation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Expanding the coverage of surveillance and regaining control of the site is currently the main priority in order to halt poaching which has become uncontrollable, and the erosion of the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee welcomes the actions taken by ICCN to close mining quarries within the property, evacuate the illegal occupants and to cancel the mining titles encroaching on the property. These actions were made possible through the support of the Governor of the Province, thus demonstrating the renewal of dialogue between the management authority and the political and administrative authorities.

It is also recommended that the World Heritage Committee commend ICCN for its efforts to implement the corrective measures adopted in 2014 at its 38th session. It should be stressed that the lack of resources, financial and technical, remain a major obstacle to conducting other preventive measures to limit the deterioration of the OUV. Patrol efforts focus on critical areas of the property because only two patrol stations are operational. In addition, the immigration and traffic control activities are limited or suspended due to lack of funding. It is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to make the necessary resources available to the property to ensure effective management, and to appeal to donors to increase their support and recommence the activities that had been suspended following the 2012 attacks.

Finally, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee maintains the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and that it continues to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.41** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the significant efforts of the State Party to ensure security of the property and expand surveillance coverage, and the measures taken to punish the soldiers involved in poaching, but notes that major parts of the property remain outside the control of the managing authority;
4. Also notes that restoring security is the precondition for the implementation of corrective measures and restoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to prioritize efforts to further expand the monitoring coverage and regain control of the site to halt poaching and the erosion of the OUV of the property;
6. Welcomes the steps taken by the Managing Authority with the support of the Governor of the Province to close the mining quarries within the property and to evacuate the illegal occupants, and the steps taken to cancel mining permits encroaching the property, and requests the State Party to close all quarries and cancel all permits rapidly;
7. Further notes the difficulties reported by property managers to implement corrective actions, due to lack of technical and financial resources, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session, to rehabilitate the OUV of the property, and also requests the State Party to make available to the property the necessary means to ensure their implementation;
8. Calls upon donors to provide necessary financial and technical support to the site's managers to implement corrective actions and to resume operations suspended due to lack of security;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
10. Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property;
11. **Also decides to retain the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

9. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the implementation of Decision **38 COM 7A.42**, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/> (pages 7– 9). The report notes the following progress in the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration:

- In August 2014, the National Superior Defence Council, chaired by the President of the Republic, announced that instructions were given to reinforce security in the protected areas of the country and to strengthen the capacity of the park guards with assistance from the army;
- In November 2014, the Vice Prime Minister reiterated the commitment of the Government to implement the Declaration;
- A special anti-poaching brigade is being created in order to assist in protecting national parks. The Presidential Decree underway will formalize its creation;
- The cooperation with the army has been greatly improved;
- Efforts are underway to ensure that the mining cadastre includes updated information on the location of protected areas in order to ensure that there is no overlap between concessions and protected areas;
- The Interministerial Committee has not yet been officially established, but several interministerial meetings were held to discuss issues related to protected areas. At provincial level, these issues are dealt with by the Provincial Consultative Councils on Forests;
- The Strategic Plan of Action, which was adopted at the high level meeting of 2011, will be updated in 2015.

The report further notes that the new Hydrocarbons Code was adopted by both the Parliament and the Senate, but will still be discussed in the mixed Committee of the two Chambers, allowing for further discussion on Article 160, which foresees the possibility of degazetment of protected areas to allow for oil exploitation.

In relation to the oil exploration in Virunga, it is noted that the Government is planning to submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal with “*options for exception mechanisms for further negotiation*”. This seems to be in line with the reply by the Prime Minister to the letter of 8 January by the Delegation Heads of the European Union, World Bank, UNESCO and United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ambassadors of Germany and Canada, where he pointed out that in the event the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) would want to go forward with oil exploitation, it would seek a minor boundary modification (see also report on Virunga National Park, item 4 of Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The statement by the Vice Prime Minister of DRC reiterating the commitment of the Government to implement the Kinshasa Declaration should be welcomed. In particular, it is encouraging that concrete measures have been taken to implement one of the most important elements of the Declaration, namely to create the conditions for implementation of the corrective measures by securing the sites.

The intention to create a special anti-poaching brigade is also noted. Widespread poaching is without doubt the single most important threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of all five properties. Results of the different inventories clearly show that since the start of the conflict, the biodiversity values of the properties have been seriously affected and their populations of emblematic species, such as Northern White Rhino, Okapi, Grauer’s Gorilla, Bonobo and Elephant, were severely reduced. Decisive action is needed to turn the tide. Recently, the increasing demand for ivory has in particular further increased pressure on the remaining Elephant populations. It is estimated that the DRC Elephant population, most of which is living in the World Heritage properties, has dwindled by over 90%, from more than 100 000 at the start of the 1980s to less than 10 000 today. Securing the sites and strengthening anti-poaching efforts are important, but additional efforts will be needed in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

(CITES) to identify and take legal action against the criminal networks involved in the illegal traffic. Efforts to reduce demand in consumer countries are also needed.

The reported efforts to ensure that the mining cadastre uses accurate mapping information of the properties to avoid the attribution of mining concessions overlapping with the properties also responds to a long standing demand of the Committee. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to the State Party to annul all existing permits, which overlap with any of the properties.

It is also recommended that the Committee express its utmost concern about Article 160 of the new Code for Hydrocarbons, which foresees the possibility of degazetting protected areas, including World Heritage properties, as well as the statement made by the Prime Minister of DRC that the State Party might seek a boundary modification of Virunga National Park to allow for oil exploration activities to proceed. These are in clear contradiction to the Kinshasa Declaration, which committed to uphold the protection status of the properties. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its position on this issue, as expressed in previous decisions.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.42**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) and reaffirming the need to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011,*
3. *Welcomes the statement by the Vice Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) reiterating the commitment of the State Party to implement the Kinshasa Declaration, as well as the decision by the National Superior Defence Council to instruct the army to strengthen security in the properties;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the efforts to ensure that the mining cadastre uses accurate mapping information of the properties to avoid that mining concessions attributed overlap with the properties, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to cancel all existing permits, which overlap with any of the five properties;*
5. *Considers that widespread poaching is the single most significant threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of all five properties, also welcomes the intention to create a special anti-poaching brigade, but notes that additional efforts will be needed, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to identify and take legal action against the criminal networks involved in the illegal traffic of species of fauna and their products, in particular ivory;*
6. *Calls upon the States Parties which are transit and destination countries for ivory and rhino horn, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in ivory and other illegal wildlife products, in particular through the implementation of the CITES;*
7. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the Hydrocarbons Code that would make oil exploitation activities in protected areas possible, and about the statement by the Prime Minister of DRC that the State Party might seek a boundary modification of Virunga National Park to allow for oil exploration activities to proceed;*
8. *Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to ensure that the protection status of the World Heritage properties be maintained and to annul all oil exploration concessions overlapping with any of the five properties, and reiterates its position that mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;*

9. *Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the commitments made in the Kinshasa Declaration and to ensure the execution of the Strategic Plan of Action, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to approve the decree to formalize the creation of an inter-ministerial committee and allocate the necessary technical and financial means to ensure adequate monitoring in the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2016, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the situation regarding mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation titles that overlap with World Heritage properties, and the Hydrocarbons Code, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

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

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

11. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010 to present

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

Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood) and its secondary impacts; poaching of endangered lemurs were identified as threats for the site's integrity.

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 155,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,890,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation; USD 1,039,000 from the Government of Norway.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2011: Joint monitoring mission World Heritage Centre / IUCN

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Encroachment
- Fire
- Hunting and poaching
- Artisanal mining
- Illegal logging
- Governance

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>. The mission to the property, requested by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), is postponed until after the 39th session, at the request of the State Party and in agreement with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to provide more time for addressing the stockpile issue in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) recommendations. The report notes the following progress:

- The President of Madagascar confirmed the zero tolerance policy against illegal trafficking of natural resources and in particular rosewood, stressing the need for international cooperation to secure the protected areas where rosewood can be found, including the property;
- On-going efforts to implement the corrective measures, in particular to address illegal rosewood trafficking, with the objective to achieve the announced policy of zero stocks and to eliminate the continued illegal logging of rosewood. In conformity with the CITES Action Plan, the State Party submitted in December 2014 a "Utilization Plan for precious timber stockpiles" to CITES (annexed to the report), and a "Stock audit plan" (not annexed). The utilization plan recognizes that the large majority of "declared stocks" should be considered illegal and foresees that all existing stockpiles should be confiscated and stored in secure locations, after which their legality will be verified. The entire stock would then be liquidated, mostly through international auctions. The revenue would be used to support local development activities, with some resources reserved for conservation activities or to support law enforcement. The State Party also requested CITES to extend the ban on all rosewood exports until August 2015 to enable the Standing Committee to evaluate it. An Inter-ministerial Committee was also put in place to coordinate the actions;
- Surveillance activities were strengthened, including the implementation of an experimental maritime surveillance system to better control vessels and detect illegal exports. Patrols and patrol staff were increased and Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) was introduced, resulting in a 90% surveillance coverage of the property;
- Deforestation diminished to 0,005% (0,031% in 2013). Overall, threat levels diminished but remain high in the Masoala and Andohahela components of the property;
- Several projects involving the local communities are being implemented to improve the surveillance of the property, support sustainable development activities and provide information on World Heritage;
- Management effectiveness analyses are being carried out with "Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool" (PAMETT) and "Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit" for assessing management effectiveness of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's re-affirmation, which was also restated by the President of Madagascar at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress, of its high political commitment to address the illegal logging and trafficking of rosewood and other precious timbers should be welcomed.

Progress has been made in implementing the CITES Action Plan and several preparatory studies were carried out, which should enable liquidation of all remaining rosewood stockpiles and develop a

forestry sector which is transparent and respectful of the law and regulations. The liquidation of all stockpiles is of utmost importance to terminate illegal export and avoid the replenishment of stockpiles by further cuts. The Committee is recommended to request the State Party to fully implement the CITES Action Plan and recommendations. In particular, it is crucial that all stockpiles should be confiscated as soon as possible and their legality established, and that holders of illegal stockpiles should be prosecuted. The Utilization Plan confirms the conclusion of the 2011 monitoring mission that most of the declared stockpiles held by private businesses are to be considered as illegal. The recommendations, which propose to sell most of the stockpiles through international auctions, should be noted and the State Party urged to strictly adhere to the recommendations which will be issued by the CITES Standing Committee after its review of the Utilization Plan, and to guarantee the transparency and international oversight over the process. It will also be important to ensure that the sale will not trigger new illegal logging campaigns and that a substantial part of any revenue generated from possible sales is made available for the conservation of the property.

The on-going efforts described by the State Party to stop illegal logging and trafficking of rosewood are well noted. While the data in the report indicate that illegal rosewood logging in the property has diminished slightly in 2014 compared to 2013, it is clear that the situation remains problematic, in particular in the Masoala National Park component of the property. The report acknowledges that rosewood logs continue to be moved to the coast and shipped out illegally. The Utilization Plan also mentions the confiscation of 640 tonnes of rosewood in Kenya in May 2014 and 3372 tonnes in Singapore in March 2014, which confirms that the problem of illegal trafficking continues. Significant efforts are thus needed to immediately crack down on the remaining centres of illegal logging and trafficking, which are well known.

Progress in implementing the corrective measures, including strengthening collaboration with the local communities, reduction of deforestation and poaching of Lemur species and the ecological restoration of degraded areas, which is crucial to achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), is well noted. In order to enable removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the announced policy by the Government of zero stocks, zero tolerance toward illegal trafficking and the elimination of illegal logging of rosewood needs to be effective. It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee is also recommended to reiterate its request for a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to be invited to the property.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.44**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the restated political commitment of the State Party, which was also reiterated by the President of Madagascar at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress to address the illegal trafficking of natural resources, in particular rosewood and other precious timber species;*
4. *Acknowledges the progress made in implementing the CITES Action plan, in particular the preparatory studies, which were carried out in order to achieve the liquidation of all remaining rosewood stockpiles in the country and develop a forestry sector which is transparent and respectful of the law and regulations;*
5. *Requests the State Party to fully implement the CITES Action Plan and recommendations and to ensure that all stockpiles be confiscated as soon as possible as a conservatory measure, their legality established, and that holders of illegal stockpiles be prosecuted;*

6. Takes note of the recommendations of the “Utilization Plan for precious timber stockpiles”, which was submitted to CITES in December 2014 and which proposes to sell most of the stockpiles through international auctions, and urges the State Party to strictly adhere to the recommendations which will be issued by the CITES Standing Committee after its review, to guarantee the transparency and international oversight over any possible sale and to ensure that a substantial part of any revenue generated from possible sales is made available for the conservation of the property;
7. Expresses its concern that, while illegal rosewood logging in the property has diminished slightly in 2014 compared to 2013, it is continuing to affect the property and in particular Masoala National Park, and also urges the State Party to intensify efforts to immediately crack down on the remaining centers of illegal logging and trafficking;
8. Further takes note of the progress towards achieving the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), but considers the announced policy by the Government of zero stocks, a zero tolerance toward illegal trafficking and the elimination of illegal logging of rosewood needs to be effectively implemented to guarantee the integrity of the property and achieve the DSOCR;
9. Notes that the Reactive Monitoring mission requested at the 38th session in 2014 was postponed at the request of the State Party and in agreement with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to provide more time for addressing the stockpile issue in accordance with the CITES recommendations, and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess progress achieved in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and to update, if necessary, the corrective measures and the timetable for their implementation;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including an evaluation of the implementation of the corrective measures, and information on progress made towards achieving the DSOCR, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
11. **Decides to retain Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

12. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the mission report)

13. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014-present

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

Poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in elephant populations

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1984-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 67,980.

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2007, November 2008 and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Significant decline of wildlife populations due to poaching
- Insufficient funding and management
- Mineral and hydrocarbon prospecting and mining
- Tourism management and development
- Proposed dam development
- Operationalizing the uranium mining project
- Lack of disaster preparedness
- Need for buffer zone
- Need for increased involvement of local communities
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents>. The State Party also submitted a separate letter informing the World Heritage Centre of conservation measures taken. The State Party highlights the following:

- The Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) is expected to become operational by mid 2015;
- Implementation of the national anti-poaching strategy, which started in October 2014, is underway jointly with partners;

- Two national and one regional conference on poaching were conducted during which 14 priority actions were developed to address poaching at national level and discussions were held to improve cooperation at regional level;
- The retention scheme and external support granted by the Selous Elephant Emergency Project (SEEP), embassies and the private sector made it possible to dedicate additional staff, infrastructure and equipment to anti-poaching activities;
- A major project is under development with support of the German development bank (KfW) for the conservation of wildlife in the Serengeti and Selous ecosystems;
- A new elephant census was conducted with no results available at the time of reporting.

