

# ICOMOS

2016

Addendum

## Evaluations of Nominations of Cultural and Mixed Properties to the World Heritage List

**ICOMOS Report for the World Heritage Committee**  
40th ordinary session, Istanbul, 10 - 20 July 2016

WHC/16/40.COM/INF.8B1.Add





**UNESCO**

World Heritage Convention  
World Heritage Committee

**2016**

**Addendum**

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# World Heritage List Nominations received by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

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# Trang An (Viet Nam)

## No 1438 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

Viet Nam

#### Name of property

Trang An Landscape Complex

#### Location

Ninh Binh Province, North Viet Nam

#### Inscription

2014

#### Brief description

Situated near the southern margin of the Red River Delta, the Trang An Landscape Complex is a spectacular landscape of limestone karst peaks permeated with valleys, many of them partly submerged and surrounded by steep, almost vertical cliffs. Exploration of caves at different altitudes has revealed archaeological traces of human activity over a continuous period of more than 30,000 years. They illustrate the occupation of these mountains by seasonal hunter-gatherers and how they adapted to major climatic and environmental changes, especially the repeated inundation of the landscape by the sea after the last ice age. The story of human occupation continues through the Neolithic and Bronze Ages to the historical era. Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Viet Nam, was strategically established here in the 10th and 11th centuries AD. The property also contains temples, pagodas, paddy-fields and small villages.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

11 March 2016

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

The property was inscribed in 2014 under criteria (v), (vii) and (viii), although both ICOMOS and IUCN recommended it for deferral due to the inadequate boundary of the property, in relation to the proposed justification for inscription, and the legal protection and management problems with its buffer zone. At the time of the evaluation, ICOMOS noted that the proposed boundaries did "not relate in a meaningful way to the archaeological record so far uncovered in nine caves" in that the nominated property also included the "remains of Hoa Lu and the scenic landscape of rice paddies which are not relevant in a nomination for a series of archaeological sites that relate to habitation by communities in the late Pleistocene to the Early – Middle Holocene periods." ICOMOS found that the

stronger potential from a cultural perspective for this property to be nominated as a mixed site was related to the value of the archaeological record and the material present in some caves which are mainly concentrated in the forested limestone pinnacles in the west of the property. On the other hand, Hoa Lu and the scenic landscape do not contribute to the justification for nominating the property.

Upon inscribing the property, the World Heritage Committee made several recommendations including to modify the boundary of the property to better reflect the areas and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure an appropriate surrounding buffer zone.

The State Party has therefore prepared a proposal for a minor modification of the boundary which is the object of the present evaluation.

#### Modification

The minor boundary modification concerns only the nominated property and does not affect the perimeter of the buffer zone, although its size is slightly reduced by the modest expansion of the property area.

The State Party holds that the guiding principles for the modification of the boundaries of the property aim to include the following:

- Archaeological sites which are vital to understand pre-historic human occupation and adaptation to the changing environment;
- Areas containing superlative features bearing natural beauty or aesthetic significance;
- A sufficient expanse of geological landscape and landforms to illustrate the final stages of geomorphic evolution of tower karst in a tropical humid environment.

According to the above mentioned principles, the boundaries of the property have been modified to include:

- Dinh mountain in the north – western sector of the property, being the natural setting of an ancient pagoda and complementing Hoa Lu Ancient Capital;
- A mountainous area to the south of the property;
- An area with isolated karst towers emerging from the corrosion plain to the north east of the property so as to complete the illustration of the final stage of karst phenomena;
- Slight reduction of the property in the north, to exclude a quarrying area, around Tam Coc wharf, to exclude urban development, and at Bich – Dong, to exclude an hotel.

ICOMOS notes that in principle these types of changes should be agreed upon during the evaluation process, before inscription, in that a request for a modification of the boundaries at the time of inscription is not in line with the Operational Guidelines.

ICOMOS also notes that the principles guiding the revision of the boundary are adequate to respond to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations as well as ICOMOS' concerns.

The modifications proposed and the explanation provided for the slight enlargement of the boundary of the property in different areas relate to the natural values and, secondly, the need to strengthen the integrity of the property by excluding areas where incompatible development has occurred.

In ICOMOS' view, the cultural values and attributes related to Dinh Mountain do not represent cultural attributes that are relevant to justifying the Outstanding Universal Value of Trang An in bearing significant evidence of human occupation and adaptation to climatic changes from the Pleistocene to the Middle – Holocene periods.

Other modifications to the boundaries are explained as addressing either the inclusion of natural attributes or the exclusion of less integer areas.

The property was inscribed as a mixed site, therefore the proposed minor modifications to the boundary of the property need to be assessed considering how they also contribute to an improved reflection of the natural dimension of the Outstanding Universal Value. This assessment remains IUCN's responsibility but, for a mixed property, the harmonisation of an evaluation between ICOMOS and IUCN in principle may prove beneficial for the future protection and management of the property.

Finally, ICOMOS observes that the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee which requested the State Party to "ensure an appropriate surrounding buffer zone" for the property has not been addressed by the present minor boundary modification request, which only concerns the modification of the boundary of the inscribed property.

ICOMOS considers that this request also needs to be addressed by the State Party, and that an effective preparatory phase for this step would be the improvement of the management system and of the Management Plan, currently under finalisation and therefore allowing the opportunity to accommodate the revision of the buffer zone within the action plan.

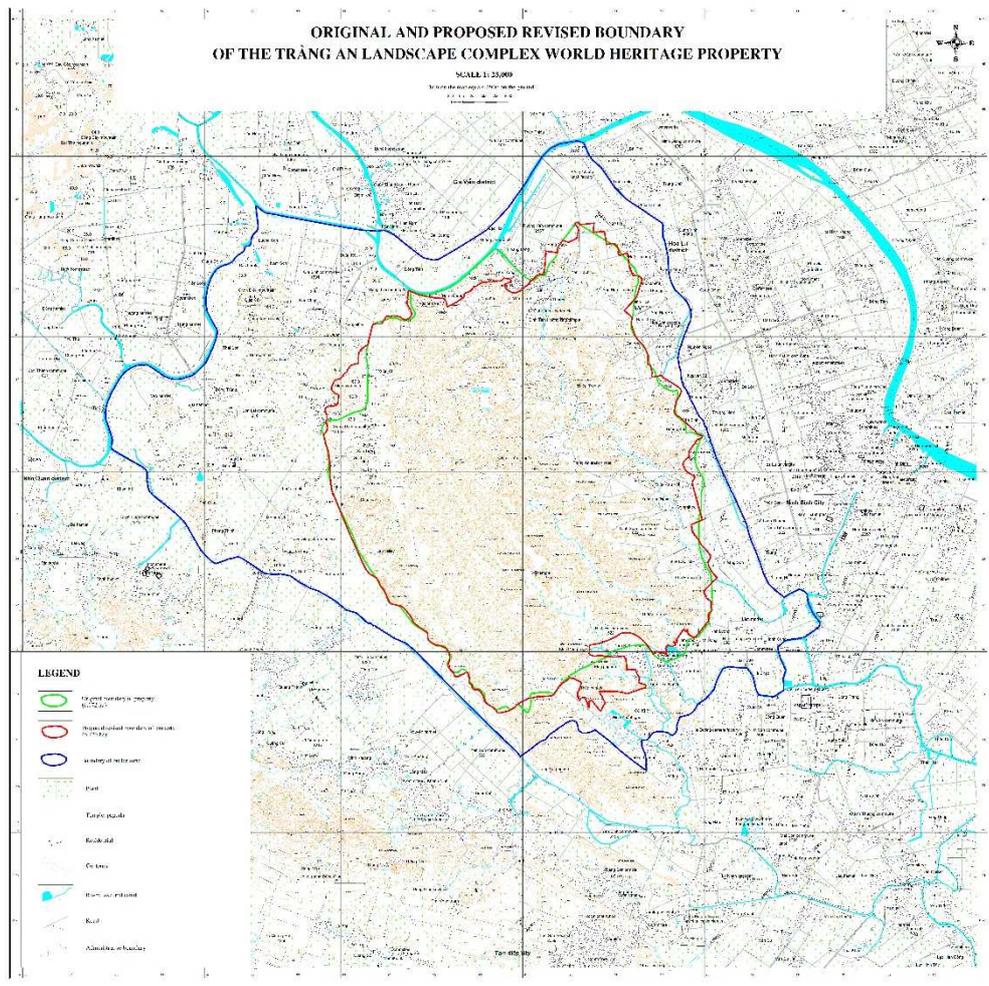
### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Trang An Landscape Complex, Viet Nam, be **approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party finalises the Management Plan and strengthens the management system.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property



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# Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

## No 23 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

**State Party**

Syrian Arab Republic

**Name of property**

Site of Palmyra

**Location**

Province of Homs

**Inscription**

1980

**Brief description**

An oasis in the Syrian desert, north-east of Damascus, Palmyra contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world. From the 1st to the 2nd century, the art and architecture of Palmyra, standing at the crossroads of several civilizations, married Graeco-Roman techniques with local traditions and Persian influences.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**

29 May 2016

### 2 Issues raised

**Background**

At the time of inscription, no buffer zone was defined for the property.

The original boundary of the property enclosed one area of 117.68 hectares. This encompassed the main archaeological remains but excluded the necropolises and the remains of the Roman aqueduct which were situated outside the fortified walls. The World Heritage Committee recommended that the latter should be included in the protected zone (CONF 016 V.12).

This property boundary coincided with the boundary of the archaeological park protected on the National Heritage List by decree in 1934.

**Modification**

Given the intense vulnerabilities being experienced at the present time, the State Party has submitted a proposal for the delineation of a buffer zone.

This proposal was submitted after the deadline for receipt of Minor Boundary Requests and has been

evaluated by ICOMOS in response to exceptional circumstances.

A buffer zone was established in 2008 by the Antiquities authorities, to encompass areas for experimental research and rehabilitation, as well as for education, tourism and recreational facilities. This buffer zone was not presented to the World Heritage Committee for approval.

The new proposed buffer zone expands and redefines the area as a cultural landscape, in order to protect the immediate setting of the property and important views. It encompasses 'transitional zones' around the archaeological site, the oasis and the city and covers an area of about 225.66 ha. No description of the proposed boundaries have been provided.

The buffer zone aims to:

- Protect the visual setting of the site.
- Respect the integrity of the Palmyra' designed landscape including the visual setting where this was visible from within the bounds of the designed landscape.
- Protect the views and vistas which were key to the Palmyra' design.

The proposed buffer zone is protected by various national laws such as the Antiquities law 1963, and a Ministerial decree n 380/A 2003. A proposed revision of the Antiquities Law is now being considered by the Syrian government. This will include wider dimensions such intangible heritage and the natural environment.

The buffer zone is divided into protective zones with each having specific designations related to their levels of protection.

A Sub-Regional Urban Development Plan for the City of Palmyra has been prepared by MAM (Municipal Administration Modernization program funded by European Union). This aims allow urban planning instruments to take full, speedy, effective and sustainable advantage of the economic and social development opportunities presented by the City of Palmyra, whilst protecting these qualities to the maximum extent.

The Municipality of Palmyra in coordination with the Directorate Antiquities of Palmyra are responsible for the management of the property and its buffer zone. Quite how the Urban Development Plan relates to the protective zones or to the over-arching rationale of the buffer zone to protect OUV is not entirely clear.

**Comments by ICOMOS**

The aims of the buffer zone are commendable but they do tend to imply that the main protection offered by the buffer zone is a visual one. What needs to be clarified is what attributes exist within the buffer zone that are directly related to the remains of the ancient city and

thus need protection. For instance the palm-groves *Wāhat*, were an integral part of the city, as were the remains of underground water channels, *Qanāt-s*, running from the west and north of the city, and the various quarries that supplied stone for the city, the nearest on the eastern cliffs of Gabal at-Tar, west of the citadel. Watering places and other markers that punctuated old caravan routes leading to the city can still be discerned.

All these attributes that relate directly to the OUV of the property need to be clearly identified and integrated into the protective zones. In some cases these will extend beyond the proposed buffer zone and need to be protected as part of the wider setting. The area around Palmyra is also rich in early archaeological remains relating to early settlements and these too need to be identified.

The proposed buffer zone is divided into protective zones. For some zones more clarity is needed as to how protection will apply. For instance, zone 3 is supposed to be void of construction ("strictly prohibited"), but with infrastructural projects such as sewers being allowed; zone 2 includes part of Sabkhat al Mouh and the limits of ecological tourism are unclear; while for zone 3, neither the text or the maps make it clear as to whether the Samiramis hotel is included in buffer zone 3 or left out of it. More precision is desirable, as another hotel has been built since in the immediate vicinity.

The Statement of OUV mentions that the population of the adjacent town has increased and is encroaching on the archaeological zone; that increased tourism has brought pressure for facilities within the property; that the setting is vulnerable to encroachment from the adjacent town, and that in order to address these issues clear priorities are needed as well as coordinated management.

In conclusion, ICOMOS suggests that in order to allow greater clarity on the purpose and protection of the buffer zone, more precision is needed on the precise definition of the proposed boundaries, and on the projection that is offered by the various protective zones in relation both to protecting attributes that relate to OUV and to managing development pressures.

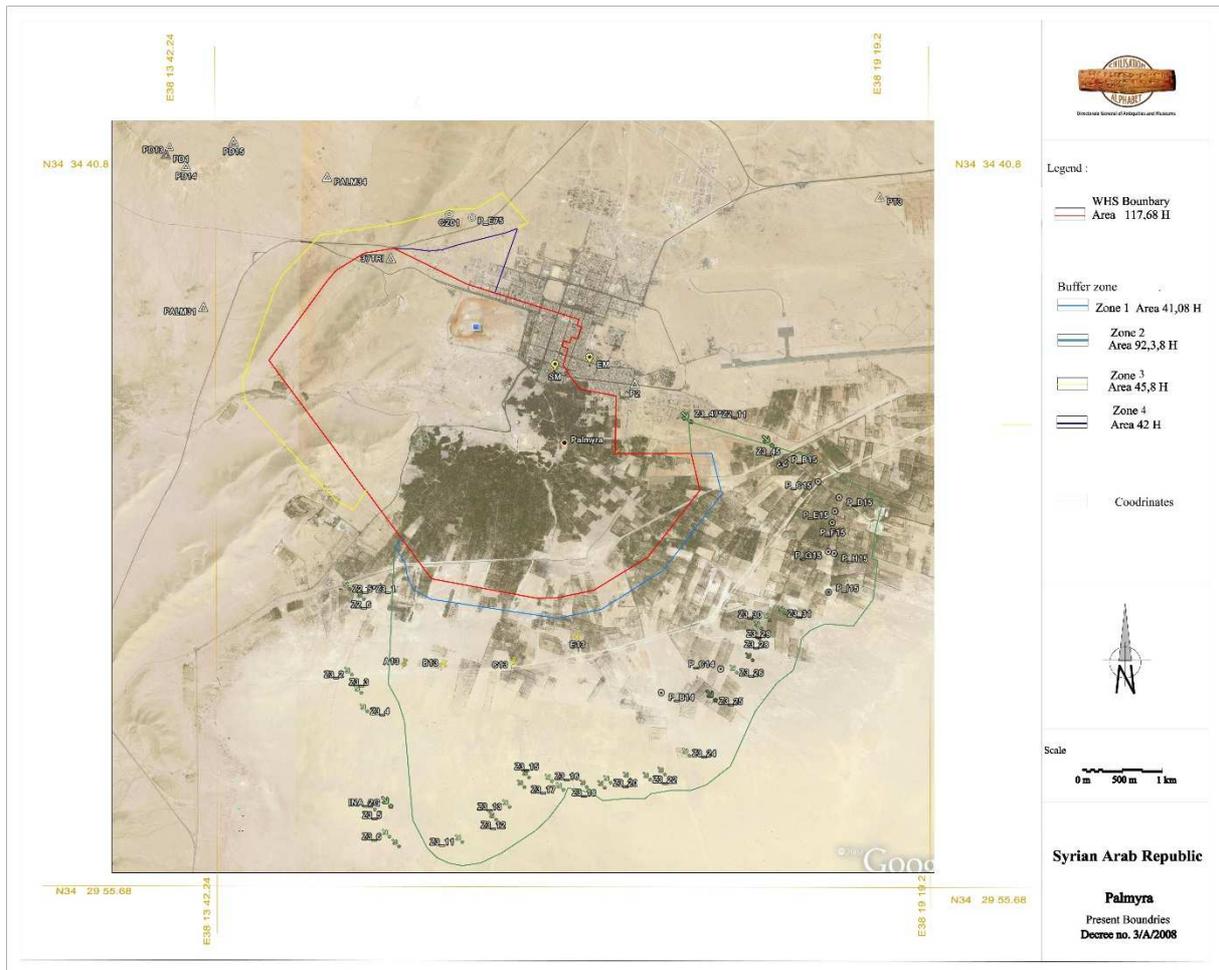
### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed buffer zone for Palmyra, Syrian Arab Republic, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Provide greater clarity on the line of the proposed boundaries;
- Provide greater clarity on the protection offered by the various protective zones;

- Ensure that protection offered by the buffer zone in relation to the property encompasses not only visual parameters but recognises attributes that are related to OUV such as palm-groves, *Wāhat*, underground water channels, *Qanāt-s*, quarries, remains of caravan routes and archaeological sites;
- Provide more details as to how the limits of urban development will be defined.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



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# Kii Mountain Range (Japan) No 1142 Bis

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## 1 Basic data

### State Party

Japan

### Name of property

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

### Location

Mie, Nara and Wakayama Prefectures

### Inscription

2004

### Brief description

Set in the dense forests of the Kii Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean, three sacred sites – Yoshino and Omine, Kumano Sanzan, Koyasan – linked by pilgrimage routes to the ancient capital cities of Nara and Kyoto, reflect the fusion of Shinto, rooted in the ancient tradition of nature worship in Japan, and Buddhism, which was introduced from China and the Korean Peninsula. The sites (495.3 ha) and their surrounding forest landscape reflect a persistent and extraordinarily well-documented tradition of sacred mountains over 1,200 years. The area, with its abundance of streams, rivers and waterfalls, is still part of the living culture of Japan and is much visited for ritual purposes and hiking, with up to 15 million visitors annually. Each of the three sites contains shrines, some of which were founded as early as the 9th century.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of report

11 March 2016

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range were inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi). The property was said to cover a total area of 495.3 hectares, and included 23 components, with a total buffer zone area of 1,137 ha. In 2004, the World Heritage Committee (Decision: 28 COM 14B.28) asked Japan to prepare a detailed medium-term management plan to ensure the sustainability of the natural and cultural features of this particularly fragile property, to provide it with visitor facilities and to remove the unsightly overhead cables in the area. Furthermore, the ICOMOS report stressed that it

was essential to ensure that: “the nominated areas are sustainable from a forestry management point of view – particularly the narrow corridors surrounding the pilgrims’ routes, as the ‘natural’ elements of the site are strongly associated with the cultural values of spirituality”. The management plan was submitted in 2006. It set out practical measures to document and preserve the site, considered as living natural and cultural heritage, and procedures to be followed in carrying out necessary changes. The minor modification proposal presented in 2016 is the result of the documentation and management efforts set out in the plan of 2006.

### Modification

The proposed modification essentially concerns the pilgrimage routes. The first route (Omine Okugakemichi) linking the northern and southern sites of Yoshino and Omine to Kumano Sanzan, is unaffected. The second and third routes, however, are both affected. The second (Kumano Sankeimichi) connects the extreme south of the property (Kumano Sanzan) to Kyoto and the rest of Japan, via three sub-routes, running along the coast to the west (Kijji) and to the east (Iseji), and to the north via the peninsula to Kôyasan (Kohechi); the third route (Kôyasan Chôishimichi), which is 24 km long, was created by the founder of the temple at Kongobu-ji, the high priest Kukai, to connect the temple to the administrative buildings of Jison-ji (both are part of the Kôyasan site). This route has been named after the stone signposts (*chôishi*) set along the path at intervals of 109 m (a distance termed *cho*).

Kumano Sankeimichi, the pilgrimage route to Kumano Sanzan - the most popular in Medieval and modern times - has seen its frequentation increase since the World Heritage List inscription. Its area of 129.6 hectares would be increased by 7.3 ha to a total of 136.9 ha. The extensions affect the Kijji sub-route, which in turn is divided into two parts: Nakahechi, which crosses the Kii peninsula, and Ohechi, which runs along the coast. Nakahechi leads to all the shrines of Kumano Sanzan and also includes various *Ôji* shrines, dedicated to the child gods of the Kumano deity (21 such shrines are included in the inscribed property). Ohechi is 120 km in length, and was the route taken by ascetic followers of the Saigoku pilgrimage. It includes 4 teahouses and several of its sections would be re-established.

Kôyasan chôishimichi in fact included several routes, depending on the point at which pilgrims arrived on the peninsula. The re-establishment of its 4 sub-routes would restore the unity of their historic circumnavigation, and the route would accordingly be renamed Kôya Sankeimichi (this would refer not to a specific route, but to a complete network comparable with that of Kumano Sankeimichi). Its area of 14.3 hectares would be increased by 3.8 ha to make a total of 18.1 ha, in particular by the use of a route that was favoured by the imperial family and another route used by women (women were not allowed into Kôyasan until 1872, and used this route to reach prayer-giving sites considered appropriate for them, known as Nyonin-dô).

The modifications would result in a 13% increase in the length of the pilgrimage routes (from 307.6 km to 347.7 km), but the total area of the property would rise by only 2.2%. The maps (of exemplary resolution) and the visual plates supplied indicate that the sections concerned are well-known routes, that are either in their original condition, or capable of being appropriately restored. Archaeological excavations and cadastral research from 2011 to 2014 have demonstrated the feasibility of the works and/or the authenticity of the remains concerned. Their addition would thus ultimately strengthen the specific features of the route network (form, linearity, thickness and height of pavements, surfacing, associated landscape).

The sectors marked are to be covered by the Japanese law on cultural property protection from March 2016 onwards.

Overall, the proposed extension would reinforce the integrity and authenticity of the property, by improving the ratio of components and guaranteeing the authenticity of the form and materials of the paths, which would be carefully checked. Two roads currently projected will thus be diverted away from the zone thus protected and from the buffer zone, so that there would be no threat to the environment's visual integrity. The property management and preservation plans have been modified to allow for these changes.