Responding to the World Heritage Committee request to implement the recommendations of the 2013 mission, the State Party reports as follows:

- The uranium mining project at Mkuju River is not yet operational. Measures to minimize the impacts of the Project are to be implemented upon starting of active mining;
- Pledged KfW support will be used to accommodate a landscape level “Larger Selous Ecosystem” management approach, including carrying out the related Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as well as revising and updating the General Management Plan (GMP), which will also address Wildlife Management Areas, the involvement of and benefits for local communities, and the emerging issue of alien invasive species;
- A meeting was convened by the Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism, to which several governmental institutions were invited to discuss the status of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Stiegler’s Gorge dam project;
- An ESIA for the Kidunda dam project dated December 2014 is provided for review.

The State Party commits to take the required urgent actions to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, the State Party re-affirms its commitment to refrain from any development without Committee approval and subscribes to the Committee’s established position that mining and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The on-going work to address the poaching crisis in the property is noted. However, recent poaching incidents suggest that while poaching has declined, it is not yet under control. It is recommended that enhanced law enforcement responses to poaching and trafficking are needed, and that within the framework of the national anti-poaching strategy, a site-specific anti-poaching strategy and a comprehensive emergency action plan is developed to halt poaching within the Larger Selous Ecosystem in 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 mission and Decision **38 COM 7B.95**. Measures at site level have to be accompanied by decisive actions at national level to address criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking and to improve controls in the ports used by the traffickers. CITES is also the appropriate framework to address the demand for ivory, rhino horn and other wildlife products in destination countries, which is driving the current poaching crisis.

The information that the Mkuju mining project is not yet operational is noted. However, the stated intention to engage in monitoring only upon the start of active mining is technically not tenable. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the need for the State Party to put in place both disaster preparedness and water monitoring prior to active mining. There is still concern on the lack of clarity of the extraction method which is planned to be used.

The information provided does not clarify the status of planning and decision-making of the Stiegler’s Gorge Dam project as was requested in Decision **38 COM 7B.95**, and thereby does not permit any conclusive observations on its current status.

No progress was made on the establishment of a buffer zone and potentially strategic additions to the property, although this was a key commitment made by the State Party at the time of the approval of the boundary modification.

The submitted ESIA for the Kidunda dam project contains three separate ESIA volumes (dam, transmission line, upgraded road access) and one cumulative impact assessment. The ESIA for the Kidunda dam (“Volume II”) is almost identical to the 2012 draft report submitted earlier. The ESIA does not address the comments provided in neither the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission report nor the

relevant Committee decisions, and does not elaborate on the potential impacts from the project on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It can therefore not be considered adequate.

A proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) was not submitted. In order to develop and adopt the programme of Corrective Measures and monitor the progress for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, it is recommended that the Committee urges the State Party to submit the proposal for DSOCR. This work should be aligned with the development of a site-specific anti-poaching strategy and a comprehensive emergency action plan.

The planned cooperation project with KfW amounts to a major opportunity for the State Party to address the multiple challenges. The updating of the current GMP could significantly contribute to guiding both management and steps towards the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Beyond further strengthening of the anti-poaching efforts, attention should be given to: the "Larger Selous Ecosystem" and the many communities inhabiting it; Wildlife Management Areas; conservation corridors, including but not limited to the Selous-Niassa Corridor; buffer zones; possible strategic additions to the property; and the emerging issue of alien invasive species in the lake systems and along watercourses. Consistency between the GMP and the DSOCR, which is to be completed, should be ensured. Finally, it should be recalled that the State Party expressed its willingness to conduct an SEA in this context.

It is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the clear commitment of the State Party to refrain from any form of mining within the property, and not to undertake any development activities within the property and its surrounding areas without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee;*
4. *Acknowledges the on-going efforts by the State Party to address the poaching crisis in the property, and notes with appreciation the various forms of support granted to Tanzania on the part of bi-lateral cooperation in particular Germany, the U.S., NGOs and the private sector;*
5. *Reiterates its concern about the continued pressure from poaching in the property and its impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to strengthen law enforcement, and to develop and implement a specific anti-poaching strategy and a comprehensive emergency action plan with the objective of halting poaching within the "Larger Selous Ecosystem" in 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and Decision **38 COM 7B.95**;*
6. *Requests the State Party to take decisive actions at national level to address criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking and to improve controls in the ports used by the traffickers, and calls upon the States Parties which are transit and destination countries for ivory and rhino horn, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in ivory and other illegal wildlife products, in particular through the implementation of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);*

7. Regrets the lack of progress by the State Party in the establishment of a buffer zone and potentially strategic additions to the property, although this was a key commitment made by the State Party at the time of the approval of the boundary modification;
8. Notes that the Mkuju River mining project has not yet started production, however also urges the State Party to ensure disaster preparedness and independent water monitoring prior to active mining, to provide a detailed description on the planned mining project, including details on the mining design, the extraction and processing methods and the measures foreseen to minimize contamination risks as well as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the case of consideration of in-situ Leaching (ISL);
9. Reiterates its request to clarify the status of planning and decision-making of the Stiegler's Gorge Dam project as was requested in Decision **38 COM 7B.95**;
10. Also notes that the submitted Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda dam project does not address the comments provided in neither the report of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission nor the relevant Committee decisions, and does not elaborate on the impacts on the property's OUV, therefore also reiterates its request to complete the ESIA including a chapter on the impact of the proposed activity on the OUV of the property in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
11. Further urges the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
13. **Decides to retain the Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

15. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2011

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

- Road construction,
- Mining,
- Illegal logging,
- Encroachment.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 96,600

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 1,800,000 USD for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) – Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage; 35,000 USD Rapid Response Facility grant (2007); 30,000 USD International Assistance for development of Emergency Action Plan (2012)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2006: UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2007: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2011: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan
- Road construction
- Agricultural encroachment
- Illegal logging
- Poaching
- Institutional and governance weaknesses

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 January 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>. The report provides the following information:

- No further loss of primary forest cover and no net loss of secondary forest cover in the property. Rehabilitation and restoration of 62,860 ha of degraded forests in the property;
- Combating encroachment through awareness raising of local communities, and intensified cooperation between central and local governments, including joint patrols;
- Population trends from 2011 to 2013 suggest an increase in tigers, and a decrease in elephants. No data is provided or available for rhino and orangutan. Actions focused on management of key wildlife populations include regular monitoring in cooperation with NGOs, and targeted protection of specific local populations of key species in Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP);
- There are no new road developments within the property. All three components of the property have been declared National Strategic Areas which prohibits infrastructure development. An inception workshop has taken place for the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the Committee;
- There are no mining concessions or mining exploration permits within the property. Illegal small scale mines are in the process of being closed and rehabilitated;
- Maintenance of boundary markers is reported. No details are provided;
- Measures have been taken to improve law enforcement. No details are provided;
- Several measures taken to implement the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) are listed;
- In response to the Committee's concern expressed in Decision **38 COM 7A.28** about pressure to downgrade the protection status of Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), it is stated that such downgrading is not possible under Indonesian Law;
- Assurance is given that no geothermal energy will be developed within the property. A permit for geothermal energy development exists immediately adjacent to Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP);
- Ministerial Decree Number SK.941/Menhut-II/2013 on Changes in Forest Areas does not include the Aceh Spatial Plan.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation that no mining concessions or exploration permits exist within the property, and that geothermal energy will not be developed within the property is welcome. However, it is noted that the permit for geothermal energy development adjacent to BBSNP includes a part that appears to be fully surrounded by the property. Hence there is still a likelihood of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) from the development, including from access roads. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to assess these impacts in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

It is noted with appreciation that closure of illegal small scale gold mines has been initiated, but further information is required to measure progress toward the full removal of all illegal mines and their rehabilitation.

The information that there are no new road developments within the property is noted with appreciation and the letter from the Regent of Merangin District dated 24 June 2014 (attached to the State Party's report) indicates strong support from local communities for the rejection of a proposed road, citing concerns over impacts on the environment and their livelihoods. Nevertheless, continued pressure for development of roads for evacuation and to improve connectivity in the areas surrounding the property highlights the importance of undertaking the SEA requested by the Committee (Decision **36 COM 7A.13**) to identify transport options for the region that do not adversely impact the property's OUV. While some progress has been made in that regard, and recalling that the State Party in 2013 reported that the implementation of the SEA was expected to commence that same year and its completion would take 18 months, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to

expedite the implementation of the SEA and to submit the completed SEA to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2017, for review by IUCN.

It is welcomed that Ministerial Decree Number SK.941/Menhut-II/2013 on Changes in Forest Areas does not include the Aceh Spatial Plan. However, it remains unclear what the current status of the Aceh Spatial Plan is, and the Committee is recommended to request the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have negative impacts on GLNP and key areas in the Leuser Ecosystem that are critical to the integrity of the property, as required by Indicator 7 of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

The information provided by the State Party that no further loss of primary forest cover and no further net loss of secondary forest cover has occurred requires confirmation on the basis of scientific evidence, including time series of satellite images collected at short intervals since the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2011. Likewise, the population trends of tiger and elephant require confirmation on the basis of regular wildlife population monitoring data, which should equally be collected for rhino and orangutan. In the absence of such data, it is impossible to assess progress towards achieving the respective indicators of the DSOCR.

Further information is required on measures taken to improve law enforcement, and their effectiveness should be demonstrated, including by data on numbers of arrests made, numbers of successful prosecutions, and trends of illegal activities such as poaching and encroachment.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the confirmation by the State Party that no mining concessions or exploration permits exist within the property, and that geothermal energy will not be developed within the property, and requests the State Party to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the license for the development of geothermal energy adjacent to Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, which should include an assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
4. *Notes with appreciation that the closure of illegal small-scale gold mines has been initiated, and also requests the State Party to ensure the full closure of all illegal gold mines within the property, and the rehabilitation of affected areas;*
5. *Also notes with appreciation that no new road development has occurred within the property, and noting the continued pressure for the development of roads for evacuation and improving connectivity in the areas surrounding the property, urges the State Party to expedite the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the Committee (Decision **36 COM 7A.13**) and to submit the completed SEA to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, for review by IUCN;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have any negative impacts on the property and on key areas within the Leuser Ecosystem that are critical to the integrity of the property;*

7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to provide further information on the actions taken to improve law enforcement, and to provide statistics on trends of illegal activities, including poaching and encroachment;*
8. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including clear scientific data to demonstrate progress in meeting the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in particular in relation to law enforcement, forest cover, and population trends of key species, including tiger, elephant, rhino and orangutan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

16. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

17. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

18. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

19. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009

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

- Illegal logging;
- Unauthorized settlements;
- Fishing and hunting;
- Threats from major infrastructure projects.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4628>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4628>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (2002, 2009)

Total amount approved: USD 73,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Bogota in lieu of visit to the property; January 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict
- Illegal extraction of natural resources
- Threats from major infrastructure projects
- Lack of control of management agency

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/>

Current conservation issues

An IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in January 2015. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report on 9 February 2015. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/documents>. The State Party report details further progress towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), specifically:

- Further consolidation of a coherent management response to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on coordination, cooperation and various agreements with National Police, military, non-governmental organizations, local communities and regional environmental authorities among others;
- Further increase in human and financial resources reflected in intensified patrolling and community outreach;
- Further implementation of the specific action plan focusing on acute threats;
- Communication with the neighboring State Party of Panama in order to identify cooperation options with the contiguous Darien National Park World Heritage property under the high level Bi-national Commission;

Tangible measures reported include a stronger response to illegal logging, overfishing and overharvesting of shellfish based on improved understanding of the challenges and increased presence on the ground. The dialogue with the Wounaan community (Juin Phubuur) within the property is ongoing, following up on a signed agreement. The State Party reaffirms that there is no legal basis for major infrastructure within the property. However, possible impacts from planned electricity transmission infrastructure which may pass near the boundaries of the property are acknowledged. *Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia* has established contact with the involved bi-national consortium and a consulting company involved in impact assessment of the project. While no conclusion can be made at this stage, the State Party commits itself to full consideration of the World Heritage status of the property.

The State Party describes the security situation as considerably improved, also allowing for a number of activities in the surroundings of the property, including further communication and coordination with Community Councils within the areas de facto functioning as a buffer zone. One Community Council could be supported in declaration of a protection category of Regional Integrated Management District and natural resource management guidelines in several others are in the process of being updated.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Significant further progress with the implementation of the corrective measures and towards the achievement of the DSOCR is evident, and also confirmed by the mission. Increased governmental presence and investment involving various governmental institutions and partnerships with other actors is bearing fruit. Illegal and previously uncontrolled resource use is now better monitored and could be further reduced. While still not fully under control, illegal logging does not appear to constitute a fundamental concern for the time being. Fishing and harvesting in the lagoons and the Atrato River by local communities is much better understood and agreements have been put in place. While an adequate local measure, the mission's findings suggest excessive fishing and harvesting levels at the vicinity of the property. Eventually, efforts at much larger scale are needed, if the resources are to be managed sustainably.

Building upon a formal agreement, there is an ongoing dialogue with the indigenous Wounaan living within the property. The settlement is in line with rights granted to indigenous peoples in Colombia and World Heritage status. The balance between the livelihood needs of the community and conservation objectives has become an integral part of the management of the property. Direct communication with indigenous representatives during the mission suggests that the eventual objective of the Wounaan is recognition as a so-called "resguardo", a communal landholding status compatible with protected area status in Colombia. The ongoing process is of major conceptual and practical interest to the *World Heritage Convention* and thus deserves documentation and analysis.

It now seems unambiguous that there is no legal basis for major infrastructure of any kind within the property. The planned electricity transmission corridor between Colombia and Panama could pass in the immediate vicinity of the property, which may impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

indirectly. It is therefore necessary for the State Party to follow up on its commitment to fully consider the World Heritage status of the property in the assessment of the planned project.