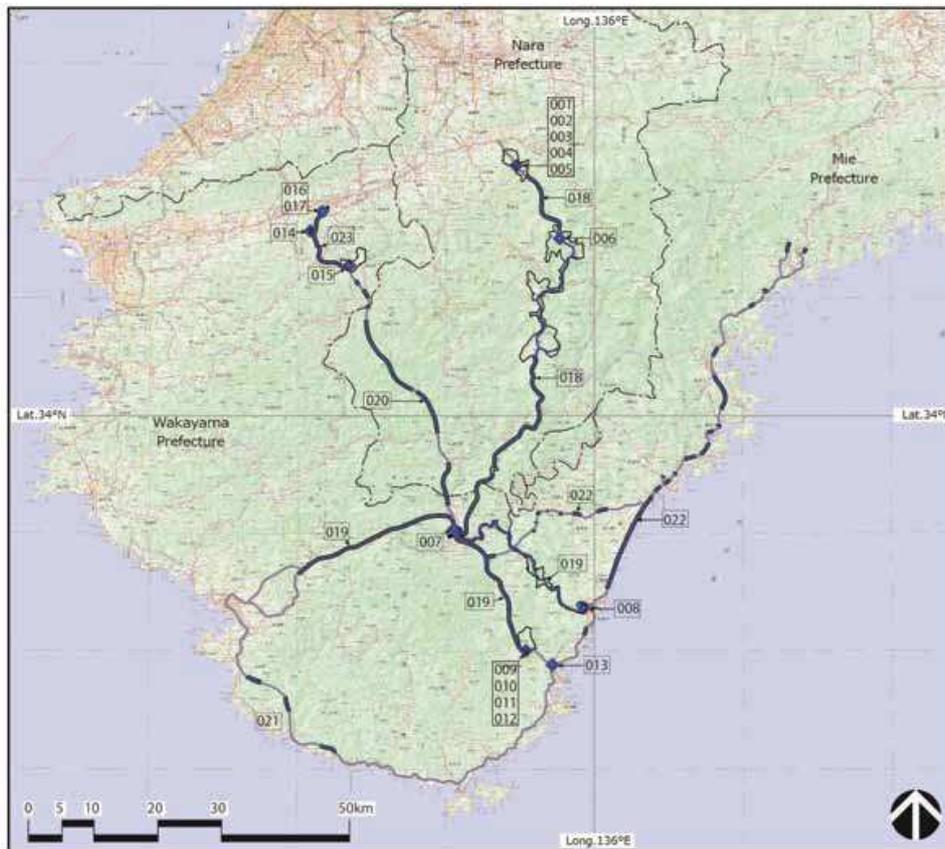
### **3 ICOMOS recommendations**

#### **Recommendations with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposal for a minor modification of the boundaries of the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, Japan, be **approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party clarify whether other modifications of a similar nature are being considered.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Incribed property (2004)</li> <li> Pilgrimage routes</li> <li> Buffer zone</li> </ul> | <p><b>Component of sacred sites</b></p> <p><b>&lt;Component parts&gt;</b></p> <p>(1) Yoshino and Ōmine<br/> 001 Yoshinoyama<br/> 002 Yoshino Mikumari-jinja<br/> 003 Kimpu-jinja<br/> 004 Kimpusen-ji<br/> 005 Yoshimizu-jinja<br/> 006 Ōminesan-ji</p> <p>(2) Kumano Sanzan<br/> 007 Kumano Hongū Taisha<br/> 008 Kumano Hayatama Taisha<br/> 009 Kumano Nachi Taisha<br/> 010 Seiganto-ji<br/> 011 Nachi no Ōtaki<br/> 012 Nachi Primeval Forest<br/> 013 Fudarakusan-ji</p> <p>(3) Kōyasan<br/> 014 Niutsuhime-jinja<br/> 015 Kongōbu-ji<br/> 016 Jison-in<br/> 017 Niukanshōfu-jinja</p> <p>(4) Pilgrimage routes<br/> 018 Ōmine Okugakemichi<br/> Kumano Sankeimichi<br/> 019 Nakahechi<br/> 020 Kohechi<br/> 021 Ōhechi<br/> 022 Iseji<br/> 023 Kōyasan Chōishimichi</p> |
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Map showing the revised boundaries of the property



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# The Grand Canal (China)

## No 1443 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

People's Republic of China

#### Name of property

The Grand Canal

#### Location

Provinces, municipalities with province status, and cities:

- Beijing Municipality
- Tianjin Municipality
- Hebei Province: Cangzhou City, Hengshui City
- Jiangsu Province: Wuxi, Changzhou, Suzhou, Huai'an, Yangzhou and Suqian Cities
- Zhejiang Province: Hangzhou, Ningbo, Jiaxing, Huzhou and Shaoxing Cities
- Anhui Province: Huaibei City, Suzhou City
- Shandong Province: Zaozhuang, Jining, Tai'an, Dezhou and Liaocheng Cities
- Henan Province: Zhengzhou, Luoyang, Shangqiu, Anyang and Hebi Cities.

#### Inscription

2014

#### Brief description

The Grand Canal forms a vast inland waterway system in the north-eastern and central eastern plains of China, running from the capital Beijing in the north to Zhejiang province in the south. Constructed in sections from the 5th century BC onwards, it was conceived as a unified means of communication for the Empire for the first time in the 7th century AD (Sui dynasty). This led to a series of gigantic worksites, creating the world's largest and most extensive engineering project ensemble prior to the Industrial Revolution. It formed the backbone of the Empire's inland communications system, and enabled the supply of rice to feed the population and the transport of strategic raw materials. By the 13th century, it provided a unified inland navigation network consisting of more than 2,000 km of artificial waterways, linking five of the most important river basins in China. Still a major means of internal communication today, it has played an important role in ensuring the economic prosperity and stability of China over the ages.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

11 March 2016

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

During the evaluation process, ICOMOS asked the State Party to reconsider the issue of the buffer zones, their definition and their regulation, in its letter dated 16 December 2013, because of the sometimes minimalist approach, particularly for ordinary sections of the Grand Canal without any specific attributes. The buffer zones seemed to have been established hastily, and some points had clearly been neglected. In the case of a serial property which is extremely extensive and complex, involving very different environmental situations in variable locations along the banks of the same serial property, various types of buffer zones should be considered, and each site should have a buffer zone that is well-adapted to it, and has been studied in conjunction with representatives of the local communities. Its protection system could then bring together in a credible way the general directives of cultural and natural environment preservation, the integrated regional projects linked to the canal (water quality, tourism development, transport, economic development, etc.) and specific protection appropriate to the local type of cultural and natural environment. It also seemed essential to define the special cones of vision, and protect them against the possible aggressive visible impacts of development projects.

Finally, the possibility of a supplementary continuous buffer zone, whose regulation would impose only weak constraints, but which would encourage local inhabitants and riverside communities to adhere to the canal's values, could have been considered. Its purpose would have been to demonstrate the continuity of the Grand Canal along its whole length, and to encompass all its modern-day variants.

In its reply in February 2014, the State Party stated that it had already revised the buffer zones of four of the nominated properties, by extending them considerably. The same process was under way for six other properties. A general typology setting out the various types of buffer zone, and the establishment of appropriate protection measures, was being drawn up by the State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH).

In the conclusion to its evaluation, ICOMOS considered that it would have been appropriate to allow the State Party to thoroughly revise the system of buffer zones, as regards their geographic definition and their setting up on the basis of negotiations with the regional and local authorities; a level 2 buffer zone could possibly have been considered, in order to highlight the continuity of the Grand Canal and to encompass all its modern-day components.

In its decision to inscribe the property 38 COM 8B.23 (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee recommended that the State Party take note of the two points relating to the question of the buffer zones.

The World Heritage Committee has recommended to the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) *Continuing the work that has begun to revise the system of buffer zones in terms of their territorial definition, by major canal environment zone type, and enact protection measures that are fully adapted to local situations and negotiated with the municipal and regional authorities,*
- f) *Examining the possibility of a supplementary continuous buffer zone with a low level of constraint, which could both indicate the value of the functional continuity of the Grand Canal and also involve all the local residents in adhering to its values.*

The World Heritage Committee has also recommended:

- d. *Stepping up efforts in environmental and landscape conservation, for example by defining priority cones of vision for the properties, and then protecting them from the impact of new buildings.*

**Modification**

In accordance with point f of decision 38 COM 8B.23 (Doha, 2014), taken when the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the property, the State Party supplied, in November 2015, a detailed report on the implementation of the recommendations of the decision. Point 2 of the report is particularly concerned with the buffer zones issue, and it proposes the following modifications for six components of the Grand Canal:

Component	Name	Former BZ (ha)	New BZ (ha)
TJ-03	Zhengzhou Section of Tongji Canal	989	2022
TJ-05	Shangqiu Xiayi Section of Tongji Canal	13	98
WH-01	Hua County and Xun County Section of Wei Canal (Yongji Canal)	693	733
HY-01	Qingkou Complex	6275	6310
HY-03	Yangzhou Section of Huaiyang Canal	4359	4765
ZH-02	Suqian Section of Zhong Canal	2270	2298
	TOTAL	54208	55835

The State Party indicates that it has fully taken into account the decision of the World Heritage Committee and the ICOMOS recommendations about buffer zones. It is also very aware of the important role that they play in the preservation of the banks of the various sections of the Grand Canal and in expressing the Grand Canal's outstanding universal value. The method consisted of performing preliminary studies for the revision of the buffer zones considered to be the least satisfactory or most sensitive, through a process of consultation with the provincial governments, the municipal authorities and professionals. It proved necessary to allow for the great complexity of the banks of the Grand Canal, and to make adjustments that are relatively limited but relevant in terms of preserving the banks of the canal. Ten minor extensions are proposed, concerning six of the 31 components of the serial property. They relate to historic

urban environments, modern urban environments and rural environments.

Annex 1 of the State Party's report provides detailed mapping of the buffer zones that have been extended and descriptive tables of the adjustments, with a justification for each one. Each modification is illustrated by an overall map view of the component, and detailed maps showing the cadastral parcels concerned or providing precise geodetic indications.

As for the recommendation that the possibility of a continuous level 2 buffer zone be considered, the State Party points out that the various sections of the Grand Canal and its heritage sites were inscribed in March 2013 as a serial site to be protected by the State as a matter of priority.

ICOMOS considers that the work done by the State party, in cooperation with the regional and municipal authorities concerned, for six of the 31 sections forming the serial property of the Grand Canal, has led to a coherent and justified set of extensions to the existing buffer zones. This process has, amongst other things, enabled the inclusion of new archaeological discoveries in the protected areas. The extensions moreover remain relatively limited in relation to the initial perimeters of the buffer zones. Furthermore, the proposed territorial proposals are accompanied by important organisational measures which can provide an appropriate conceptual and technical framework for the satisfactory future management of the buffer zones:

- the indicators for monitoring the Grand Canal and its banks (Annex 2),
- an inventory of the historic periods represented by the various parts of the Grand Canal (Annex 3),
- a handbook of guidelines for the coordinated protection of Grand Canal landscapes (Annex 4).

It is however advisable to consider whether the other sections forming the serial property necessitate buffer zone adjustments or not, and to consider the deepening of the "visual corridor" concept referred to in the handbook of guidelines by envisioning the definition of specific priority vision cones for the Grand Canal and their protection in the future.

ICOMOS is also considering the short reply made by the State Party to the second recommendation of decision 38 COM 8B.23 (Doha, 2014), about the possibility of a continuous buffer zone along the whole length of the Grand Canal. No new elements have emerged in respect of this point since the inscription application, but ICOMOS is fully aware of the extreme difficulty that would be involved in introducing a level of protection, even if only very weak, on areas that are as extensive and densely populated as all the banks of the Grand Canal. ICOMOS therefore considers that the continuity of the Grand Canal is sufficiently effected, firstly through its continuity of hydraulic

operation and secondly by the continuity of use over the whole of its length.

### **3. ICOMOS recommendations**

#### **Recommendations with respect to inscription**

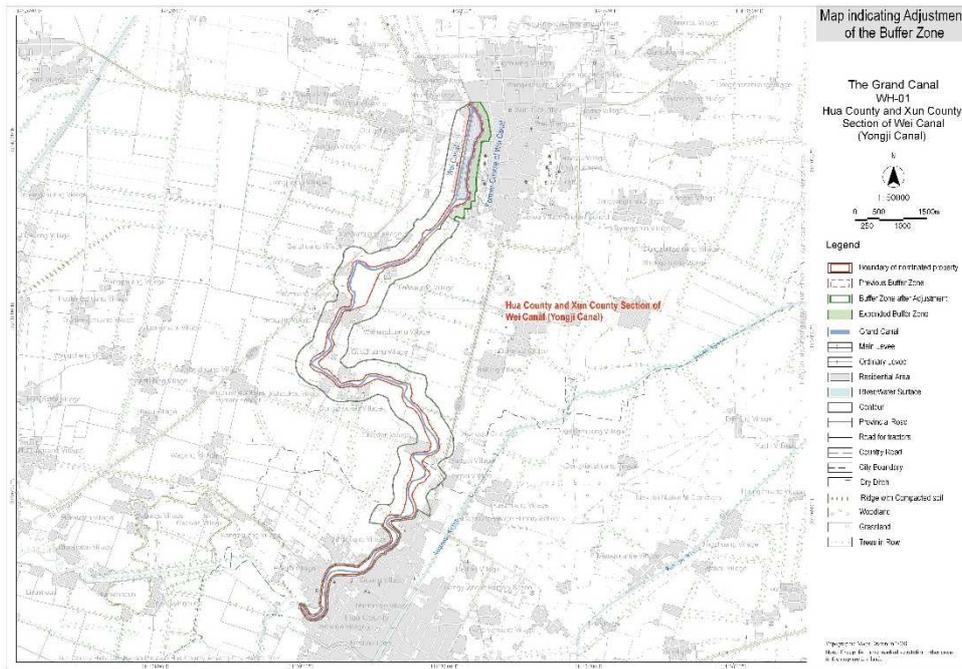
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed modification of the buffer zones of six sections of the Grand Canal, China, be **approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

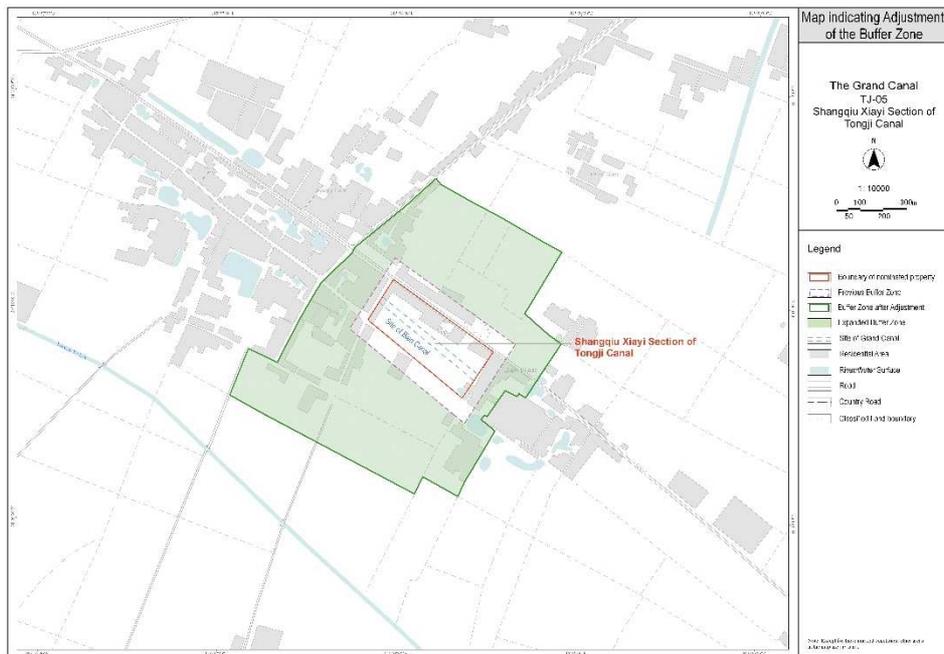
ICOMOS recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Considering whether or not the other sections forming the Grand Canal serial property necessitate buffer zone adjustments;
- Continuing environmental and landscape conservancy efforts, for example by defining prioritised vision cones for the properties and protecting them from the impact of new buildings.

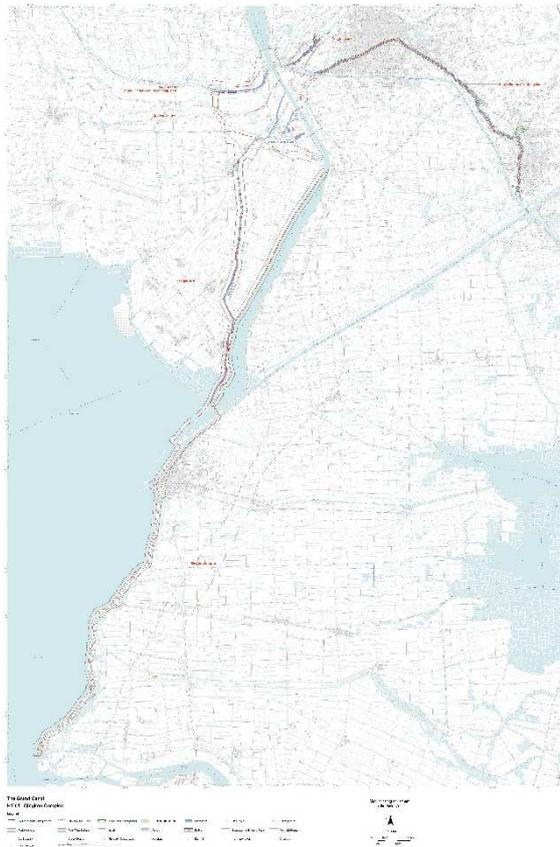




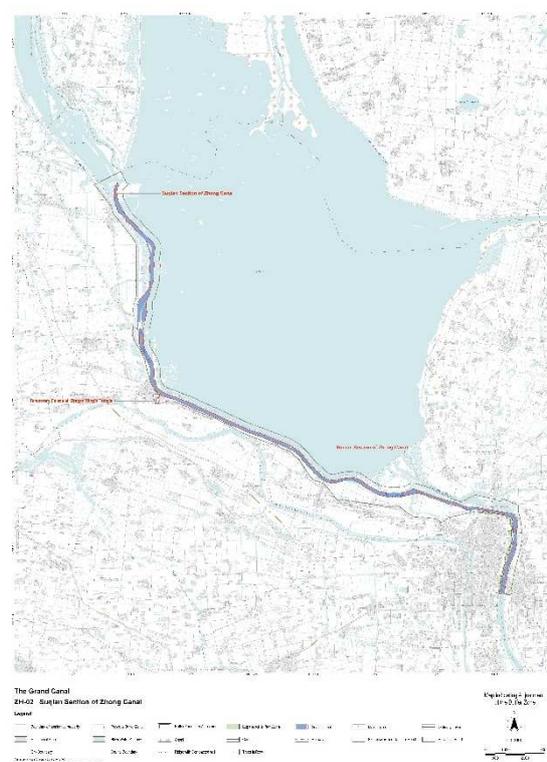
Hua County and Xun County Section of Wei Canal – Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Shangqiu Xiayi Section of Tongji Canal - Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



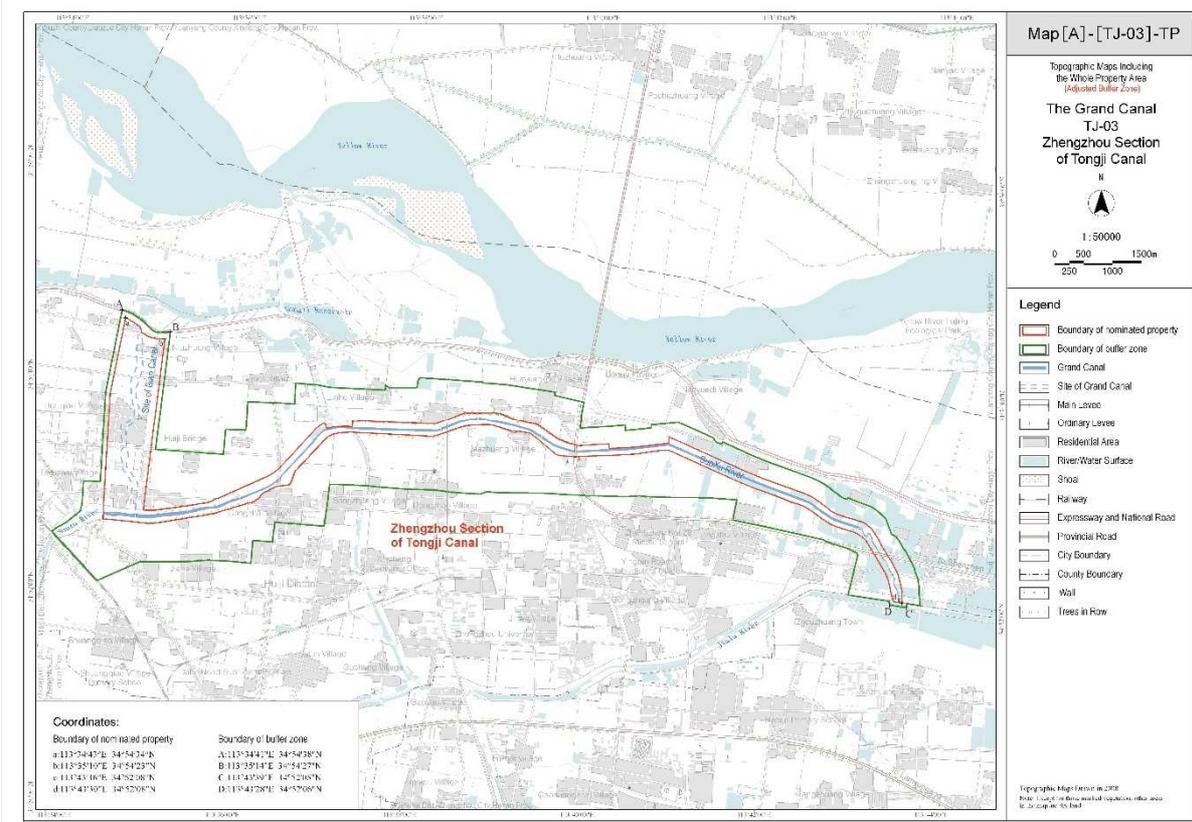
Qingkou Complex - Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Suqian Section of Zhong Canal - Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Yangzhou Section of Huaiyang Canal - Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Zhengzhou Section of Tongji Canal - Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

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# Humayun's Tomb (India)

## No 232 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

**State Party**

India

**Name of property**

Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

**Location**

Delhi, India

**Inscription**

1993

**Brief description**

This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**

11 March 2016

### 2 Issues raised

**Background**

Humayun's Tomb was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv) in 1993. In relation to the property boundary, the evaluation report prepared by ICOMOS at the time of inscription refers to discussions with the State Party about whether associated structures should be included in the property boundary, such as the earlier Nila Gumbad (Blue Dome) to the east, and the tombs of Isa Khan and Buhlima and their associated mosques and gardens to the west. At that time, it was agreed that the property boundary should include the Tomb and its surrounding gardens, and these other features were included in the buffer zone.