While important challenges remain, the State Party is considered to have complied with the approved indicators set for the DSOCR. It is therefore recommended that the Committee remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. At the same time, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to maintain and further strengthen its efforts. In particular, the State Party should be encouraged to further invest in land use planning and natural resource management in the surroundings of the property, including in coordination and cooperation with Panama.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Highly commends the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures and considers that the State Party has achieved compliance with the indicators set for the *Desired* state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
4. ***Decides to remove Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
5. *Endorses the recommendations expressed by the Reactive Monitoring mission;*
6. *Welcomes important support and cooperation by other States Parties and multilateral organizations and encourages additional support and cooperation;*
7. *Notes, however, that the property continues to be vulnerable, and urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *Further consolidate efforts to improve the security situation and ensure law enforcement across the property,*
 - b) *Consolidate communication and cooperation with resource-dependent communities in and around the property and consider additional specialized staff to this effect,*
 - c) *Consolidate the participatory monitoring and management of the fisheries and other freshwater biodiversity resources within and beyond the property building upon existing partnerships,*
 - d) *Further consolidate the integration of the property into broader landscape management and land use planning, including the analysis of various conceivable scenarios to formalize or otherwise strengthen buffer zones,*
 - e) *Make a clear commitment to the long-term securing of adequate funding, management and staffing levels in order to ensure adequate follow-up to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
8. *Takes note of the progress on coordination with Community Councils in the areas surrounding the property and invites the State Party to finalize the definition of the property's buffer zone and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as a minor boundary modification according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. *Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the electricity transmission corridor include a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darien National Park (Panama), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the results of the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Also encourages the State Party to:*
 - a) *Remove the artificial connection between the Leon and Atrato Rivers through the freshwater lagoon system in the property,*
 - b) *Consider the feasibility of extending the property so as to include the Serrania del Darien National Protection Forest Reserve and possibly other areas,*
 - c) *Further consolidate coordination and cooperation with the neighboring State Party of Panama with the eventual vision to consider the possible formalization of a transboundary World Heritage property,*
 - d) *Document and share the experience of the indigenous community within the property as a valuable case study;*
11. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.*

20. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (pending receipt of the Desired state of conservation for the property)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

21. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ii) (iv) (v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1990-2005; 2012-present

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

- Occupation of the property by armed groups;
- Absence of management;
- Destruction of 14 mausoleums and degradation of the three mosques in the serial property.

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 187,449

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 55,000 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund; USD 1,000,000 from Action plan Fund for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009, 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO emergency missions to Mali; June 2013: UNESCO assessment mission to Timbuktu

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Lack of management structure at the site
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 February 2015, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>. The State Party reports the following:

- 15 of the 16 mausoleums in the serial World Heritage property have been destroyed. Only the mausoleum of Cheick Al Imam Saïd has survived intact, though it shows serious damage to its roof and walls.
- Concerning the three mosques in the serial property, all have suffered from a lack of maintenance during the recent occupation. Local authorities have recently begun to remove nearby piles of garbage around the Djingareyber mosque that had amassed over a period of two years. Sections of the Sankore Mosque's wall collapsed and the minaret wavered following a suicide bomber attack in Timbuktu in September 2013. The interior wooden beams are now rotten and the walls are crumbling. The Sidi Yahia Mosque has also suffered from the occupation and its collateral effects, including the suicide bomber attack that shattered doors and windows. Its minaret is undermined. Restoration of its secret western door, broken down in 2012 by armed groups, is foreseen as part of the implementation of the 2013 Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts in Mali.
- Taking into account previous comments and recommendations by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party has undertaken a programme of information and local community awareness-raising; study and documentation around the monuments; and emergency rehabilitation and restoration works of various kinds. The official launch of reconstruction work on the mausoleums and other buildings took place in Timbuktu on 14 March 2014. Two razed mausoleums adjacent to the Djingareyber Mosque (but not components of the inscribed serial property) have been completely rebuilt in April 2014 after two months of work organized with Timbuktu's masons. The reconstruction of these mausoleums allowed an thorough assessment of the cost of materials and their durability and workmanship.

The State Party considers that communities understand the significance of the heritage, and of World Heritage, and fully adhere to the reconstruction/rehabilitation plan shared with them during a sensitization workshop held in September 2014; and that the masons are equipped for the rehabilitation of these earthen sites after a series of workshops on traditional masonry supervised by Malian architects with the support of CRAterre-ENSAG and ICOMOS-Mali.

- In addition to the information included in the State Party's report, the following activities were also conducted in the framework of the implementation of the joint UNESCO and Mali Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts in Mali: The team of Malian experts who are supervising reconstruction and rehabilitation activities received a specialized training in France in July 2014. This training was made possible thanks to the financial support provided by the USA (USAID). The tools acquired during this training session conducted by CRAterre-ENSAG has permitted a satisfactory completion of all the required technical and architectural studies, which were submitted to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre;
- The rehabilitation of 4 ancient manuscripts libraries started in November 2014 with funding from UNESCO and the Quick Impact Projects programme of MINUSMA. A first library was fully rehabilitated in February 2015 (Al Imam Ben-Essayouti library);
- The last phase of the reconstruction of destroyed mausoleums was launched on 24 February 2015. This phase which will permit to rebuild 13 mausoleums including those that are non-World Heritage components, will be completed in July 2015. The reconstruction sites were visited on 8 April 2015 by a group of Ambassadors and Heads of missions from South Africa, Morocco, Switzerland, Germany, France, European Union, USAID, the World Bank, and MINUSMA.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The continuing progress made in rehabilitating and reconstructing the damaged mosques and destroyed mausoleums, in building awareness and support for the built heritage of Timbuktu, and in ensuring the technical capacity to care for this heritage is well noted. The State Party should be encouraged to complete the documentation work begun in June 2013, as well as the remaining studies and diagnostics that are still required to define the different technical restoration solutions of mosques, and to submit the additional results to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies. The State Party should also prepare a maintenance plan to ensure that mausoleums are sustainably conserved once reconstructed.

Once the situation in the northern region of Mali is stable, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the restoration of the mosques and the

reconstruction of the mausoleums, and to prepare all the corrective measures as well as a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

It is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7A.24, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the continuing progress being made in restoring and reconstructing the damaged mosques and destroyed mausoleums, building awareness and support for the built heritage of Timbuktu, and ensuring the technical capacity to care for this heritage;*
4. *Expresses its appreciation to the following countries and institutions for their contribution to UNESCO-Mali Action Plan, and for their gesture of support to the reconstruction of mausoleums, which their representatives showed on 8 April 2015 in Timbuktu: South Africa, Morocco, Switzerland, Norway, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Croatia, Mauritius, Bahrain, Andorra, European Union, USAID, and the World Bank;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to complete the documentation work begun in June 2013, as well as the remaining studies and diagnostics that are still required to define the different technical restoration solutions of mosques, and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Requests the State Party, once the situation in the northern region of Mali is stable, to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the restoration of the mosques and the reconstruction of the mausoleums, and to prepare all the corrective measures as well as a Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
8. *Decides to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism of the property;*
9. *Also decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

22. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

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

- Occupation of Gao city by armed groups;
- Inability to ensure daily management in the protection and conservation of the property;
- Risk of collapse of the property.

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 53,333

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 40,000; Action plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali: USD 50,000

Previous monitoring missions

May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako; February 2014: UNESCO assessment mission to Gao

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of site management;
- Armed conflict.

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>, which provides information on the following:

- The Tomb of Askia, although not physically touched during the occupation of Gao by armed groups from March 2012 to January 2013, was not maintained or replastered during this period, causing cracks and holes to appear in it. The dilapidated wooden pillars and the roof have also weakened from age and the weight of increased layers of mud resulting from the annual plastering. This sometimes causes the collapse of pillars, as was the case in 2006, 2011 and 2013, and accelerates deterioration of the architectural elements. Flawed electrical installations are also a problem, as well as water supply and sanitation services and the difficulty of securing doors and other openings.
- The attributes that support the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) appear little damaged, despite a persistent lack of security. To preserve the authenticity and integrity of the property and to ensure its sustainable conservation, however, the State Party believes it is

essential to take vigorous action as soon as possible. There is an urgent need for essential repair works, restoration and improvement of the Tomb of Askia, as was planned following the UNESCO assessment mission in February 2014.

- An architectural diagnosis of the status of all components of the Tomb was developed by a team of Malian and CRAterre-ENSAG architects following the 2014 assessment mission. It takes into account the built ensemble and the immediate environs of the property, and makes recommendations.
- As part of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts in Mali, adopted in Paris on 18 February 2013, the Ministry of Culture, in partnership with UNESCO, organized the maintenance and plastering of the Tomb in June 2014, allowing communities to reconnect with traditional maintenance practices and conservation. This activity, piloted by the property's Management Committee, was highly participatory, bringing together the city's Sonrhaï, Arab, Tuareg and Peulh communities and featuring strong involvement by regional decision-makers. The activity contributed significantly to strengthening the social cohesion and peace among these communities.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The continuing progress made in ensuring that the OUV, the authenticity and the integrity of the World Heritage property are sustained is noted. The conservation initiatives for World Heritage properties, which, at the same time, serve as tools to improve social cohesion and contribute to reconciliation, such as the plastering of the Tomb in August 2014 are commended.

Nevertheless, the Tomb has exhibited structural weaknesses and degradations over a period of several years, to the degree that architectural experts undertaking a diagnostic assessment in 2014 found it challenging to be completely optimistic about its future. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the need to continue preparing detailed, in-depth architectural diagnostic analyses in order to guide essential repair and conservation work, and encourage the State Party to undertake these analyses on a priority basis.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its concern that the 2002-2007 management plan prepared has not yet been updated, as was recommended in 2014, and strongly urge the State Party to include this issue as a priority among the urgent actions for the property. The functioning of the Gao Cultural Mission remains ineffective, as was indicated during the February 2014 assessment mission. The State Party, once the situation on the northern region of Mali is stable, should be requested to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in the rehabilitation of its components, and to prepare all the corrective measures as well as a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

It is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Notes the continuing progress being made in sustaining the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage property;
4. Reiterates the continuing need to prepare detailed, in-depth architectural diagnostic analyses, in order to guide essential repair and conservation work, and encourages the State Party to undertake these analyses on a priority basis;

5. Also reiterates its request that the 2002-2007 Management Plan be updated, in close consultation with the Management Committee of the property, as a priority among the urgent actions for the property;
6. Requests the State Party, once the situation on the northern region of Mali is stable, to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in its rehabilitation, and to develop all the corrective measures, as well as a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
8. Decides to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism of the property;
9. Also decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

23. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the mission report)

ARAB STATES

24. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2001

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

- A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table
- The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the property, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the property
- A large, banked road has been built to enable movement within the property

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Identified, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 7,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: Expert mission; 2005, 2009 and 2012: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Rise in the water table (issue mostly solved)
- Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment (works completed)
- Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.)
- Need for a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/>

Current conservation issues

On the 30 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report; a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report as follows:

- A working group of conservators has been established to prepare the detailed condition surveys;
- The project has been scoped for the maintenance and operation of the groundwater problem and the impacts from other sources of humidity;
- A Board of Trustees of key stakeholders has been formed to hold discussion on the removal of inadequate new constructions;
- A strategic framework and action plan has been developed;
- The boundary of the buffer zone has been defined and is awaiting approval from the government prior to submitting it to the World Heritage Centre.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has responded to several requests by the World Heritage Committee's Decision **38 COM 7A.1** and has supplied information about the protection of the property. The State Party's report provided an outline on the strategic framework and action plan which includes:

- The formation of the Board of Trustees from relevant ministries and key stakeholders (completed);
- The establishment of a conservation team to commence the conservation of the archaeological remains;
- The establishment of an archaeological team to undertake the condition surveys;
- The development of a program for short and long term conservation works;
- The establishment of an engineering team to undertake documentation and monitoring of the property's building materials, foundations and groundwater;
- The completion of the soil stabilization, piling, and the rehabilitation of the roads leading to the site.

This broad outline does not provide comprehensive details how the plan is going to be achieved and when works are going to commence. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit detailed information and plans to the World Heritage Centre before the commencement of works.

It is to be noted that the Conservation Plan foreseen in the project implemented by the World Heritage Centre and funded by the "Fonds Culturel Arts et Ouvrages" (FCAO), and not yet started, shall be revised to avoid overlapping with the activities undertaken by the State Party.

The State Party did not provide information on:

- The progress of the groundwater project and monitoring;
- The development of the Management Plan, in consultation with concerned stakeholders, that would address the threats in a comprehensive and integrated manner, and would include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders, staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.;
- Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- Details of all ongoing or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica and the reburial strategy including the inappropriate anastylis reported by the State Party in 2014, and the remedial actions announced for its removal and "replacement";
- The preparation of a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.).

Though the State Party has made some progress in considering and addressing the concerns of the World Heritage Committee, urgent measures are still required to be implemented to ensure the ongoing protection and conservation of the property. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement all the relevant measures mentioned in the previous mission reports and Committee decisions.

Given the above, it is considered that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has not yet been fully met and that, although the State Party has made commendable efforts, the corrective measures have yet to be fully implemented.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts in the implementation of measures at the property and encourages it to sustain these efforts to protect and conserve the property and its buffer zone;
4. Urges the State Party to continue with the implementation of the corrective measures, with particular attention to the following:
 - a) Undertake detailed condition surveys to identify priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains,
 - b) Continue to monitor the groundwater and to implement the groundwater project,
 - c) Develop a conservation plan defining short, medium and long term objectives and technical parameters,
 - d) The Board of Trustees to commence discussions with the communities to develop a programme for the removal of inadequate new constructions and the creation of facilities to allow for religious uses in areas outside the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
5. Requests the State Party to develop the management plan, to establish a clear policy framework, identify strategies and actions (with precise timeframes, costs and responsibilities for implementation) on the main issues for the property such as research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders, staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access. The Plan should be submitted as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible the modifications to the property and buffer zone boundaries, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details of all on-going or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica and the reburial strategy, for review prior to implementation including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
9. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

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

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

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

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (subject to the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism)

28. Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) (C 1433)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

29. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 36 below.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013

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

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 6 (from 1981-2001)
Total amount approved: USD 156,050
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
10,000 USD from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.
Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:
2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)
200 000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain
170 000 USD by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions
March and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the King Faisal Street project; April 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.
Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the World Heritage properties in Syria.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
Before the conflict:

- Poor state of conservation
- Inappropriate restoration techniques
- Lack of a buffer zone
- Lack of a management plan
- Development projects threatening the significant historic fabric

Since March 2011:

- Damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/>

Current conservation issues
On 14 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on all cultural heritage sites in Syria, including the six World Heritage properties, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents>. The State Party indicates that, in addition to the damages reported in 2014, mortar shelling caused minor damage to Madrasa al-Adiliye near the Omayyad mosque, to Madrasa Jukmaqjeh (the Arab Calligraphy Museum) and to a shop façade near Saladin Tomb in Bab al-Bareed neighborhood. It also reports minor damages to the Manar School and to private properties in Jura, Bab Tuma and Kharab neighborhoods, as well as to several shops in the Jewish quarter in the North-East of the walled city. The State Party further reports moderate damages outside the walled city in al-Qanawat historical district where six buildings and al-Saada School were shelled, and in Mezanet al-Shahem district where Beit al-Quwatli partially collapsed.

In addition, on 1 February 2015, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) reported on its website that the Northwest Ayyubid Tower at the upper part of the Citadel has been partially damaged due to a violent explosion near Suq al-Hamidiyyeh.