In relation to the buffer zone, at the time of the inscription, ICOMOS noted that no buffer zone had been identified, but that all protected monuments in India were surrounded by a 100-metre zone of strict control on development by the Archaeological Survey of India. A further 300 metres zone existed in which all proposed development had to be submitted to the Survey for comment.

In 2003, the Periodic Report for Humayun's Tomb foreshadowed the State Party's interests in modifying (extending) the property boundary to include monuments such as Isa Khan's Tomb, Afsarwala Mosque and Tomb,

Arab-ki-Sarai, Bu-Halima's Garden, Sunderwala Mahal and Burj, Nila Gumbad, etc.

In 2015, the World Heritage Committee approved the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Humayun's Tomb (Decision 39 COM 8E) and the clarified mapping and boundaries submitted through Retrospective Inventory processes (Decision 39 COM 8D).

**Modification**

The State Party proposes to add an additional area of 5.44 ha to the property boundary, and an additional area of 53.21 ha to the buffer zone.

The primary purpose of the proposed modifications is to include several 16<sup>th</sup> century Mughal garden tombs, which together with the Mughal elements already included in the property, form an important and inter-related ensemble. Since the World Heritage inscription of Humayun's Tomb, the Archaeological Survey of India has been able to acquire additional land abutting the World Heritage boundary containing these additional elements. The State Party argues that incorporation of this ensemble in its entirety is necessary in light of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and will assist in maintaining its integrity.

The program of conservation for Humayun's Tomb, especially since 2011, has ensured the use of traditional materials and building techniques, removal of 20<sup>th</sup> century additions and modern materials, and the re-establishment of missing portions of the structures and enclosure walls that had been demolished in 1989. The painstaking removal of cement, and replacement with traditional materials such as lime mortar/plaster has been particularly important. These works, and the systematic and scientific research and documentation processes that have been adopted, have allowed a model conservation process to be developed for the property. This work has been supported by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Urgent repairs have been made to a number of structures included in the proposed area to be included in the property boundary. The garden settings have been conserved. According to the State Party, the proposed revisions to the property boundary will allow visitors an enhanced understanding of the Mughal necropolis.

The areas proposed to be added to the property boundary comprise six distinct zones: Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's Garden Tomb (3.34 ha); an unknown Mughal garden tomb (0.82 ha); Sunderwala Mahal Garden Tomb (0.37 ha); Sundar Burj Garden Tomb (0.23 ha); Nila Gumbad's Garden Setting (0.37 ha); and Lakkarwala Burj Garden Tomb (0.31 ha). In the case of Nila Gumbad, the monument and its garden setting were separated by a roadway at the time of inscription, but the Archaeological Survey of India, assisted by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture have worked to restore this linkage, allowing an improvement in the integrity of this component monument.

The proposed modification to extend the buffer zone is based on the proposed revised property boundary. Additional monuments that will be included in the proposed additional areas in the buffer zone include: Sabz Burj (early 16<sup>th</sup> century tomb); an 18<sup>th</sup> century Garden Tomb; and the 17<sup>th</sup> century Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan's Garden Tomb.

This proposal is reflected in the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that was adopted by the World Heritage Committee for this property in 2015.

Management of the property is the responsibility of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the ASI also has the capacity to control development in the buffer zone. The Government Sundar Nursery is located in the buffer zone and is owned by the Central Public Works Department; landscape works there have been undertaken via an Memorandum of Understanding with the ASI and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. In general, conservation works within the property boundary and buffer zone have been undertaken by the multi-disciplinary team established by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, supervised by a committee comprising the ASI and ASI Delhi Circle officials.

Legal protection for the revised property boundary and buffer zone is provided by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (and Rules, 1959); Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010; Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957; and others. Humayun's Tomb-Nizamuddin area is inscribed as a Heritage Zone in the Delhi Master Plan 2021. The ensure area proposed for inclusion in the buffer zone is an Archaeological Park, designated in 2015 that ensures that important Mughal era corridors are protected within urbanization processes.

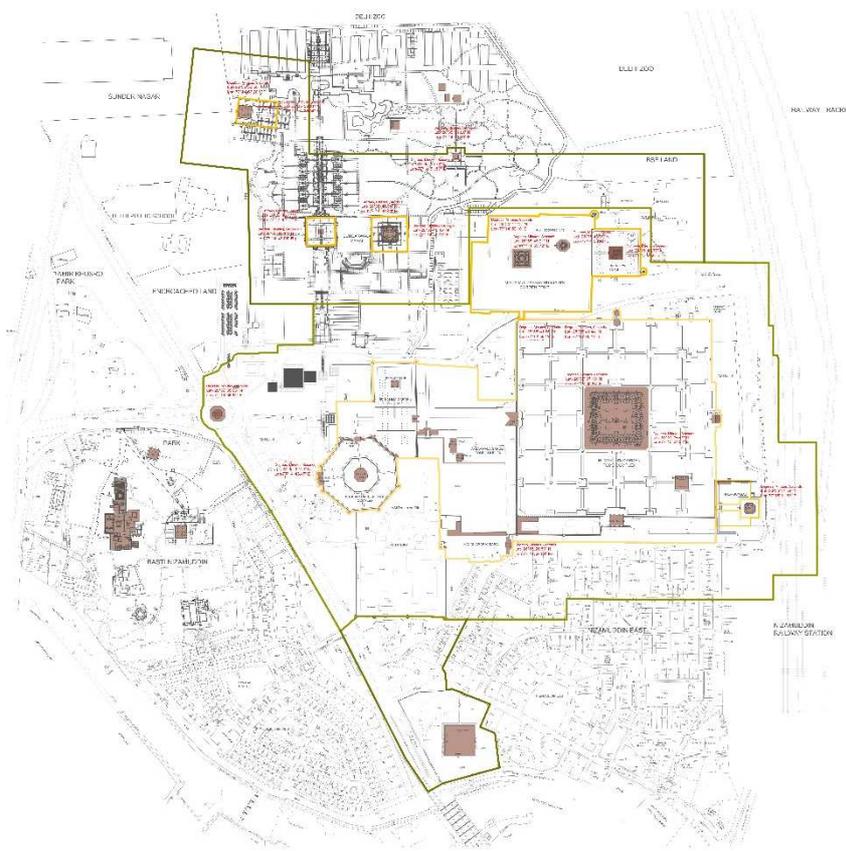
ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications to the property boundary and buffer zone for Humayun's Tomb will contribute to protection of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will strengthen the management of the World Heritage property and its presentation to visitors.

### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, India, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, India, be **approved**.



**NOTE**  
The coordinates are indicated in UTM, Meters, and Northing system on the map.

**LEGEND**

- Boundary of the World Heritage Property —
- Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property —
- Proposed Extension to the Boundary of the World Heritage Property —
- Proposed Extension to the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property —
- ASI Protected Monuments of National Importance ■

Area of the world heritage property	21.60 HA
Area of the buffer zone of the world heritage property	3.36 HA
Area of the revised world heritage property	27.04 HA
Area of the revised buffer zone of the world heritage property	53.21 HA



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

HUMAYUN'S TOMB, NIZAMUDDIN BASTI  
URBAN RENOVATION INITIATIVE  
06/11/2015

**SITE PLAN SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND BUFFER ZONE**

Scale



Date: 06-11-2015 AKTC

Prepared by: WIIS/IIT/01

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and the buffer zone



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## Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan) No 543 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

**State Party**  
Uzbekistan

**Name of property**  
Itchan Kala

**Location**  
Khorezm Region, Khiva

**Inscription**  
1990

#### Brief description

Itchan Kala is the inner town of the old Khiva oasis, which was the last resting place of caravans before crossing the desert to Iran. It is protected by brick city walls, 10 metres high. It is a coherent and well-preserved example of the Muslim architecture of Central Asia. There are several outstanding structures such as the Djuma Mosque (rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century), the mausoleums and the madrasas and two magnificent palaces built at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Alla-Kulli-Khan.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**  
11 March 2016

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

Itchan Kala was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990. At the time of the inscription of the property, ICOMOS strongly recommended that a buffer zone be established, corresponding to the area of Dishan Kala, and noted several important historic buildings and monuments such as the Nurrullabay palace. ICOMOS also commented on the importance of establishing strict urban development standards in this area, and also to the north of Itchan Kala (where the new urban centre of Khiva is located, and includes many high-rise buildings). Accordingly, at the time of inscription, the World Heritage Committee recommended that a buffer zone including Dishan Kala be established, and that strict urban controls be applied to the new urban centre of Khiva (CONF 004 VII.A).

#### Modification

The proposed modification to the property boundary is based on the location of the ancient walls of Itchan Kala. An area of 33 hectares located on the southeast border of the inscribed property is proposed to be excised from the property on the basis that it consists of modern houses

and buildings, it is located outside the boundary wall, and contains no attributes related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. This area is located within the proposed buffer zone for the property.

The proposed buffer zone formally establishes a buffer zone for this property where none has previously been identified. The proposed buffer zone of 282 hectares corresponding to the outer down of Dishan Kala. While Dishan Kala is a relatively more modern town, it contains some 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings of heritage significance, such as the Nurrullabay Complex (the residence of the Khiva king), Matvafo Karavon Boshi (summer house), Mamad Maram Madrasa and Minaret, the historic khauzes (water reservoirs), Ota khauz and Bolkhauz, and four remaining gates. Buildings in Dishan Kala are no taller than two-storeys, and many demonstrate traditional mud brick and wood construction. It is considered that the proposed buffer zone will help to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of Itchan Kala through control of urban development, while also providing for the heritage conservation of the important elements of Dishan Kala itself.

The property is managed by the Khorezm Regional Inspection for the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Objects and the Uzbekistan Ministry of Culture and Sports. Legal protection for the proposed modification to the property boundary and the new buffer zone is provided by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage Properties", No. 269-II, August 20, 2001; the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Approval of Regulation on Procedures for Designation of the Urban Development Activities Specific to the Management of the Urban Construction, No. 26 of Feb 2, 2007; and the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures to Improve Protection and Usage of the Cultural and Archaeological Heritage" No. 200, July 21, 2014.

What remain unclear are the management arrangements and measures in place for the buffer zone and how it is related to the property's management.

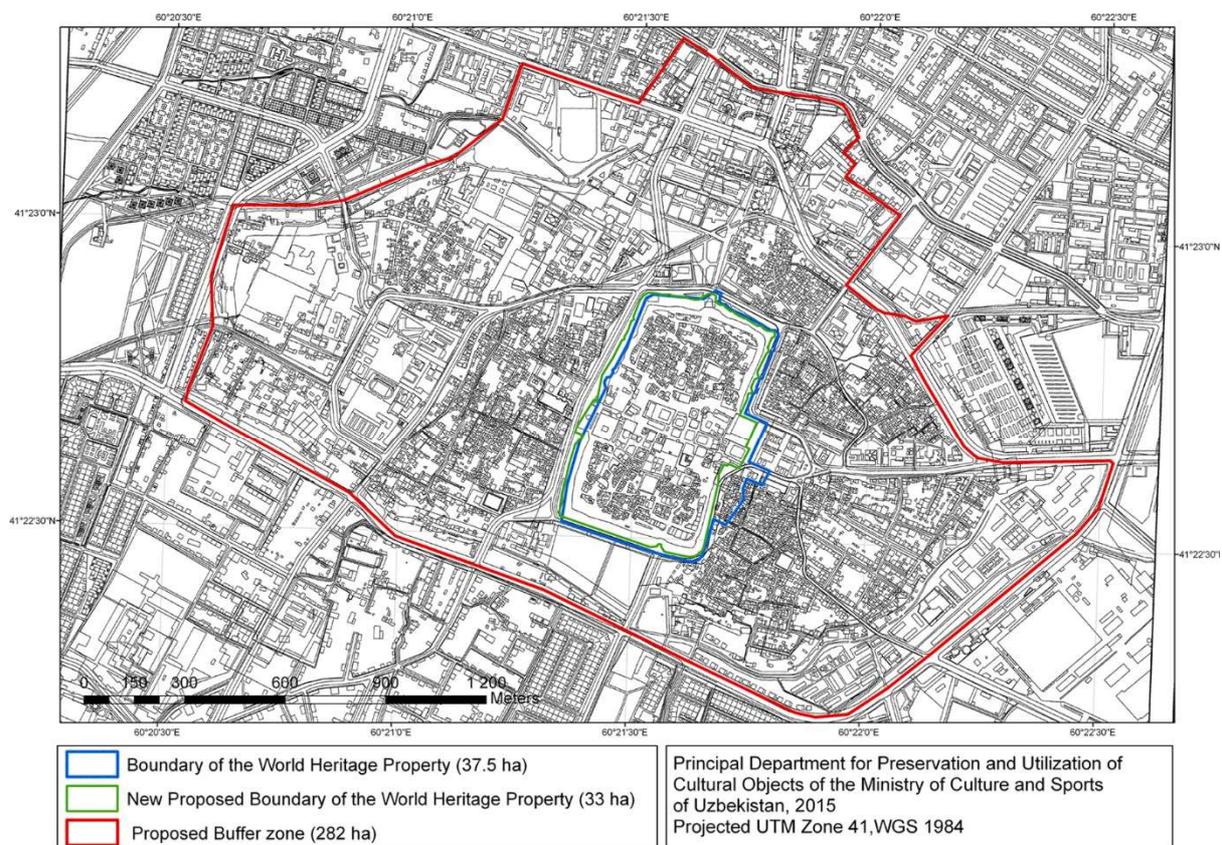
In relation to the minor changes to the property boundary (by removing a small section to the south-east in order to align with the legislative protection boundary), ICOMOS considers this would be acceptable so long as urban development in the buffer zone is carefully controlled.

### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed buffer zone for Itchan Kala, Uzbekistan, **be referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Clarify the management arrangements and measures in place within the buffer zone, particularly if these are different from those that apply to the World Heritage property;
- Consider establishing specific management and protection policies and mechanisms that ensure that the OUV of this property is given primary importance in urban development approvals within the buffer zone.



Plan showing the revised boundaries of the property and the proposed buffer zone



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# Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) No 602 Bis

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## 1 Basic data

**State Party**  
Uzbekistan

**Name of property**  
Historic Centre of Bukhara

**Location**  
Bukhara Region

**Inscription**  
1993

**Brief description**  
Bukhara, which is situated on the Silk Route, is more than 2,000 years old. It is the most complete example of a medieval city in Central Asia, with an urban fabric that has remained largely intact. Monuments of particular interest include the famous tomb of Ismail Samani, a masterpiece of 10th-century Muslim architecture, and a large number of 17th-century madrasas.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**  
11 March 2016

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The property was inscribed in 1993. No issues appear to have been raised about the boundary and buffer zone at that time. The property area is 200 ha, with a buffer zone of 275 ha.

In 2011, as part of the process of the Retrospective Inventory, mapping of the property boundary and buffer zone was submitted. However, in 2013, the World Heritage Committee noted progress in the development of a GIS database as part of the Management Plan; this documentation work identified some issues with the property boundary and buffer zone (Decision 37 COM 7B.68).

Several issues were identified.

- A number of important attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are not included within the property boundary or the buffer zone, some of which had been listed as part of the inscribed property (the Ismaili Samani and Chasma Ayub Mausoleums). These also include a historic

area of traditional houses in the southeast, another historic settlement in the northeast and the original fort wall in the southwest. In some places, the boundary is not well-aligned with property boundaries, cutting across the parcels.

- The property boundary and buffer zone were not sufficiently protected through legal instruments.
- In some places, the buffer zone was very narrow, providing inadequate protection to the property from potential development pressures.

These issues were reiterated in 2015 (Decision 39 COM 7B.72), and it was recommended that the State Party review and clarify the property boundary and buffer zone in consultation with all stakeholders. This work was conducted as part of the continuing work on the Integrated Management Plan in October 2015.

The proposed modification of the property boundary is based on the work undertaken, and agreed by stakeholders and got approval by the local authorities. The Integrated Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Bukhara should be completed at the end of 2016.

### Modification

Based on the detailed field survey conducted by the UNESCO Tashkent Office in 2013, work was undertaken in October 2015 by the State Party to clarify the property boundary and buffer zone. The proposed revisions will enlarge the property to 216 ha and its buffer zone to 339 ha, with an overall area of 555 ha.

The purposes of these proposed revisions are: to ensure that all attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are included in the property boundary; to ensure that all boundaries align with property boundaries; and to increase the buffer zone to more adequately protect the setting of the inscribed property.

The proposed revised property boundary incorporates the mausoleums of Samanids and Chashma Ayub, remains of the ancient walls and town gate (Talipocho Gate) located in the north-west, and some significant traditional residential areas.

The Samanid mausoleum is one of the most significant early monuments of the Islamic architecture in Central Asia and is a place of Muslim pilgrimage. The Chashma Ayub mausoleum ('Saint Job's spring') is of architectural significance and is associated with a legend that gives its waters medicinal qualities.

Together, the proposed revised property boundary and buffer zone, Integrated Management Plan and city development Master Plan are intended to ensure the retention of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property through strengthened protection and coordinated management of the living urban landscape and its diverse attributes.

The State Inspection on Protection of Cultural Heritage for Bukhara and Navoi Regions manages the World Heritage property. Legal protection for the proposed revised property boundary and buffer zone is provided by Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage Properties", No. 269-II, August 20, 2001; the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures for the further Improvement of the protection and utilization of Cultural Heritage Properties" 269 of July 29, 2002; and the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to improve protection and usage of the cultural and archaeological heritage" No. 200, July 21, 2014.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications to the property boundary and buffer zone will correct identified issues and strengthen the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

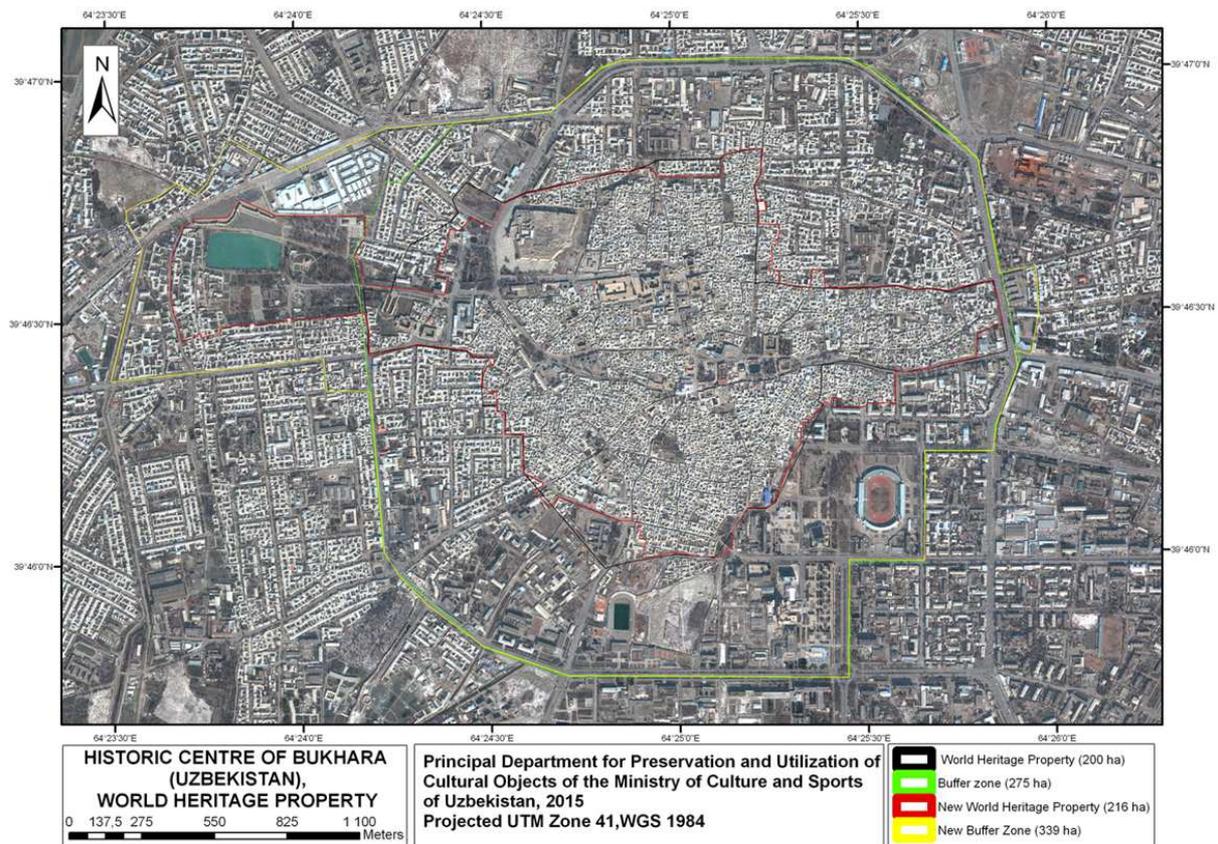
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Historic Centre of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, **be approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Historic Centre of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, **be approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- Establishing urban planning regulations for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
- Integrating the boundaries of the World Heritage property and buffer zone into the state system of land and town-planning cadastre, in the Master Plan for Bukhara city;
- Submitting to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS for consideration the management plan when it has been finalized.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and the buffer zone



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# Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of Asturias (Spain)

## No 312 Ter

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

Spain

#### Name of property

Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of Asturias

#### Location

Province and Autonomous Community of Asturias

#### Inscription

1985, 1998 extension

#### Brief description

In the 9th century the flame of Christianity was kept alive in the Iberian peninsula in the tiny Kingdom of the Asturias. Here an innovative pre-Romanesque architectural style was created that was to play a significant role in the development of the religious architecture of the peninsula. Its highest achievements can be seen in the churches of Santa María del Naranco, San Miguel de Lillo, Santa Cristina de Lena, the Cámara Santa and San Julián de los Prados, in and around the ancient capital city of Oviedo. Associated with them is the remarkable contemporary hydraulic engineering structure known as La Foncalada.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

11 march 2016

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

The serial property was inscribed in 1985 under criteria (i), (ii) and (iv) and included originally the churches of Santa Maria del Naranco, San Miguel de Lillo and Santa Cristina de Lena. In 1998, the State Party submitted the nomination for the extension of the serial property to include the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Asturias, the historic centre of Oviedo. The Committee found that only the Camara Santa in the Cathedral of Oviedo and the church of San Julian de los Prados could justify the criteria as formulated in the original nomination and therefore contribute to illustrate the Outstanding Universal Value of the original serial nomination.