The report finally indicates that the State Party has taken several immediate preventative measures, in line with the Emergency Response Plan provided by the World Heritage Centre on 20 December 2013. These include digitizing administrative documents, archiving material pertaining to the property, evacuating valuable movable heritage collections from the Old City, reducing risks of fire in historical

areas and organizing responses to it. , as well as coordinating with the concerned local authorities in order to raise awareness about heritage preservation, share documentation and data and implement the risk mitigation and protective measures. The State Party provided additional information which confirmed the implementation of the following recommendations proposed by the World Heritage Centre in December 2013:

- Establish map of the infrastructural networks that provide the all information on one document
- Block access to Minarets or Belfries
- Secure *in situ* heavy movable items that cannot be transported
- Protect important architectural elements and surfaces in monuments
- Establish an Emergency Team from the Site Management Authority (Maktab Anbar)
- Develop Emergency Response Plans, describing clear procedures and roles for each member of the teams
- Acquire and stock essential supplies and materials for use in case of emergency.

In addition to these damages and to the damages reported in 2014, satellite images provided in the December 2014 UNITAR/UNOSAT report show moderate damage to Khan al-Haramain, Khan al-Zait, Hisham Mosque, Manjak Mosque, Beit Shirazi, Hammam Nawfara and Hammam Bakri inside the property as well as moderate damages to Hammam Khanji in the buffer zone. Other sources report further damage to Beit Sakka Amini and to Abou al-Ezz building.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The damages at the Old City of Damascus are limited but they have been targeted at very important monuments such as the Omayyad Mosque, the Citadel and the Madrasa al-Adiliye, and parts of the urban fabric that include important historic structures and houses. During the reporting period, the property was subject to shelling on several occasions and may therefore incur threats of direct shelling at a larger scale in the future. Notably, the Suleymaniye complex outside the Old City walls is extremely vulnerable. For this reason, it is very important that the DGAM and Maktab Anbar, the municipal entity in charge of the property's management, put in place all the risk mitigation measures provided by the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with ICOMOS, ICCROM and Interpol, in December 2013, and any additional measures deemed necessary. It is also of utmost importance to ensure that the property's high rise architectural elements are not used for military reasons, in particular the Suleymaniye and Omayyad Mosque Minarets.

Any plans for conservation or reconstruction would need to be kept to a minimum until the security situation allows comprehensive and well-thought out projects to be conducted and shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for approval prior to the commencement of works.

Utmost importance should be given to avoid urban encroachment and new urban plans from being implemented without proper planning amidst the current crisis.

See item 36 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
4. Commends the State Party for taking the necessary risk mitigation measures to protect the property;

5. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

31. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013

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

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 51,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the World Heritage properties in Syria.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Since March 2011:

- Damage of historic buildings due to the conflict
- Illegal constructions following the start of the conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, and on 9 April 2015 an update on the Ancient City of Bosra; which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents>.

The January 2015 report indicates that in September 2014, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) branch at Bosra was able to access some parts of the property and assessed the

veracity of the damages reported in 2014. The State Party reports minor stone collapses at Mabrak Mosque, al-Omari Mosque, Abu al-Fidaa Mosque and al-Fatemi Mosque as well as the collapse of most of the architectural elements in the Kalybe of the 'Cradle of the King's Daughter'. It also reports damage from street fights at the monastery of Monk Bahira, the Citadel, Abu al-Fidaa Mosque, al-Fatemi Mosque, and al-Omari Mosque, including damages to its minarets, and in some areas of the ancient city.

The State Party further reports damages caused by bulldozers to the Shims Monastery and to the city walls, where illegal buildings have been constructed by local inhabitants. It furthermore indicates illegal excavations in the ancient city and the removal of the water fountain's bricks at the Manjak Hammam. In addition on 1st December 2014, a massive blast occurred in al-Omari Mosque area, seriously damaging a house.

The report finally indicates that the State Party has taken some measures, such as raising awareness among local communities about the importance of cultural heritage, notably to prevent them from using the ancient city for military purposes.

In addition to these damages, and to those reported in 2014, satellite images provided in the December 2014 UNITAR/UNOSAT report show moderate damage to the Roman Amphitheatre, the Central Baths and a Roman residence, and also show a 164 m dirt road dug through the south of the amphitheatre although this avoided most of the excavated structures. No further damage is reported in other sources.

The April 2015 report indicates that due to the escalation of the conflict, armed groups took control of the property on 25 March 2015; clashes resulted in minor damages to the historical monuments such as al Omari mosque, but the ancient residential units have been severely damaged near al Omari mosque, in the Souq, and to the east of the property; the site museum in the Roman Citadel has also been looted. The State Party indicates that thanks to the cooperation with the local community, an agreement has been reached to freeze combats within the property and allow the DGAM to work on the protection and cleaning of the Citadel and Roman Theatre.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See item 36 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

The agreement between the parties to the conflict to freeze combats within the property and allow the DGAM professionals to work in the Citadel and Roman Theatre are an important but precarious development which was commended on 2 April 2015 in a statement issued by the UNESCO Director-General. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee also commend the temporary freezing of combats and request that all efforts be made to ensure that it is maintained.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 35 COM 7B.58, 36 COM 7B.58, 37 COM 7B.57, and 38 COM 7A.12, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking into account Decision 39 COM 7A.36 on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that a temporary agreement to freeze combats within the property has been reached and requests that, as a matter of urgency, all efforts be made to ensure that it is maintained, and that heritage professionals be given the right to access and protect the property;*

5. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

32. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013

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

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011.

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1989-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 81,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200 000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170 000 USD by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Serious weathering of many stone blocks due to capillary rising and variations in humidity and temperature
- Urban growth of the neighbouring agglomeration
- International tarmac road crosses the site
- Heavy automobile and truck traffic (vibrations, pollution, risk of accidents...)
- Pipeline crossing the southern necropolis
- Brightly-coloured antenna on hill
- Construction of an hotel close to the thermal springs
- Lack of a management plan

Since March 2011:

- Destruction, damage, illegal excavations, and looting due to the armed conflict since March 2011

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 January 2015, the State party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents>. The report indicates that, in addition to damages reported in 2014, the columns in the Hamam area and of the small North-East arch of the Triumph Arch have been damaged due to armed clashes. It also indicates that three of five ancient statues have been stolen at the Zanoubia hotel and that the Palmyra Directorate General of Antiquities (DGAM) branch removed the two remaining ones to a safe location. The State Party further reports that on November 2014, the Palmyra DGAM branch was able to access the Southeast Necropolis and assess the damages in the area. They reported the theft of 22 funeral busts and of a stone child's head in the Artaban Tomb, the theft of 15 sculpted portraits in the Taibul Tomb where a portrait was also found broken, and the looting of 25 funerary sculptures in the Bolha Tombs.

It is underlined in the report that, since the beginning of the crisis, the DGAM have undertaken protective measures against vandalism and theft in the tombs by reinforcing the gates and covering the tombs with sand. Yet those measures did not prevent illegal excavations from being conducted with heavy machinery. The State Party also underlines that the measures included the sealing of all entrances at the Palmyra museum, the evacuation of the museum artifacts and their relocation in safe storages, as well as the in-situ protection of the Lion statue – as it cannot be moved - located at the entrance of the museum.

The report further notes that the awareness raising efforts undertaken among the local community have had positive results in the restitution of many archaeological artefacts.

The satellite images provided in the December 2014 UNITAR/UNOSAT report show military berms, a 2.4 km road coming directly down from the citadel and its 576m branch road, as well as a 274m long dirt road created along, and partially over, the remains of the mud-brick wall in western end of the necropolis. Those images confirm that the site is still being used for military purposes as reported by other sources in 2014 and not yet confirmed by the State Party. The satellite images also confirm that the entrances to most of the main underground tombs in the Southeast necropolis were filled in in order to protect them, as reported by the DGAM, and show significant damage to parts of the Zenobia Hotel where sections of the roof in the central areas appear to have collapsed.

In addition to these damages and to those reported in 2014, other sources have posted videos, dating September and December 2014, showing excavations by bulldozers and heavy weaponry being moved and positioned within the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See item 36 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
4. **Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

33. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 21)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013

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

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 5,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the World Heritage properties in Syria.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the properties and of the buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment

Since 2013:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/>

Current conservation issues

Due to the tremendous escalation of the armed conflict, the Ancient City of Aleppo has been severely damaged since 2013, and is undergoing regular destructions due to bombardments, targeted explosions (bombs detonated in tunnels), fire and street combat. On 14 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents>. The report indicates that access to the

historical area is impossible due to the ongoing fighting. Thus the State Party report relies on non-official sources such as the local community and social media.

In addition to the destruction reported in 2014, the report indicates that the private houses in the northern areas of the old town have been heavily damaged and that all public infrastructures, in al-Hamidieh district, Bustan al-Qasr district, Qustul Harami district, al-Farafra district, Akyol area, the area around the Citadel, Bab al-Neirab, and al-Awamid area near the Umayyad Mosque, have been damaged to different extents. The report also indicates that the protective roof of the Hittite Temple of Storm God in the Citadel has been totally destroyed, and it reports damages to the Fish Suq, Wool Suq, Sisi House, Mrish House, Poche House, Khan al-Khbash, Khan for Silk, Khan for Cotton, Khan al-Kerknawi, Khan Kheirbek, Suq al-Ghazal, as well as to religious historical buildings such as Mosque al-'Adliye, Mosque Ottomania, Mosque al-Kamailya, Mosque Bashir Pasha, Mosque al-Mihmandar, Mosque Banqosa, Meng Great Mosque, Mosque Haroon Dada, Mosque al-Shu'aibiyya, Mosque Qustul Harami, Mosque al-Sahabh, Mosque al-Maydani, Mosque al-Utruch, Mosque al-Haddadin, Madrasa al-Firdaws, Madrasa al-Hallawiya, Madrasa al-Sharfihi, Madrasa al-Trtanik, Madrasa al-Shibani, Madrasa al-Ahmadiya, Maronite Church, Church al-Shibani, church of Roman Catholics and Church St Dimitros.

The report further indicates the following:

- the Citadel is threatened by armed groups who have detonated bombs in tunnels in the Old City, causing damage to the Carlton Hotel, the Palace of Justice, the Police Headquarters (al-Qalam building), the Grand Seray, Mosque al-Khusruwiye, Mosque al-Sultania, Khan al-Shouna and Hammam Yalbouga.
- the National Museum and the Department of Antiquities have been partially damaged due to blasts and mortars, and the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) team managed to access in March 2014 the Museum of Folk Arts (Atchiqbach House) which structure suffered minor damage but where many architectural elements disappeared, and to access in September 2014 the Ghazaleh House which suffered severe damage due to clashes and looting of the wooden decorative wall panels and decorative glass.
- the DGAM Branch of Aleppo has undertaken preventive measures, such as archiving all drawings in digital format, transferring the decorated doors and the collection of the Museum of Folk Arts to a safe location, and monitoring the damages, when possible.

In addition to these damages, and to those reported in 2014, satellite images provided in the December 2014 UNITAR/UNOSAT report show the destruction of Khan Fatayyin, Khan Ibaji, Khan Jiroudi, Khan Nasser, Suq Aqqadin, Suq Bazerjiya, Suq Dra', Suq Haraj, Suq Manadil, Suq New Istanbul, Suq Qawooqiya, Suq Siyah, Qaysariya Darwishiya, Qaysariya Hakkakin and of public toilets and a state hospital, both in ancient historic buildings. They also show severe damage to an important number of other historic buildings. Other sources report damages to the Mosque Qadi al-Akar, Matbakh al-Ajami, Mosque al-Sarawi, Mosque al-Muhtaseb, Mosque As Sajir, Khan at-Tatan and Khan al-Mesri.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The Old City of Aleppo has been severely damaged due to the armed conflict and very large portions of the property appear to have been completely destroyed. Some experts estimate that 70% of its core zone has been affected by this large scale destruction and compare it with Berlin and Warsaw after World War II. Some of the most important monuments and historical neighborhoods of Aleppo may have been erased from the map. Moreover, the destruction is ongoing and there are no signs that it might stop. The Old City and the Citadel are at the heart of the combats and are fully militarized.

In the face of this devastation, UNESCO is proposing an experimental designation of "protected cultural zone" in the framework of the United Nations efforts to reach a cease-fire in Aleppo. For this purpose, the World Heritage Centre is preparing a desk study on the detailed state of conservation in Aleppo, on the stakeholders who should be involved in the reflection over reconstruction and on an overall feasibility study for the possible implementation of UNESCO's proposal to designate and safeguard the "protected cultural zones" in Aleppo.

While the potential designation and safeguarding of "protected cultural zones" might lead to mitigating further destruction in some important pockets of the property, the World Heritage Committee is faced for the first time with a World Heritage city that will need extensive reconstruction. An in-depth reflection on the nature of the corrective measures to be envisaged in such a case is needed. This

reflection will be initiated in a technical meeting that the World Heritage Centre is organizing in May 2015, in partnership with the Advisory Bodies, on post-war reconstruction in the Middle-East context, focusing on the Old City of Aleppo as a case study and involving multidisciplinary experts and stakeholders, in particular from Syria. The meeting will aim to set out basic recommendations on reconstruction from a theoretical and practical point of view, and will contribute to policy debates on Aleppo's reconstruction, building on those that took place in 2014 and 2015 in Aleppo itself, and on others in national and international academic circles.

See item 36 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58, 36 COM 7B.58, 37 COM 7B.57 and 38 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
4. ***Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

34. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1229)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013

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

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200 000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170 000 USD by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the World Heritage properties in Syria.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the properties and of the buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment
- Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties

Since 2011:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents>. The report indicates that the Directorate-general of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) conducted a technical inspection of the site on 1st May 2014 in order to record damages and define an action plan for a rehabilitation project. Damages were characterized as minor, moderate or severe.

The report indicates severe damage and partial collapse of the Zahir Bybars Towers, of the lower levels of the stable space with its eastern wall, of part of the Soldiers hall, of part of the vaults covering the gallery which leads to the kitchen, of the stairs and two sculpted elements in the Hall of the Knights, of the inner stairs leading to the roof of the store room, of the moat's eastern wall and of small parts of the bridge.

According to the report, the State Party has no evidence of any damages at Qal'at Salah el Din.

The reports further indicates that the State Party has taken emergency consolidation and conservation actions to protect the Crac des Chevaliers from further damages, as recommended by the technical meeting organized at the end of May 2014 by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM at the request of the State Party. It reports that the DGAM team cleared the site from traces of the occupation, established a detailed documentation of damages and carried out emergency restoration and repair operations to prevent further immediate damage of the castle. These operations included the stabilization of the archaeological remains and the monitoring of cracks. The report furthermore indicates that the State Party will undertake more actions in the coming year, such as building additional supporting structures and preparing execution drawings for the implementation of additional consolidation, restoration and reconstruction works.