A proposal to further extend the property to include also the Church of San Salvador de Valdediós was submitted by the State Party in 2007 and, at its 31st Session, the

World Heritage Committee decided that "if the State Party wishes the San Salvador de Valdediós Church to be considered for inscription, it should be encouraged to undertake a comparative evaluation of the pre-Romanesque churches in the hinterland of Oviedo and submit this with a formal request for the Committee to consider a further extension of the serial property" (Decision 31 COM 8B.62).

#### Modification

The present proposal concerns the inclusion of an additional monument - the Church of San Salvador de Valdediós - within the serial property Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of Asturias.

The Church is located some 40km east of Oviedo. The property proposed as minor modification thus forms a new additional component to the series (0.028 ha) with a new and specific buffer zone (45.9678 ha) encompassing the Cistercian monastery founded by Alfonso IX de León in 1200, with which the Church of San Salvador was associated until the monastic community was disestablished in 1835, and its historic and visual setting.

It is a three aisle church, articulated in four sections, which are subdivided by two arcades of four semicircular arches resting on square monolithic pillars. All spaces are covered with barrel vaults, parallel to each other. The sanctuary comprises a termination with three blind chambers over the three eucharistic chapels. In the external part of the church structure leading off the respective aisles are two side rooms (one reconstructed in 1972 on the ground of archaeological investigations). At the western end, there is a three-partite porch articulated on two levels.

Restoration works have been carried out in different periods since 1916 until 2013 but these have been limited to specific parts of the church.

According to the documentation submitted by the State Party, the church is the only basilica that survives from the time of Alfonso III king of the Asturias (866- 910). It would represent an important element in the chronology of the early medieval religious architecture in the region, in that the date of its consecration (16 September 893) is determined with certainty in comparison with the other six churches that are included in the inscribed property but also with other churches throughout the Iberian Peninsula. The building was probably already in existence since 875. The state of conservation of San Salvador also would surpass that of all other Asturian early medieval churches already inscribed on the list: this would allow for the reconstruction of the quality of the space and light of this space, while the preserved equipment contributes to the understanding of its liturgical use.

None of the churches comprised in the inscribed property would exemplify the basilica type of the Asturias. Among the surviving examples of the typical basilica type Asturian early medieval churches, San Salvador de Valdediós would feature three parallel barrel vaults covering all the

different spaces: the nave, the aisles, the triple sanctuary, the double western porch, side halls of the choir, south-eastern chapel and apsidioles. It would also be a unique variation of a building type as none of the other basilica-like churches in the region would exhibit similar features.

According to the documentation submitted by the State Party, the decoration of the church would also unrivalled showing the fusion of construction techniques in the Asturias and the sculptural and ornamental language and repertoire of Andalusia. However, the peculiar result of this fusion would suggest the autonomous creative role of the Valdediós artistic workshop within the Iberian Peninsula.

According to the State Party, the extension of the serial property to also include the Church of San Salvador de Valdediós would contribute to completing the representation of the pre – Romanesque churches of the Asturias on the World Heritage List.

The minor boundary modification would not imply any modification to the legal protection system of the other monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List, as the Church of San Salvador de Valdediós benefits from the highest level of protection in Spain as it is declared an Asset of Cultural Interest as a Monument (decree 3 June 1931). The modification of the legislation in 1985 did not change the protection status of the church.

On 1 July 2009, a protection zone (45.955 ha) around the protected monument was approved by decree. The criteria to define the control zone include historical and visual considerations, territorial analysis and the respect of urban cadastral delimitations to adjust the delineation of its boundaries.

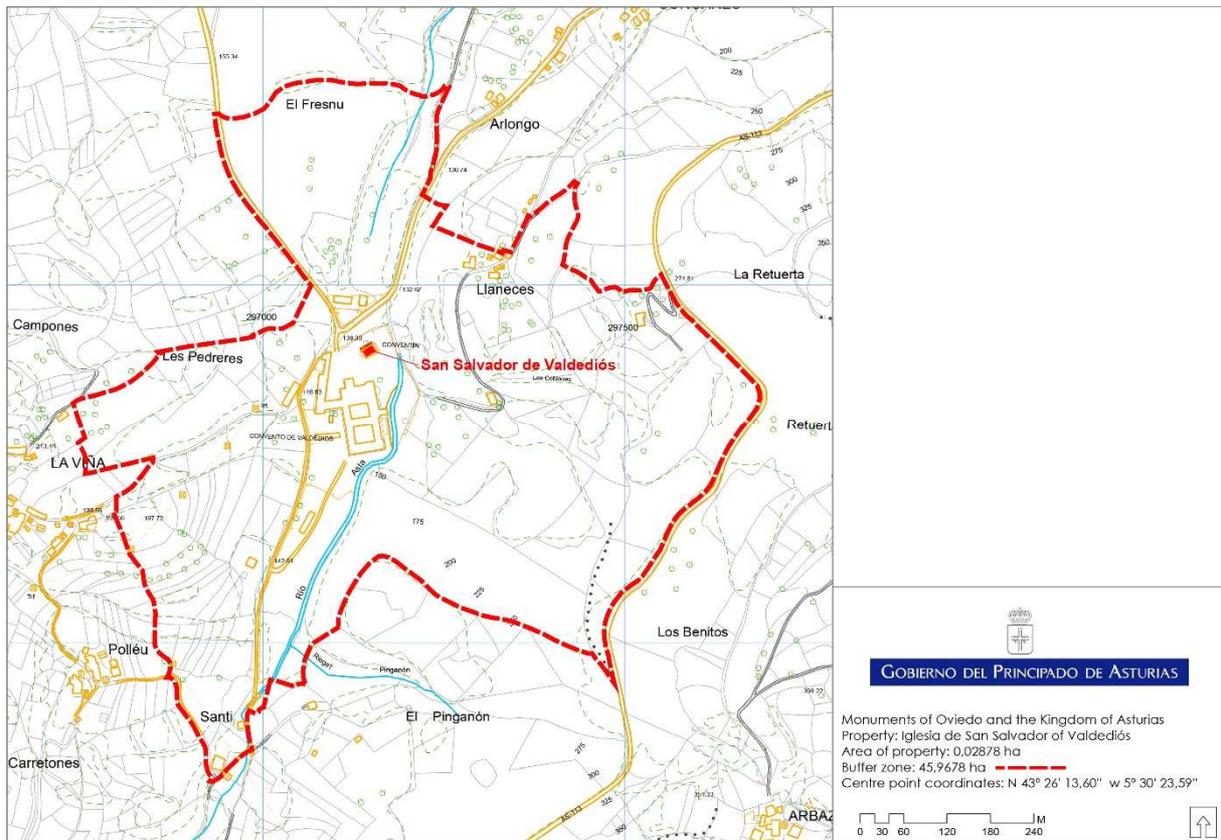
While a comparison between the Church of Valdediós and other churches in the Asturias has been developed, and additional considerations on the management system have been included in the present proposal with respect to the one submitted and evaluated in 2007, ICOMOS considers that this is not merely a minor modification to the boundary of the property, but this is a proposal for an extension to include a new component.

This means that a new dossier is necessary, together with a clearly established management system and an expert ICOMOS evaluation mission.

### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor boundary modification to the Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of Asturias, Spain, **should not be approved**.



Map showing the boundaries of the new component site of the series and its buffer zone



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# **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (United States of America) No 198 Bis**

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## **1 Basic data**

### **State Party**

United States of America

### **Name of property**

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

### **Location**

Collinsville (Illinois), some 13 km north-east of St Louis (Missouri)

### **Inscription**

1982

### **Brief description**

Cahokia Mounds, some 13 km north of St Louis, Missouri, is the largest pre-Columbian settlement north of Mexico. It was occupied primarily during the Mississippian period (800-1400), when it covered nearly 1,600 ha and included some 120 mounds. It is a striking example of a complex chiefdom society, with many satellite mound centres and numerous outlying hamlets and villages. This agricultural society may have had a population of 10-20,000 at its peak between 1050 and 1150. Primary features at the site include Monks Mound, the largest prehistoric earthwork in the Americas, covering over 5 ha and standing 3 m high.

### **Date of ICOMOS approval of report**

11 March 2016

## **2 Issues raised**

### **Background**

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv) in 1982. The area of the property at the time of inscription was stated as 591 ha, while the corrected number of hectares for the property is 541: the nomination dossier contained a typographical error, which is not related to this modification request.

The dossier also included a map dated 30 June 1981. The map contained another error relating to the south-east corner of the property. It indicated the properties acquired by the State of Illinois in 1979, but incorrectly included a small triangular section whose boundaries are Harding Ditch and Black Lane. The land acquired in fact follows the north-east / south-west line of Harding Ditch towards Black Lane, thus excluding the triangular section (modification no. 1).

Furthermore, the 1981 map left off a small sliver of land along the eastern boundary of the site, containing the access road for the large central tract of land (area of 54;2 ha). This small and narrow strip (0.06 ha) had a different parcel identification number, which led to the cartographer leaving it off by mistake (modification no. 2).

### **Modification**

Modification no. 1 does not reduce the actual size of the property. It is merely the correction of a cartographic error on the original map. Modification no. 2 includes an access road which has always formed part of the property from the outset. The increase in size of the property is only marginal.

The revision proposal presented in the request for the minor modification of boundaries thus accurately reflects the land owned by the State of Illinois when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982. The correction does not change the total area of the property declared at the time of inscription (and does not at the present time concern the additional land acquired by the State of Illinois since the date of inscription).

As clearly stated, the boundary correction is more an informational than a substantive issue, as it is the result of a cartographic error. The areas in question are on the boundaries of the site, are minimal in size and affect neither the structures nor features of the property. They have no impact on the legal protection or management arrangements of the property, which thus fully retains its Outstanding Universal Value.