Other sources do not report further damages to the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See item 36 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58, 36 COM 7B.58, 37 COM 7B.57, and 38 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
4. Commends the State Party for taking the necessary emergency safeguarding measures to protect the property;
5. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

35. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013

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

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2007)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 202,917 (2001-2010: Technical and Financial Assistance from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture in the framework of France-UNESCO Cooperation).

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the World Heritage properties in Syria.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes;
- Lack of human and financial resources;
- Development or infrastructure projects that may affect the integrity of the property;
- Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan.

Since March 2011:

- Damage of historic buildings due to the use of ancient stones as building material;
- Illegal constructions;
- Use of the sites by internally displaced persons;
- Quarrying

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents>. The report details damages to the property in five of the eight archaeological parks (one out of three in the governorate of Aleppo; four out of five in the governorate of Idlib) highlighting that some parks are not accessible due to the presence of armed groups.

In addition to the damages reported in 2014, the State Party reports considerable damages due to the use of heavy machinery and bulldozers to dig the sites and break ancient stones in order to reuse them in new illegal constructions. In Jebel Sem'an, at Qal'at Sem'an Park, the northern, western and north-eastern areas of the main Saint Simeon monastery have been damaged as well as the Triumphal arch and the mosaic floor in the bath area. In the same park, at Sitt ar-Roum, the church masonry has been destroyed and smashed into building material, and at Rafade ten residential illegal constructions have been built. In Jebel Barisha Park, the sites of Baqirha, Deiroune and Dar Qita have been affected; in Jebel Zawiye Park, the town of al-Bara has been vandalized and damaged on a massive scale; as have the sites of Btirsa, Mujleya, Ba'uda and Bshilla. In Jebel Wastani Park, Kafr Aqareb and al-Fassouq have also incurred damages.

The State Party also reports the following:

- illicit excavations in the Qal'at Sam'an park, at Rafade, Btirsa, Mujleya, Ba'uda, Bshilla and Kafr Aqareb. In al-Bara detectors have been used by locals to unearth ancient coins and a tomb revealed by the digs has been vandalized.
- the olive trees inside and near the Saint Simeon castle have been destroyed by armed groups who also prevented landowners from harvesting nearby.
- refugees have set up home within the ancient buildings of Serjilla, Jerade and Shinsharah in Jebel Zawiye, and caused damages by digging latrines and the construction of some walls.
- the State Party has taken measures to monitor the damages and cooperate with the local communities and the internally-displaced populations to try and for reduce the extent of the damages.

In addition to these damages and to those reported in 2014, satellite images provided in the December 2014 UNITAR/UNOSAT report show in Shinshara the construction of a new 135m wall, multiple areas of disturbed soil, visible looting holes and approximately 80 new structures built amongst the ruins. The images show 29 shelters located in Rabi'ah and 22 in Serjilla. Other sources report damages at Kherbet Kseibjeh and vandalism and looting at Kafr Hwar (probably in historical locations close to the property boundaries).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See item 36 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58, 36 COM 7B.58, 37 COM 7B.57, and 38 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
4. **Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

36. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic

Current conservation issues

The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and has constantly escalated leading to significant violence and degradation of humanitarian conditions. Since the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014, the destruction of Syria's exceptional archaeological, urban and architectural heritage has reached a deplorably high level and has continued to seriously affect all six inscribed properties, the twelve sites inscribed on the Tentative List, and a wide number of highly significant cultural heritage sites all over Syria. Cultural heritage in Syria continues to be damaged by shelling, street fighting, targeted explosions, extensive illegal excavations, and use for military purposes and as military training areas, construction violations, and quarrying, in addition to intentional destructions and inappropriate use of archaeological sites by internally displaced populations.

On 14 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report with detailed information on the destruction and damage at the six World Heritage properties, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/39COM/documents>. On 12 February 2015, the State Party submitted the state of conservation report of all the sites on the Tentative List and a report on the intentional destruction of built heritage. These reports represent an official statement from the Syrian authorities and collate available information from the branches of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and from social media. However, the State Party notes that ground access in Syria is extremely limited for heritage experts, and the full extent of the damage to World Heritage properties cannot be assessed in detail at this time. Therefore, the reports do not provide first-hand information on several sites, in particular the Ancient City of Aleppo and the Ancient City of Bosra, and thus do not allow a full understanding of the extent of damage to the properties. For the preparation of the state of conservation reports for the World Heritage Committee, additional information was sought from civil society organizations, international organizations, local experts and the media to supplement official data.

The State Party reported on the work carried out by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), despite the difficult working conditions, to monitor the World Heritage properties and cultural heritage in general, assess damages, undertake emergency conservation and risk mitigation actions whenever possible, and inventory built and movable heritage. The report also stressed the DGAM efforts in raising local awareness and highlighted the positive role played by local communities in some cases to safeguard heritage and limit illegal excavations.

The state of conservation report of the sites inscribed on Syria's Tentative List indicates that:

- In the 'Noreas of Hama' site, on 8 August 2014 the Noria-Gaabariyya near al-Nori Mosque was burned down; the fire burned the upper part of the new wooden wheel, while the stone base remained intact; the Hama Municipality immediately started conservation works.
- In the site of 'Ugarit (Tell Shamra)', on 20 July 2014, a fire of non-criminal origin burned some unexcavated parts and few excavated areas without causing major damage to the archaeological remains.
- The site of 'Ebla (Tell Mardikh)' has been affected by illegal digs and excavations as well as by natural degradation. Minor destructions are reported at the Acropolis. Recently a new oil-refinery about 400 meters to the West of the site was reported.
- The site of 'Mari (Tell Hariri)', in particular the Royal Palace and the Temple area, has been affected by extensive illegal excavations carried out with heavy machinery by armed groups residing in the site's visitor centre, which, together with the residence of the mission, has been robbed.
- The site of 'Dura Europos' has been extensively damaged by looting, vandalism and large-scale illegal excavations carried out with heavy machinery; the looting involves the participation of hundreds of local inhabitants in economic need, who are reportedly paid by the armed groups controlling the site and a third of the discoveries' estimated value. In October 2014, the armed groups were reported to use the archaeological site as a military shelter.
- The site of 'Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi: a desert Castle' has been occupied by armed groups since 2013. The castle and the surrounding area have been damaged by digs, looting and vandalism. The excavation house has been robbed.
- In the site of 'Maaloula', damages, looting and vandalism were reported in most of the monasteries, churches and shrines, and in the old town, including in the cemetery and in the caves.
- In the site of 'Raqqqa-Rafiqa: the Abassid City', illegal excavations using heavy machinery at al-Atiq mosque and the destruction of the Sufi shrine within the mosque were reported. One Iwan in the Bimarstan Qasr al-Banat was burned; degradations due to natural factors were observed on the Bagdad city gate and the city walls.
- The site of 'Apamea (Afamia)' and its surroundings has been extensively affected by illegal excavations carried out by armed groups who have been targeting mosaics, using heavy machinery and metal detectors (since 2014).
- No damage is reported at the sites of 'Tartus: the Crusaders Citadel-City' and of 'Arwad Island'.

The report on intentional destruction of Syrian built heritage relies mostly on local communities and pictures published in the social media; it indicates that:

In the Aleppo region:

- The shrine of Sheikh Muhammad Nabhan in the Kiltawiye Mosque at Bab al-Hadid, one of the historical gates of the Ancient City of Aleppo World Heritage site, was destroyed on 17 January 2015.
- The DGAM accessed the Shash Hamdan Roman cemetery in Aleppo Province where carved reliefs were deliberately targeted by gunfire and smashed into fragments.
- 90% of Sufi shrines and tombs - not all on the National Register - have been destroyed in the countryside of Aleppo:
- In Northern Aleppo, all the shrines in Menjib have been destroyed, including Maqam Sheikh Aqil al-Manbijji, have the shrines around the Byzantine church and the six Mamluk Shihab al-Din tombs in front of Najim Castle. The shrines in Ezaz were destroyed by bombs, including the Sufi tombs at the archaeological tells of Ezaz, Sawran, Shiekh Rieh, Dabik, and Akhtarín, as well as the tomb of Nabi Daoud in the village of Dwebek.
- According to unverified information, all the tombs in al-Bab district, Zerba Nahiyah, Hader, Atareb, tell al-Daman, Maskanh, al-Khasfa, and Deir Hafir have been destroyed.

In the Deir ez-Zor region:

- The recently built Armenian Genocide Memorial Church and complex in Deir ez-Zor were destroyed on 17 January 2015.
- The Sufi Muslim Uwais al-Quarani mosque and Ammar bin Yasser shrine in Raqqqa were destroyed in March 2014.
- The shrine of Wabsa Ibn Mabad al-Assadi within the Great Mosque in the old town of Raqqqa-Ràfiqa has been destroyed.

- An armed group blew up and destroyed a sixth-century Byzantine mosaic which was discovered in Tell Saeed near the city of Raqqa.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies

On 26-27 May 2014, in the framework of the European Union-funded “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” project, *with co-funding from the Flemish government (USD 170,000)*, UNESCO organized an international expert meeting to help rally the International Community to safeguard Syria’s cultural heritage. 120 international and Syrian experts from 22 countries and UNESCO’s partners took part in this meeting and produced a detailed action plan, which provides short, medium and long term actions to safeguard immovable, movable and intangible heritage.

Since the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014), UNESCO has pursued its actions to assist the State Party in its continuous and sustained efforts to safeguard cultural heritage. At the international level, UNESCO raised the awareness of the international community on the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria; these sustained efforts led to the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution (UNSC) 2139 on 22 February 2014 which called « on all parties to immediately end all violence which has led to human suffering in Syria, save Syria’s rich societal mosaic and cultural heritage, and take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of Syria’s World Heritage Sites ».

On 3 December 2014, UNESCO organised at its headquarters an international conference on the “Protection of Heritage and Cultural Diversity at Risk in Iraq and Syria”, with financial support from the Government of Kuwait, and called for the creation of “protected cultural zones” around cultural heritage sites, suggesting a start could be made with emblematic monuments in the Ancient City of Aleppo.

On 12 February 2015, the UNSC adopted resolution 2199 that condemned the destruction of cultural heritage and adopted legally binding measures to counter illicit trafficking of antiquities and cultural objects from Iraq and Syria and called on UNESCO and other concerned entities to implement this ban.

At the national level, UNESCO has pursued its activities to monitor the situation of Syrian cultural heritage, raise awareness on its protection, undertake short, medium and long-term actions to safeguard it, and coordinate the work of national and international entities working on its safeguarding. In the framework of the European Union-funded “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” project (2.46 million Euros) that was started in March 2014, and is implemented in partnership with ICOMOS and ICCROM, the following activities were undertaken:

In the framework of the European Union (EU) – funded Project “Emergency Safeguarding of Syria’s Cultural Heritage”

- A Meeting with the DGAM and project partners was held in Paris on 28-29 October 2014 to plan and coordinate actions to safeguard Aleppo’s cultural heritage and museums. The meeting provided technical recommendations and risk mitigation measures for the Ancient City of Aleppo. A Training course on “First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage in Syria” was co-organised by the UNESCO Beirut Project team, led by ICCROM ATHAR and co-funded by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage; the workshop took place at the UNESCO Office in Beirut from 24 November to 6 December 2014 and provided intensive training to 22 DGAM technical staff and representatives of NGOs across Syria. Twenty two professionals from coming from Aleppo, Damascus, Daraa and Homs participated in this intensive course. Participants benefited from the expertise of various professionals who have been involved in several aspects relevant to the fields of: risk assessment, damage assessment, debris management, first aid to cultural heritage, and emergency consolidation of damaged monuments and sites.
- A Workshop on improving inventories of built, movable and intangible cultural heritage, which gathered all relevant partners in this field took place in Beirut from 16 to 18 February 2014 and allowed working towards harmonized data gathering and inventories, in view of future actions to conserve, restore, reconstruct, and organize the fight against illicit trafficking.

In May 2015, the World Heritage Centre will organise a technical meeting on post-war reconstruction in the Middle-East context, focusing on the Ancient City of Aleppo as a case study. The meeting will set out the basic recommendations on reconstruction from the theoretical and practical points of view.

ICOMOS has supported many of these and other initiatives.

Under the Partnership with the UNESCO-EU Project for Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage (mentioned above) ICOMOS has the following responsibilities:

ICOMOS, including its different International Scientific Committees, commits itself in:

- Assisting UNESCO in the implementation of the EU project as Partner Institution and shall, as needed, propose to UNESCO specialized experts;
- Informing UNESCO about all activities implemented outside the framework of the EU project for the protection of Syria's cultural heritage in order to allow a better coordination and exchange of information;
- Providing technical advice, capacities and information in order to allow the implementation of activities describe in Articles I, II and III of the present agreement.

At its 18th General Assembly, in Florence in November 2014, the ICOMOS Executive Committee tasked an ICOMOS Working Group on the safeguarding of the cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq, to cooperate with UNESCO and other international and national partners, and with the support of ICORP, to coordinate the activities of ICOMOS related to fostering cooperation and exchanges, monitoring, awareness raising, communication, training, assisting and planning for the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq, as long as the present conflict and its subsequent consequences continue.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The armed conflict situation in Syria and its continued escalation has affected the six World Heritage properties and has substantially limited the capacities to adequately sustain and protect their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The properties are increasingly threatened by a specific and proven imminent danger, in particular the Ancient City of Aleppo, which has been extensively destroyed and which runs the risk of further irreversible destructions, including its Citadel. The illegal excavations across archaeological sites and tells in Syria are a major source for the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and are causing extensive and irreversible damages to those sites, as well as providing looted artefacts for sale in regional and international black markets.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee commend the DGAM and all heritage professionals in Syria and local communities who have made sustained efforts to protect cultural heritage and to monitor it closely.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue to support the State Party in the identification of the necessary corrective measures and in the development of a Desired state of conservation for the properties, as soon as the situation allows for an assessment mission to be carried out.

Furthermore, it is recommended that systematic documentation of all damage incurred at the World Heritage properties be duly pursued whenever the situation allows, and that the World Heritage Committee reiterate its call to the State Party to safeguard damaged property through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking other measures until the situation allows for the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan that respond to international standards and high-quality scientific methods. With regard to post-conflict reconstruction, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee call on the State Party to plan the future of World Heritage properties according to international conservation charters and standards, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Until conditions improve, it is also recommended that the World Heritage Committee call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Syria to refrain from any action that can further damage the heritage of the country, in particular World Heritage properties and all sites included on the Tentative List, and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage including the evacuation of World Heritage properties used for military purposes, and the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties. It is further recommended that the World Heritage Committee call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Syria and the international community, in particular the neighbouring countries to Syria, to ensure effective measures for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects, in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2199.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58, 36 COM 7B.58, 37 COM 7B.57, and 38 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;
4. Takes note of the report provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List and the report on intentional destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and expresses its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;
5. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;
6. Also urges the State Party to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;
7. Further urges the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation and reconstruction work until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Launches an appeal to Syria's neighbouring countries and to the international community to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015;
9. Reiterates its suggestions to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;
10. Commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), and all the heritage professionals and the local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, for their sustained efforts amidst extremely difficult conditions;
11. Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties whenever conditions allow and to implement all possible risk mitigation measures, to inform on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds;
13. *Also requests* the State Party to invite, as soon as the security conditions allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to Syria to assess the state of conservation of the properties and elaborate, in consultation with the State Party, a prioritized action plan for their recovery;
14. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

37. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

- Serious deterioration of the built heritage (a high percentage of the residential houses being replaced by concrete and multi-storey buildings);
- The remaining houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4357>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1994-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 188,997

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust and the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement.

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2009: World

Heritage Centre mission; January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Serious degradation of the city's heritage (many houses and the ancient souq are in an alarming deterioration state)
- Large percentage of the city's houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings
- Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up
- Lack of conservation measures and supportive development

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>.

The State Party reports that Yemen continues to suffer significant political and socio-economic disturbances, which affect the heritage preservation and development.

However, the State Party reports that, despite scarce available resources, the Ministry of Culture has endeavoured to exercise its responsibilities for the protection of cultural heritage, particularly places located within the boundaries of the property, in response to Decision **38 COM 7A.13** of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014).

The Ministry of Culture, represented by the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), has prepared a draft "*National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020*", (Republic of Yemen, Ministry of Culture, GOPHCY).

During 2015, it is proposed that an Action Plan be developed in line with the strategic objectives of the Strategy. The Strategy is also seen as a key document for attracting much needed resources.

Other conservation activities have been undertaken, including:

- continuing implementation of the infrastructure projects such as road stone pavement construction, and traditional building maintenance;
- installation and maintenance of services;
- restoration works at two historic mosques in Zabid;
- establishment of a fund for rehabilitation of five private traditional buildings; and
- progress with the restoration of two historic schools.

The State Party further reports that meetings have occurred with the community and that GIZ has also contributed to cooperative meetings with the Zabid urban development forum to elaborate plans for greater community awareness.

The State Party acknowledges the continued support received from GIZ and the ongoing pilot project funded by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), the Category 2 Centre established in Bahrain. It has also called on the wider international community to offer further support for preventing deterioration and facilitating sustainable development.

The State Party reports that it submitted two years ago clarification on the boundaries of the property at the time of inscription, but has not finalized the buffer zone or submitted a minor boundary modification request.

The State Party acknowledges that limited progress has been made towards the Desired state of conservation for removal from of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), but expresses continuing commitment including proposed involvement of the Higher Ministerial Coordination Committee for Zabid.

The State Party has not yet started implementing the International Assistance Request on "Community participation programme for better conservation process" (IA2014-2664) because of the current situation but intends to initiate it as soon as possible with local resources.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The preparation of the draft: “*National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020*” is welcome, as are its specific preservation provisions and strategic objectives, which include:

- Improving the legal and legislative environment,
- Improving the institutional setup,
- Capacity building of human resources,
- Activating the conservation and protection processes to apply the requirements of the *World Heritage Convention*,
- Assuring and diversifying the funding resources,
- Raising awareness and the community participation,
- Encouraging the economic activities and developing traditional handicrafts products,
- Developing the joint work with the concerned institutions and authorities.

The strategic objectives of this national strategy align with elements of the ‘Urgent Action Plan’ and DSOCR previously adopted by the World Heritage Committee for Zabid. During 2015, there will be an action plan derived from the strategic objectives of the *National Strategy*. Once the Action plan has been compiled, the Strategy will be adopted in 2016. However, without both political support and substantial allocation of public-sector resources, implementation of these objectives is likely to prove difficult.

In the report submitted in 2014, the State Party reported that Bylaw regulations to support the Law of Protection of historic sites, monuments, cities and their urban and cultural heritage that was adopted in 2013 would be prepared but these have not been submitted and there appears to have been no substantive implementation of these statutes.

The political and security situation in Yemen continues to provide an extremely challenging context for heritage preservation and it is to be commended that notwithstanding these great difficulties some progress has been made with small scale conservation initiatives and with discussion on how to foster greater engagement of the local communities.

There remains an urgent need to ensure that this incremental progress continues in order to reverse decline in the city and to ensure that the valuable work undertaken so far is not reversed. It would be desirable for a further Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property and consider progress with the corrective measures as soon as the situation allows.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the State Party for the preparation of the draft “*National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020*” and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015;
4. Also commends the State Party for the efforts that have occurred in relation to physical preservation and community engagement in Zabid, notwithstanding the difficult security situation;
5. Welcomes the continuing support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the support of the World Heritage Category 2 Centre (ARC-WH) in Bahrain;

6. *Noting the urgent need for further resources to support regeneration and conservation projects, encourages the State Party to continue its work in promoting the need for international support;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre details of clearer boundaries of the property and the buffer zone and other technical requirements as requested and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2016** for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the “National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020” to be developed during 2015;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the revised implementation plan and programme, for the Urgent Action Plan’ and for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
10. *Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

ASIA AND PACIFIC

38. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

39. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

See Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

40. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Irreversible interventions as part of major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4196>

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4196>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4196>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2014: ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to Gelati Monastery; January 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- General need for interior and exterior conservation work on the monuments
- Major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral (completed)
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities (issue resolved)
- Lack of co-ordinated management system (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/>

Current conservation issues
On 30 January 2015, in conformity with the Paragraph 190 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>. The report addresses progress on conservation activities at the Gelati Monastery, such as the architectural rehabilitation of the Church of the Virgin, emergency conservation works on mural painting in the Dome of the Church of the Virgin and rehabilitation of St. Nicolas stairs, including conservation works of the East wall of the King David's gate. An ICOMOS Advisory mission was invited by the State Party, jointly with a World Bank expert, to assess the appropriateness of the recent structural reinforcement of the main dome with a ring beam.

The World Bank program that started in 2012 is still continuing. Within this program, a construction of the Visitor Centre outside Gelati Monastery, agreed in 2012, will start in 2015.

The State Party reports that a stone quarry located in vicinity to the Gelati Monastery indirectly impacts the site. In January 2015, the Memorandum on Mutual Cooperation was signed between the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and the mining companies aiming to limit the movement of heavy vehicles adjacent to Gelati Monastery.

The State Party indicates that the Management Plan is under preparation and planned to be completed in May 2015.

The State Party also reports that, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), a Major Boundary Modification for the property to set out a justification for Gelati Monastery to satisfy the criterion for inscription on its own was submitted by the State Party on 1 February 2014 and will be examined by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

The elaboration of a draft national law on World Heritage is ongoing within the framework of the EU funded project TWINNING "Support to the institutional development of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia" and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for comments.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The continuing conservation programme at Gelati Monastery and the significant funding that has been allocated from international donors, as well as by the State Party, are noted. It should also be noted that a visitor center will be built, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies.

The ICOMOS Advisory mission to the Gelati monastery complex, carried out in consultation with a World Bank expert, considered that no further reinforcements to the upper part of the main dome of the Holy Mother Birth Church should be necessary. However it stressed the need for consolidation work on the walls that support the dome and for more exploration to be undertaken of the critical connection between the base of the drum and the building underneath. The mission also recommended short and long term actions (such as surveys and models) in order to understand fully the implications of the recent interventions to the dome and to allow interventions to be defined to guarantee the safety of the building. It also stressed the immediate necessity for a permanent monitoring system for the dome. It is noted that the new draft Management Plan will be finalized in May 2015 and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The activities towards the elaboration of a national law on World Heritage are welcome.

As stated by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **37 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) due to the inappropriate rehabilitation, the authenticity of Bagrati Cathedral has been irreversibly compromised and it no longer contributes to the justification for the criterion for which the property was inscribed. The Major Boundary Modification for the property requested by the Committee has been submitted in the timeframe suggested.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger, until the Major Boundary Modification for the property is examined.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the conservation programme plan for Gelati Monastery;
4. Notes the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission and requests the State Party to implement them fully to ensure the stability of the main building;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
6. **Decides to retain Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

41. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009

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

- Lack of a management mechanism
- Privatisation of surrounding land
- Loss of authenticity of some components due to restoration works conducted using unacceptable methods

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4103>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4103>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4103>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1997-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 96,160

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, and April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre / World Bank Advisory mission and joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a management mechanism (issue resolved)
- Lack of definition of the unified buffer zone
- Lack of Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities (issue resolved)
- Privatisation of surrounding land
- Natural erosion of stone

- Loss of authenticity during previous works carried out by the Church
- Inappropriate urban development within a sensitive historical environment

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents>. It provides information on archaeological excavation and conservation works, and the progress made with the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), as follows:

- *Urban Land-Use Master Plan*: The proposed tripartite co-operation agreement with the World Bank, UNESCO and Georgia, shall provide further assistance in the development of this Master Plan, as well as address the remaining corrective measures.
- *Zoning regulations*: Recommendations regarding the modification of the boundaries of the cultural heritage protection zones and the buffer zones of the World Heritage property were transmitted to the town administration and shall be taken into consideration in the Urban Land-Use Master Plan.
- *Management plan*: The management plan, completed in 2012, has to date not been formally adopted. The State Party expects that the national Law on World Heritage in Georgia will provide the necessary legal basis for its adoption. In addition, the management framework for Mtskheta has been improved by the 2014 adopted Local Self-Government Code, which bestows the city administration with its own funding and decision making rights. Improved cooperation is foreseen through the memorandum of cooperation signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Representative of the Patriarchate of Georgia.
- *Development projects*: The Third Regional Development Project, funded by the World Bank, includes numerous rehabilitation, construction and archaeological works, such as, among others, construction of a visitor centre at Jvari Church. Two projects “The Mtskheta Jvari (Holy Cross) infrastructure project (II stage)” and “The church of Holy Transfiguration of the Saviour, Tomb of Holy Father St. Gabriel and Fool for Christ, Samtavro Monastery in Mtskheta” were submitted by the authorities for ICOMOS review.

In November 2014, a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property assessed its state of conservation, as well as the progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures, in view of the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission has made a number of observations and recommendations which are essential for implementing the remaining corrective measures.

Moreover, a joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission to the property defined the priorities for development of a project on Sustainable Development of the World Heritage City of Mtskheta within the framework of the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendations. Both mission reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents>.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party’s efforts to address the corrective measures and to develop a range of legal measures and protection mechanisms are acknowledged. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to address all remaining measures, such as the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan, to increase the levels of protection to the property. The property has neither appropriate buffer zone nor conservation master plan. These tools have been discussed during the recent missions and are part of the Georgian authority’s commitment.

The mission noted that the Committee’s decisions regarding the cultural landscape setting have not been addressed and no attempt has been made to prevent inappropriate constructions on the Aragvi and Mtgvari rivers banks which have an impact on the setting of the property. Due to the absence of master plan, new developments have resulted in numerous heterogeneous buildings being constructed which, in terms of morphology, volume and layout, reflect patchy city-planning in this most sensitive site area of the city.

The mission recommended that a more effective monitoring mechanism should be developed in the Urban Master Plan regarding the location, density, control of volumes, heights and views of any new town buildings, in order to maintain the dominating presence of the historical monuments over the

Mtskheta City. The mission further recommended including zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, clearly detailed and outlined development zones and a conservation master plan which should take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, its specific landscape setting, as well as important views and visual connection lines.

Work on the new Justice House had started but has been stopped at the request of the Committee as the new building had negative impact on one of the components of the property. A new proposal for the House of Justice was reviewed by the mission. A new location has been chosen by the authorities and the design has been reviewed after taking on board comments by ICOMOS. The mission agreed that the new location is more suitable but at the same time the mission report notes that some minor changes to the design are recommended, such as breaking up the mass. It is also recommended that the space next to the river should not be built upon and developed, as it ensures visual connection between the property components and has an important cultural significance. The State Party is invited to develop a project for the recreation area along the Aragvi river bank which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment is made. The recommendations and suggestions made by the mission should be addressed by the State Party.

A proposal for a modification of the boundaries of the buffer zones of the World Heritage property should be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, prior to any further works being completed on the Urban Land-Use Master Plan.

It is hoped that the planned tripartite cooperation between the State Party, the World Bank and the World Heritage Centre can assist the State Party in implementing the remaining corrective measures.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to suspend any construction in the zone next to the Aragvi and Mtgvvari rivers banks and promote the adoption of a non *aedificandi* zone as long as the Urban Master Plan and unified buffer zone are not approved and implemented to curb uncontrolled development.

Finally, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the examination of its state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encourages it to sustain these efforts and to secure the necessary resources and regulatory regimes to ensure no inappropriate development or deterioration to the heritage buildings, which could constitute a threat to the property and its buffer zones;*
4. *Acknowledges the steps taken to address the corrective measures through training and capacity building activities, as well as the development, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and partnership with the World Bank, of a project towards the completion of the Urban Master Plan, as well as strengthening the management system through the self-governing status bestowed to the City of Mtskheta and the cooperation agreement with the Patriarchate of Georgia, ensuring co-management of protection and conservation of historical churches;*

5. Takes note of the findings and recommendations made by the joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and the joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank Advisory mission, carried out to the property in November 2014;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a unified buffer zone, to encompass the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, and provide this enlarged buffer zone with appropriate protection, and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre, prior to any further works being completed on the Urban Land-Use Master Plan;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments, for all proposed projects that may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
8. Also encourages the State Party to suspend any construction in the zone next to the Aragvi and Mtgvvari rivers banks and promote the adoption of a non aedificandi zone as long as the Urban Master Plan and unified buffer zone are not approved and implemented to curb uncontrolled development;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
10. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

42. 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 to present

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 Plan, 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 Ljevisa;
- 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 Ljevisa, 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 Pec 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 uncertain political situation.

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount granted: USD 2,798,348 in 2008-2014 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005; USD 693,330 in 2008-2013 by the Italian Government; USD 76,335 in 2008-2013 by the Czech Government; USD 132,833 in 2008-2013 by the Greek Government; USD 2,010,000 in 2011-2014 by the Government of the Russian Federation and USD 45,000 in 2012-2013 by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo; July 2008: UNESCO Venice Office (BRESCE) mission; January and August 2009, July 2010, July 2012, January and July 2013, January and June 2014: UNESCO Venice Office missions.

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

Note: *The Secretariat was informed by UNESCO's Legal Advisor in 2008 that the UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement is achieved.*

At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee decided to adjourn until its 39th ordinary session the debate on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **38 COM 7A.18**). The state of conservation report presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2014/whc14-38com-7A-en.pdf>. The present report includes updated information.

On 28 January 2015, the Permanent Delegation of Serbia to UNESCO submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/>. Additional information, related to the implementation of projects at the property, was provided by the UNESCO Office in Venice and by UNMIK.

Conservation works, begun in preceding years in all four components of the property, continued in 2013-2015, with support from extra-budgetary donors listed above, as well as from UNESCO's Regular Programme funds, and with the continued involvement of the UNESCO Office in Venice.

These works concerned sarcophagus conservation, as well as fresco consolidation and restoration works at the Decani Monastery; an assessment and a preliminary survey at Pec Monastery; an assessment, mapping and preliminary survey of the stone fragments at the Virgin of Ljevisa Church; as well as conservation works at the Gracanica Monastery. The report submitted by the Permanent Delegation of Serbia mentions an unresolved issue concerning a bypass road near the Gracanica Monastery, as well as a plan to build a guesthouse at Pec Monastery. Further details were provided by the State Party by letter of 26 March 2015.

The report submitted by the Permanent Delegation of Serbia also mentions graffiti incidents which occurred at the Decani Monastery on several occasions during 2014.

Concerning the security situation at the property, it should be noted that three components of the property are currently under the protection of Kosovo Police: the Gracanica Monastery, the Virgin of Ljevisa Church and Patriarchate of Pec, the latter having been "unfixed" in August 2013 (the "unfixing" process is the handover of security responsibility from the NATO-led Kosovo Force, KFOR, to the specific unit of Kosovo Police dealing with cultural heritage monuments). The fourth component of the property, Decani Monastery, still remains under KFOR protection.

In April 2013, the Director-General of UNESCO requested the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to re-examine the timeline for "unfixing" processes in the Decani Monastery and the Patriarchate of Pec. In April and October 2014, graffiti incidents occurred again at the Decani Monastery. Consequently, in October 2014, the Director-General of UNESCO renewed its appeal to the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to continue the protection by KFOR of this component of the World Heritage property. A verbal reply was received from NATO, assuring that the "unfixing" of the Decani Monastery was not envisaged.

The World Heritage Centre is continuously receiving assurances from the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) that the latter is working closely with all entities mandated to maintain security, and is specifically monitoring all developments which may potentially compromise the security of the property.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28, 32 COM 7A.27, 33 COM 7A.27, 34 COM 7A.28, 35 COM 7A.31, 36 COM 7A.32, 37 COM 7A.34 and 38 COM 7A.18** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the information provided by the state of conservation reports of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, and the results of the missions of the UNESCO Venice Office to the property;
4. Reiterates its request, in cooperation with UNESCO, 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 monuments and the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the Management Plan;
5. Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation defined for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
7. **Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue applying the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016.**

43. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1150)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
The proposed development of "Liverpool Waters"

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

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2011: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of overall management of new developments
- Lack of analysis and description of the townscape characteristics relevant to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and important views related to the property and its buffer zone
- Lack of clearly established maximum heights for new developments, for the backdrops of the World Heritage areas as well as along the waterfront
- Lack of awareness of developers, building professionals and the wider public about the World Heritage property, its Outstanding Universal Value and requirements under the *World Heritage Convention*
- Commercial development
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Management systems / management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/>. The report addressed issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in relation to the Liverpool Waters development project and informed that all the authorities involved and the developer of the project have put in place measures to address the concerns raised by the Committee.

The revision of the Management Plan, which is currently underway, is seen by the State Party as an opportunity to refresh the vision for the property as a whole.

The report summarized the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property through the repair and re-use of a number of outstanding historic buildings, previously at risk. The ongoing revision of the Local Plan to update the necessary policies for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the effort in promoting wider understanding of the World Heritage property are also mentioned.

In addition, at the invitation of the State Party, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission took place on 24-25 February 2015. The purpose of the mission was to undertake consultations with the State Party to see whether a final Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures could be agreed. The mission background was the first draft of the DSOCR prepared by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and transmitted to the State Party on 29 April 2013, and a second draft prepared by the State Party on 15 April 2014 in coordination with and agreed by the property's key stakeholders. ICOMOS considered this second DSOCR to be a 'statement of process', inconclusive as to the

removal of threats to the property. The Advisory mission report is also available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents>.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The Advisory mission confirmed that the serious concern of the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme on the OUV is recognized by all the authorities and stakeholders. The mission considered that, while there had been a number of significant achievements in protecting the OUV of the property through adaptive reuse, the City Council is yet to complete the comprehensive measures to eliminate the threats to the OUV; in particular, the issue of the mid- and high-rise buildings of the Liverpool Waters development project has yet to be resolved. At the current stage of the planning process, this can only be resolved with the pro-active negotiations of the three principal stakeholders (Liverpool City Council, the developer and English Heritage).

As Liverpool Waters is a 30-year long-term development project, it is likely to become an evolving concept in response to changing contexts. Nonetheless, the mission noted that the design drawings are currently being understood as plans for implementation. Concerning the Liverpool Waters development area (located partly within the property and partly in the buffer zone), the authorities reported that to date, no construction has started on site. No detailed planning consent will be submitted in 2015 for the Central Docks and no building activity should be initiated before 2016.

After noting that there is a gap between the obligations of the State Party in safeguarding the OUV and the Liverpool City Council in addressing appropriate planning mechanisms, the mission recommended that, based on the fact that no detailed planning proposal will be submitted in 2015 for the Central Docks, the State Party should provide the World Heritage Centre with an amended DSOCR by 1 December 2015.

The amended DSOCR should be based on the World Heritage Centre's and Advisory Bodies' note from April 2013 and on the State Party's reply of April 2014, and should clearly indicate:

- Effective legal measures or public/private commitments to address the threats to the authenticity and integrity of the property and to ensure the conservation and protection of its OUV;
- Design drawings for the Liverpool Waters planning project redrawn as a three-dimensional programmatic envelope indicating minimum and maximum heights, and measures to reduce the urban density and the height of the buildings from the maximums granted for the Liverpool Waters project;
- In the context of the Neighbourhood Master plans, a review of the mid-rise developments as well as the high rise in Central Docks to reduce heights and densities;
- The timeframe to implement those measures and other conservation actions, identifying key indicators to control the progress in the proper actions;
- Proper initiatives to increase awareness.

The DSOCR should, moreover, provide comprehensive documentation concerning the management system to be put in place to integrate the public-private investment into a realistic planning process.

It is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property took place in February 2015 at the invitation of the State Party, and that it confirmed*

that all stakeholders recognize the serious concerns of the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

4. *Endorses the conclusions of this 2015 Advisory mission, in particular the need to reduce the urban density and height of the proposed development from the maximums granted for the Liverpool Waters project;*
5. *Urges the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations for the revision of the draft Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as a matter of priority;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an amended DSOCR, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
8. ***Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

44. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 420)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014

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

- Instability and imminent risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico's summit
- Lack of conservation policy of integral character which considers all the components of the property
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage
- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation
- Threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1988-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 53,785

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10,000 for a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission in 2005 financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

November 2005 and February 2011: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS technical mission. December 2013 and January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Instability and risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage
- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation

- Environmental impacts on the hydraulic complex which in turn affects historic fabric and local population

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents>. Progress is presented, as follows:

- In 2014, the State Party launched a set of actions for the promulgation of a new Law regarding exploration on altitudes above 4,400m in replacement of Supreme Decree 27787 of October 2004 that regulates Mining exploitation and the delocalization of miners that work in the area. Negotiations with the mining cooperatives conducted by the Ministry of Mining and Energy and the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) are in process to find a solution. It is stated that after the evaluation made by the Bolivian Company Q&Q on the stability of the summit of Cerro Rico, the State Party suspended all works in the area and informed all miners of the 5 risk zones detected. Public bidding for the hiring of companies to undertake works of filling the summit has started in January 2015. At the same time, the Ministry of Cultures launched the project “Emergency Measures and Structural Consolidation of Cerro Rico” with the objective to elaborate a detailed diagnosis on the top risk areas and establish a strategy which includes emergency measures for the structural consolidation of Cerro Rico. The project foresees activities in risk mitigation and disaster recovery at the property with the participation of international experts specialized in geo-structures and mining environmental engineering.
- A set of rules to reinforce the role of the Inter-institutional Entity that will be in charge of the elaboration of the Integral Management Plan has been adopted. The national, regional and municipal institutions responsible for the protection of the property will participate in this Entity and are fully committed to support the development of this tool. In this context, the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism has elaborated the project “Elaboration of the integral and participative management plan for the conservation and management of city of Potosí” within the framework of an international assistance approved by the World Heritage Fund. The Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the participatory management plan will be developed with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in 2015.
- Other conservation activities are reported as taking place at the City of Potosí.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The report on the state of conservation of the property does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee to assess the current situation.

With regard to the stabilization works at the summit of Cerro Rico Mountain, they need to be operational as a matter of urgency. The progress made by the State Party in this area is very limited and needs to be pursued, in particular the selection process of the company in charge of filling the summit. The evaluation and definition of the most adequate strategy to undertake these works must be a priority as pointed out in previous decisions. Furthermore, no timeframe is provided for the finalization of the procedures and the stabilization works of Cerro Rico.

The adoption of a new legislation in replacement of Supreme Decree 27787 is welcomed, taking into consideration the difficulties to apply the moratorium on all explorations above 4,400m and to effectively implement the relocation of miners. The halt of all works in the 5 identified risk areas is also a progress, as well as the negotiations for the relocation of workers between the Ministry of Mines and Metallurgy, COMIBOL and the mining cooperatives. However, no specific timeframe or explanation about the process of relocation of miners and the content of the Law has been provided by the State Party. It is recommended that, at this stage, the Committee request the State Party to send the draft proposal of this Law to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that the State Party did not propose a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures, as requested by the Committee. These are essential for the planning and monitoring of interventions that should eventually lead to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The progress made in reinforcing the inter-institutional mechanism to be established for the elaboration and implementation of the integrated management system for the property has to be underscored. As it was pointed out in previous decisions, the management and monitoring of each component rests at various management levels, leading to lack of coherence and articulation in decision-making process. The new management system should include a policy framework covering all the components of the inscribed property to ensure the entire protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and take into consideration the recommendations made by the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission. This will be a crucial issue where the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre will certainly play a role to support the efforts made by the State Party. The implementation of the international assistance approved for this purpose is most welcomed.

The definition of the buffer zone of the property should be addressed within the framework of the definition of the planned integrated management system as to include a clear understanding for the protection of the visually sensitive areas around the property.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Encourages the State Party to finalize the agreements for the establishment of the Inter-institutional Committee to address, in an integral manner, all issues pertaining to all the components of property, including the Cerro Rico;*
4. *Notes with concern that works for the stabilization of the summit of Cerro Rico have been paralyzed and that no revised strategy and timeframe for completion of the stabilization project have been identified and urges the State Party to finalize the process for the adoption of the new legislation to address the issue of the relocation of miners and the moratorium for all explorations between altitudes 4,400m and 4,700 m;*
5. *Also urges the State Party to work in close co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to finalize, within the framework of the approved International Assistance, the process for the elaboration of the integrated and participatory Management Plan that includes all attributes of the property to ensure its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is sustained and provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a set of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
7. *Requests the State Party to include in the process of the elaboration of the integrated Management Plan a proposal to define the property's buffer zones and invites it to submit, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, a minor boundary modification to allow a clear understanding for the protection of the visually sensitive areas around the property;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*

9. ***Decides to retain the City of Potosí (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2005

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2007-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 135,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2004: ICOMOS evaluation mission; May 2007: World Heritage Centre site visit; April 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, in addition to stucco and lightweight construction
- Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property
- Corrosion of metal cladding and dismantlement of some of the structural elements
- A few buildings such as the Leaching House are liable to structural collapse if no support is given
- Damage caused by earthquakes and the wind

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/documents/>, together with extensive supporting material in Spanish on the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session.

The updated Management Plan for the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (HLSLW) was approved by the National Monuments Council in November 2014 and copies were submitted with the State Party report. The State Party has made estimations on the human and material resources that are required for its implementation. Progress is expected in the identification of mechanisms that would enable to dispose permanently with the necessary resources.

The Conservation Plan is being developed since 2014. The process is coordinated by the National Monuments Council and the recommendations of the 2012 International Meeting of Experts will be the main inputs for the plan, which will consider costs and a timeframe of actions. Once developed, it will be inserted in the Management Plan, updating some of its aspects if necessary.

The Priority Interventions Programme (PIP) had to be adapted following the two earthquakes in April 2014. Adequate measures were taken to ensure the security of visitors and to assess the damages within the property. A report, named "Proposal of intervention in buildings of the Saltpeter Work Humberstone and Santa Laura damaged by the earthquake of April 2014", defined a new list of Priority Interventions.

During 2014, day and night surveillance at the site was maintained, with a total of eight guards. This will be maintained in 2015. No thefts were reported in 2014.

The same team that implemented the INNOVA-CORFO Project named "Designing and generating innovative conditions to promote specialized tourism and visits to HLSLW" will continue to be in charge of the property's management. The INNOVA-CORFO Project has been completed, and the Saltpeter Museum Corporation has been able to maintain and project the strengthening of its staff.

In accordance with the Risk Prevention Plan, the Internal Regulation for Order, Hygiene and Security was approved in 2014 by the "Security Mutual". The 2014 State Party report informed about the staff-training programme dealing with risks and control measures, the set-up of a system of surveillance cameras, the set-up of signs about hazard areas within the property, and the implementation of a public awareness campaign on safety/security measures at the site.

The bidding process "Modification of the Local Regulatory Plan of the Pozo Almonte district and the establishment of a Section Plan for La Tirana", allotted to the Habitierra Ltda., was considered as a form to explore the possible ways of legal protection of the Site's Buffer Zone, based on the requirements for territorial protection of the HLSLW. This initiative is part of the efforts led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in order to make progress in the field of territorial planning and regulation, in accordance with the new National Urban Development Policy, approved in March 2014.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The report of the State Party addresses in a very systematic and concise manner all issues mentioned in the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), as well as the corrective measures and timeframe adopted at the time of the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Considerable efforts have been made by the State Party to advance in the implementation of the corrective measures in a situation in which major attention needed to be given to the damages and impact caused by the earthquakes of April 2014. The State Party adequately responded to this emergency situation by adapting the Priority Interventions Programme (PIP) and taking measures to ensure the security to visitors. The finalization of the review and subsequent approval of the Management Plan is a crucial step forward and it is hoped that the Conservation Plan will be finalized by the end of 2015. Measures for visitor security and visitor interpretation have been taken or designed. The matter of the definition and protection of the buffer zone will require special attention, particularly if this needs to be addressed in the context of the National Urban Development Policy adopted in 2014. The approval of the international emergency assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund to reinforce the measures to effectively ensure the consolidation of buildings and

strengthen national capacities should contribute to the efforts made by the national authorities in charge of the property to ensure the sustainable conservation of the property.

The State Party report demonstrates that important progress has been made on the implementation of the corrective measures according to the established timeframe and there is confidence that the State Party will be able to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the measures taken in response to the earthquakes that occurred in April 2014 by adapting the Priority Interventions Programme (PIP) and taking measures to ensure the security to visitors;*
4. *Recognizes the efforts made by the State Party to define regulatory measures to ensure an adequate protection of the buffer zone of the property through the Regulatory Plans, and invites it to submit, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, a proposal of minor boundary modification;*
5. *Appreciates the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures that will contribute to achieve the adopted Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and also invites it to pursue its efforts in this regard;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

46. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012

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

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Erosion

- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zone
- Absence of a conservation and management plan
- Encroachments and urban pressure
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-1993)

Total amount approved: USD 76,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2001: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. February 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Erosion
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zone
- Absence of a conservation and management plan
- Encroachments and urban pressure
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>

2014 was an election year in the Republic of Panama and a period of administrative change in government administration, including heads of the public entities that manage historical heritage. This caused a low execution rate of conservation works on the site. The remaining yearly budget assigned for the execution of the emergency plan was found insufficient. The new director and deputy director in the National Direction of Historical Heritage had to familiarize themselves with the case but reached conclusions similar to those indicated in the report of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission of February 2014.

In response to the seven points of paragraph 5 of Decision **38 COM 7A.20**, the State Party reports:

- The Law 30 of 18 November, 2014 provides support to the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo with funds from the government for the maintenance, conservation and restoration of the property.
- Collaboration is being sought with the Patronato de Panama Viejo for advice on management arrangements and training of staff.

- The clarification of the boundaries of the component parts of the property has not presented significant progress in 2014.
- The preparation of the Portobelo's District Territorial Plan is in its final stage, as developed by the Ministry of Housing. Its completion is expected by the end of 2015.
- Technical assistance for the implementation of the Emergency Plan is provided by the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain.
- The new Territorial Plan of Portobelo contemplates the implementation of infrastructure planning and environmental improvement of the site. It includes the construction of new sewers, and a new system of garbage disposal.
- The National Directorate of Heritage has in its archives technical studies conducted at the property since the decade of 1980. In more recent years there have been soil studies in the area of the fortifications of Santiago, San Fernando, San Geronimo and the San Lorenzo Castle Fort. A Risk Assessment Study was developed in 2013, as well as a photogrammetric survey on all the cannons found in the area of the fortifications in the Portobelo Bay and in the Castle Fort of San Lorenzo. It is expected that in 2015, the National Directorate will reinforce its cooperation with the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo to strengthen management capacities at the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The adoption of the UNESCO World Heritage Management Plan (September 2013) and the Emergency Plan (March 2014) were crucial steps forward and constitute appropriate frameworks for action. The endorsement by the new administration of these plans and earlier recommendations, and commitment to their implementation are welcomed. However, overall there are very serious delays in the implementation of the corrective measures and timeframe adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and funding for the implementation of these measures, including for the Emergency Plan and the Management Plan, remains insufficient.

As to the replies provided by the State Party on the seven points of paragraph 5 of Decision **38 COM 7A.20**, it is observed that:

- While the National Institute for Culture (INAC) is responsible for the national cultural heritage (Law 14, 1982), the management of the site was entrusted to the *Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo*. Law 30 (2014) defines that a yearly budget will be allocated to the *Patronato* for its administration, operation and activities. The updating of legislative and regulatory measures and definition of the functions of the *Patronato* remains necessary.
- According to the ICOMOS Advisory Mission of 2014, the *Patronato* counts with one architect and four workers, but no technical office with adequate capacities, has been established at the site level. The strengthening of management arrangements and the creation of a technical office remain pending.
- No significant progress on the definition of the boundaries is reported.
- The Territorial Plan for Portobelo is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. An analysis of this plan should be undertaken to assess if it meets the requirements defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).
- The national (*Patronato Panama Viejo*) and international (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares) cooperation should be welcomed.
- Once the Territorial Plan is finalized by the end of 2015, an analysis should be undertaken to assess in how far it will respond to the recommendation regarding environmental degradation and deficiencies in infrastructure services that are impacting cultural and natural heritage assets.
- Clarification should be provided if available studies and documentation are sufficient in response to the recommendation on studies on deterioration processes.

While the State Party presents detailed reports on the activities for conservation and consolidation and for the maintenance of green areas undertaken in 2014, no clearly established and detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets have been presented for the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Progress in the implementation of the corrective measures scheduled for year 1 (up to September 2013), is highly insufficient and it may be reasonably expected that the

measures for the two-three year period (scheduled for conclusion by September 2015) will be equally seriously delayed.

The ICOMOS Advisory Mission of February 2014 made a comprehensive set of recommendations and highlighted the fast rate of decay of the historic fabric that continued to threaten the integrity and authenticity of the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and there remains very serious concern that under the present conditions the state of conservation may further deteriorate.

It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to draw up a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a three-year period, with due consideration of the set of recommendations of the 2014 Advisory Mission; and that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Appreciates the endorsement by the new administration of previous approaches and recommendations to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and welcomes its commitment to its implementation;*
4. *Recalls that the timely implementation of the corrective measures defined at the time of inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger is an essential requirement for achieving the DSOCR;*
5. *Regrets the very serious delays in the implementation of the recommendations expressed in Decision **38 COM 7A.20** and of the corrective measures referred to above and expresses its very serious concern that this may cause irreparable damage to the property and the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Urges the State Party to draw up a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a three-year period, with due consideration of the set of recommendations of the 2014 Advisory Mission, and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation and requests it to submit these documents by **1 February 2016** for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
8. ***Decides to retain the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

47. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1986

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

- Fragile state of conservation of earthen structures and decorated surfaces due to extreme climatic conditions (El Niño phenomenon) and other environmental factors;
- Inadequate management system in place;
- Insufficient capacity and resources for the implementation of conservation measures;
- Increase in the levels of the phreatic water table.

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1987-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 118,700

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: ICOMOS mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS and ICCROM mission; November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices
- Illegal occupation of the property
- Unregulated farming activities
- Rising water table levels
- Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National Authorities)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/>

Current conservation issues

A World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in December 2014. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 6 February 2015. The reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents>. Progress on the implementation of the corrective measures is reported by the State Party as follows:

- The update of the Management Plan for the Conservation and Management of Chan Chan is currently at its phase of finalization by the Ministry of Culture through the Special Project Chan Chan Archeological Complex (PECACH) established in 2013. It will be integrated with other planning tools at the municipal and provincial level, along with the regulatory measures for the

buffer zone of the property which has been already included in the Territorial Development Plan of the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo (PLANDET), as part of the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan of Trujillo for 2012-2022. The proposal of buffer zone contains administrative and technical scope (definitions, classification of Land Use and zoning and specific provisions prohibiting urbanization) and will be sent to the Municipality of Trujillo for final approval.

- The approval of regulations of Law 28261, which will address the issue of illegal occupations, is in the final phase and will be sent to the Office of the Prime Minister for evaluation and final approval by Supreme Executive Order.
- A Prevention Programme for the Niño Phenomenon ENSO 2014-2015 has also been submitted. Part of the activities inscribed within the programme have already been carried out, particularly maintenance works on the drainage system. A Project for the "Improvement and Expansion of Public Tourism Services at the Site Museum" is currently at its pre-feasibility study stage to be financed by MINCETUR. In this context, an Archaeological Assessment Project has determined that no architectural structures or remains may be affected by the project. Finally, the reports enlists a series of conservation and maintenance projects currently in process, in particular a conservation project for the implementation of research activities connected to the use of territory, implemented within the framework of international cooperation agreement signed by the *Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* (ITABC-CNR).
- The Inter-institutional and International Agreements have been included in the areas of research, conservation and maintenance, which are in full force. Moreover, PECACH is currently managing Inter-institutional Agreements proposals with local government entities focused on solid waste management. A Proposal for the Plan for Public Use has been provided and is currently under evaluation by PECACH before being sent to the Ministry of Culture.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Significant progress has been made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures. As noticed by the Reactive Monitoring mission, the backbone of the management structure of the site has improved considerably, permitting a seamless cooperation between the Ministry of Culture in Lima, the Decentralized Directorate in Trujillo and PECACH. The projected buffer zone surrounding the archaeological site seems to be appropriate and a set of restrictions with regard to urban development has been included in the regulatory measures. However, crucial aspects mentioned in the corrective measures are still in the process of implementation and requires to be finalized. This includes the resolution of the difficulties concerning the approval of the Regulation of Law 28261 and the updating process of the Management Plan and other planning tools.

Conservation and prevention measures to address the state of conservation of the archaeological site have largely contributed to control most of the factors that may affect the earthen architecture of the property. The 2014 mission considered positively the fact that the system of drains installed at the site has allowed monitoring and maintenance of the ground-water at a level that does not endanger the earthen construction and that the vegetation barrier has become a real protection for the property and not only an indicator of the site borders. Furthermore, the State Party has made great efforts to further ensure the appropriation of the property by the local community by disseminating information and promoting participation of the population in clean-up and conservation activities.

In spite of the significant progress, it is recommended that the State Party finalize the process to ensure the updating of the planning tools, in particular the final approval of the updated version of the Management Plan, taking into consideration the views of the different stakeholders and to include natural and anthropogenic threats in the Integral Risk Prevention Plan. Moreover, a crucial step needs to be achieved with the final approval of the Regulations of Law 28261 which is necessary to address the issue of illegal occupants at the property. As noted by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission, while the application of the existing law is still the best option, the lack of real progress in the discussion over the past ten years indicates that other solutions may be identified.

In order to allow the State Party to further complete the process of implementation of the corrective measures to ensure the long-term protection of the property, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Based on the progress made in meeting the two pending issues referred to in the above paragraph, the Committee may consider the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 40th session in 2016.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.22** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the State Party for its long-term commitment and efforts to address the deterioration of the earthen architecture remains of the property and to put in place a sustainable and operational management system to continue to handle decay factors and threats;
4. Notes with satisfaction the current measures being put in place by the State Party within the framework of the ENSO 2014-2015 Prevention Programme to protect the property of potential damages connected to heavy rains expected by El Niño phenomenon and encourages the State Party to explore more permanent possibilities that protect all structures within the complex;
5. Notes the results of the December 2014 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to:
 - a) Finalize:
 - (i) the approval process of the updated version of the Management Plan as soon as possible, taking into account the views of the different stakeholders and provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised planning tools for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
 - (ii) the approval process of Law 28261 to ensure that the property is adequately protected from illegal occupation and seek for supplementary solutions to this issue in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre,
 - (iii) the planning of the site museum renovation, together with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism,
 - b) Include natural and anthropogenic threats in the Integral Risk Prevention Plan,
 - c) Include general aims and priorities of archaeological and conservation interventions in the property in the Archaeological Intervention Manual;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, at which session the Committee may consider the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

48. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (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

- Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004, 2005 and 2010;
- Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- 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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>; updates proposed in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage) 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

September 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to assessment of the state of conservation; April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Serious deterioration of materials and structures
- Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property
- Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms
- Absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007
- Flooding and water damage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 February 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>, informing of the following actions:

- The cartography regarding the World Heritage area presented in January 2014 is ratified and the boundaries of the buffer zone have been defined. In addition, a Zone of Touristic and Landscaping Interest has been defined for future implementation.

- A plan has been formulated, approved and its execution initiated for the implementation of the corrective measures conservation strategies.
- Broad institutional alliances have been established for the implementation of the corrective measures.

As to management arrangements, the report informs of the broad and participatory approach that is taken in the management and implementation of actions, including the preparation of a Master Plan, under the authority of the Office for Strategic Projects and Design of Heritage Areas of Coro, La Vela and Areas of Protection (OPEDAP). An Ordinance for Zoning, Architecture and Construction was enacted in December 2014 and foresees the creation of a multi-disciplinary Mixed Commission for the approval of the corrective measures, the strategies for the management and master plans, supervision and approval of conservation interventions.

Information is furthermore provided on specific interventions such as the preparation of a drainage master plan for Coro and La Vela, conservation interventions in 2014 (mainly in public buildings) and those planned for 2015 (mainly in privately owned buildings, i.e. 22 in Coro and 40 in La Vela), the closure of streets for traffic, and the incorporation and promotion of traditional know-how, particularly related to mud-brick structures.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The progress made is well noted regarding the implementation of concrete actions that contribute to the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), such as conservation interventions that include the conservation of an important number of public and privately owned buildings, traffic management, transfer of know-how, improvement of drainage systems, progress in inter-institutional coordination, etc. These interventions will contribute to the overall improved state of conservation of the property and it is recommended that the Committee recognize the efforts made by the State Party.

However, there is concern about the lack of detailed and precise information in response to each of the revised corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session, in particular the measures to be completed within one year that focus on planning mechanisms and management and conservation strategies, such as the elaboration of a management plan, conservation strategy and action plan, a strategy to integrate traditional know-how and a strategy to address issues of ownership and abandonment.

The revised cartography submitted by the State Party within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory process requires further clarification to meet the requirements for Minor Boundary Modifications, as set up in the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently prepare a strategy, work plan and timetable to respond to the revised corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as adopted by the Committee at its 38th session, and to submit these documents no later than 1 December 2015, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for immediate response to the State Party.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Takes note of the submission of the clarification of boundaries for the property and the proposal of extension of the buffer zone and requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines;*

4. *Appreciates the progress in the implementation of concrete actions that contribute to the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), such as an important number of conservation interventions in public and privately owned buildings, traffic management, transfer of know-how, improvement of drainage systems and progress in inter-institutional coordination through strategic alliances and the establishment of a Mixed Commission;*
5. *Recalling, however, that the timely implementation of the revised corrective measures defined in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** is an essential requirement for achieving the DSO CR, regrets that on the basis of the report of the State Party, it is not possible to assess the real and concrete progress in the implementation of the revised corrective measures and make additional recommendations as could be required;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to urgently draw up a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a two year period and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation, and to submit these documents as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2015**, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;*
8. ***Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***