## **3 ICOMOS recommendations**

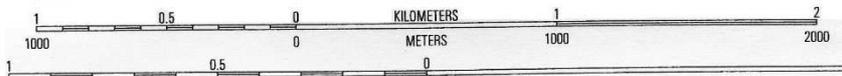
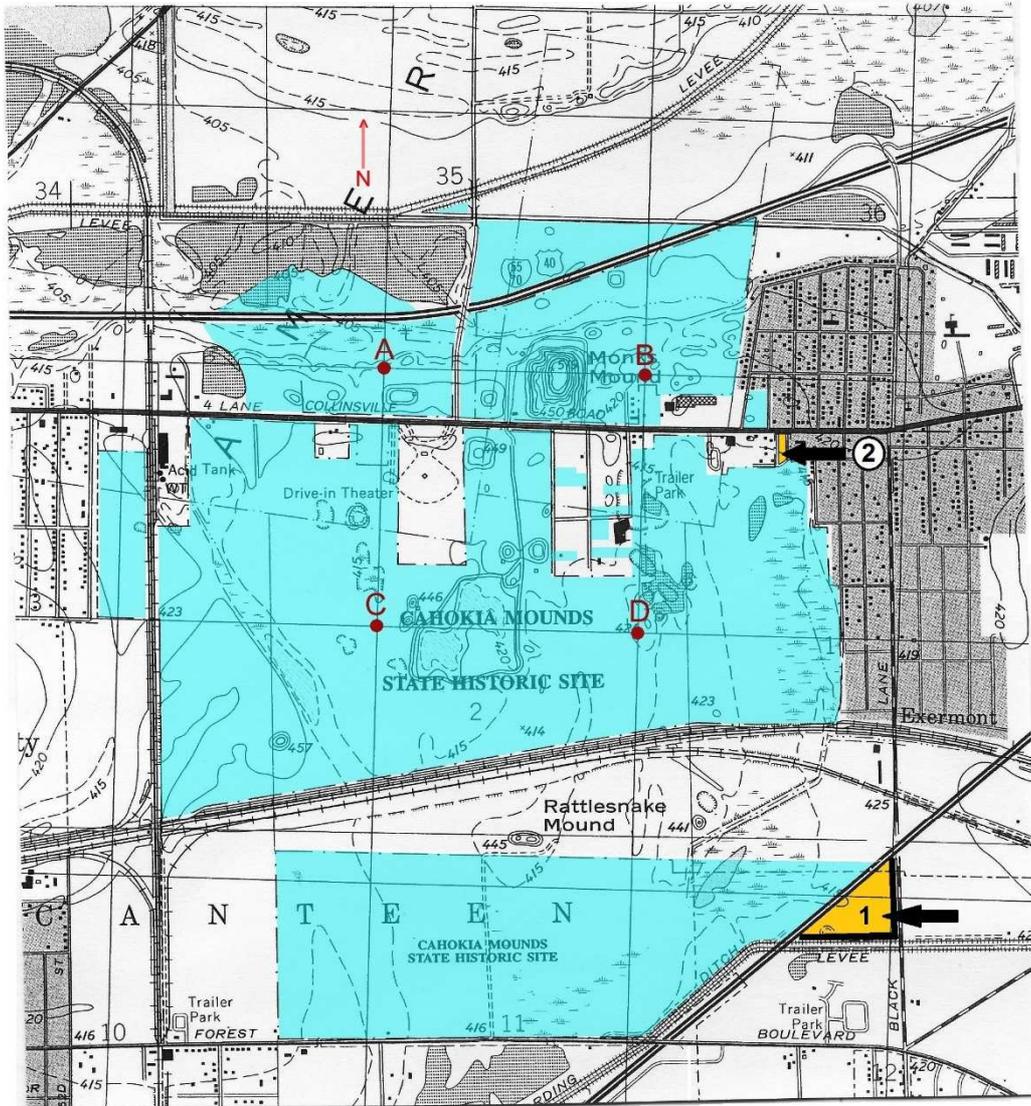
### **Recommendations in respect of inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposal of a minor modification to the boundaries of the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, United States of America, be **approved**.



# Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

World Heritage Boundaries - Identified Locations of discrepancies



A - UTM 15/4283000N, 15/755000E      C - UTM 15/4282000N, 15/755000E  
B - UTM 15/4283000N, 15/756000E      D - UTM 15/4282000N, 15/756000E

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property



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# La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico (United States of America)

## No 266 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

United States of America

#### Name of property

La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico

#### Location

Bay of San Juan, Puerto Rico, United States of America

#### Inscription

1983

#### Brief description

Between the 15th and 19th centuries, a series of defensive structures was built at this strategic point in the Caribbean Sea to protect the city and the Bay of San Juan. They represent a fine display of European military architecture adapted to harbour sites on the American continent.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of report

11 March 2016

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site were granted protected status in 1949 under the terms of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the boundaries of the current National Historic Site (for which the land was acquired between 1955 and 1973) were recognised in 1976. The adjacent old town of San Juan was furthermore designated a National Historic Landmark in February 2013. The property itself was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (vi). It is a serial property whose area in hectares was not however clearly established at the time of inscription. Following the Retrospective Inventory, the clarification of the property's boundaries showed that the property consists of three distinct topographical components: 1. Fort San Juan de la Cruz (El Cañuelo) which marked the western limit of the bay (2.07 ha); 2. The fortifications of the old town, forming the main defence against access from the Atlantic Ocean, and including the Fort San Felipe del Morro, at the northern tip, and Castillo San Cristóbal, on the eastern bank (31.17 ha); 3. Bastión de las Palmas, at the southern end, which is a short distance from the wall that protects

La Fortaleza and is thus independent (0,15 ha). The total area today amounts to 33.39 ha, compared with the area estimated in the original documents at 32.43 ha, representing a difference of approximately 1 hectare. The reasons for this discrepancy are analysed below.

#### Modification

The proposed modification consists of correcting the substantial inaccuracies of the map drawn up when the property was inscribed in 1983. 1. The ruins (devoid of interest in terms of World Heritage List inscription) at the north-eastern end of Isla de Cabras were included and were wrongly identified as El Cañuelo. The latter, a structure that was crucial for the site's military defence, was located in a more southerly position, enabling it to protect the entrance to the bay effectively with cannon fire. Furthermore, this parcel of land has never been owned by the National Park Service (NPS), which administers the serial property; 2. The map of 1983 also wrongly included two fragments of the southern wall – one known as the San Catalina Bastion (near La Fortaleza, which is itself unaffected by this correction), and the other located between La Concepcion Bastion and Bastión de las Palmas, which are not owned by the NPS; 3. To the east of Castillo San Cristóbal, a parcel of land not owned by NHS was included on the map, while to the north-west of Castillo San Cristóbal, another parcel of land owned by NHS was not included; 4. Finally, the Esplanade of El Morro (adjoining the Fort of El Morro to the south-east, and leading towards the old town) – a huge parcel that is useful in terms of understanding the general layout of the site – was not included on the map of 1983.

The original map was made by hand, which may explain its imperfections. The revised map has been created using updated digitised maps from the National Park Service, and is a fully accurate reflection of the boundaries of the site at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1983.

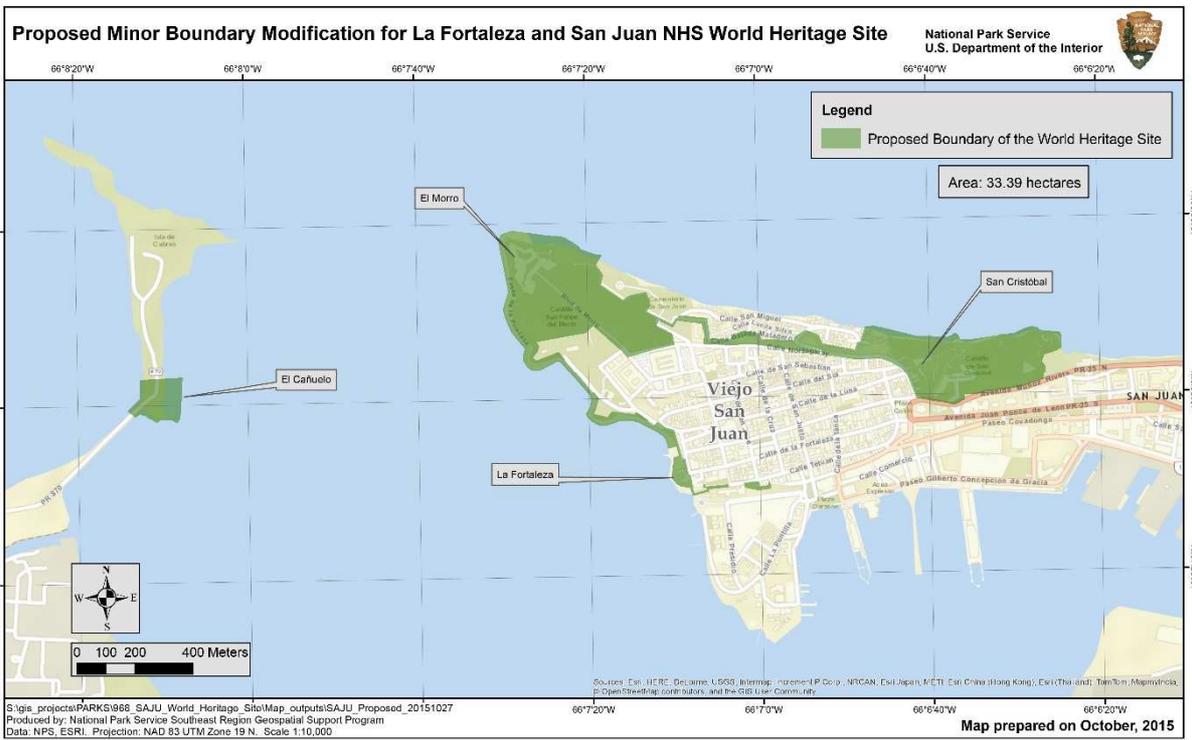
The correction of the boundaries clarifies a series of confusions, without affecting the structure or features of the sites as approved by the World Heritage List inscription. It has no impact on the legal protection or management arrangements of the property, which thus fully retains its Outstanding Universal Value.

### 3 ICOMOS recommendations

#### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification of the boundaries of La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico, United States of America, be **approved**.





Map showing the revised boundaries of the property



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## Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance in Nancy (France) No 229 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

France

#### Name of property

Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance in Nancy

#### Location

Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, Lorraine Region.

#### Inscription

1983

#### Brief description

Nancy, the temporary residence of a king without a kingdom – Stanislas Leszczyński, later to become Duke of Lorraine – is paradoxically the oldest and most typical example of a modern capital where an enlightened monarch proved to be sensitive to the needs of the public. Built between 1752 and 1756 by a brilliant team led by the architect Héré, this was a carefully conceived project that succeeded in creating a capital that not only enhanced the sovereign's prestige but was also functional.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

11 march 2016

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

The property was inscribed in 1983 without a buffer zone but since the first Periodic Reporting exercise (2006), the State Party had the intention to provide the property with a buffer zone coinciding with the *secteur sauvegardé* (*loi* 4 July 1962) which encompasses the two parts of the historic town. The older one, or *Vieille Ville*, dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, while the more recent expansion was begun by Charles III in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and then completed by Stanislas in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The revision of the *secteur sauvegardé* was recently finalised by slightly extending its perimeter, and subsequently the proposal for the buffer zone was submitted.

#### Modification

The modification consists of creating a buffer zone of 159 ha for the property that provides an additional layer of protection to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. From an historical perspective, the proposal of

this buffer zone is justified, in that the three squares have had since their conception a crucial urban role through which the town was reconfigured as one city with a capital urban form and prestigious public and residential architecture. At the time of inscription, ICOMOS recommended that the urban remodelling of the years 1752 – 1756, corresponding to the design and construction of the squares, could be included in the boundaries of the property. The present proposal for a buffer zone covering the entire historic areas of the city that existed when the squares were conceived and constructed, also responds to this recommendation and improve the understanding of the urban role of the three squares in the reconfiguration of the town.

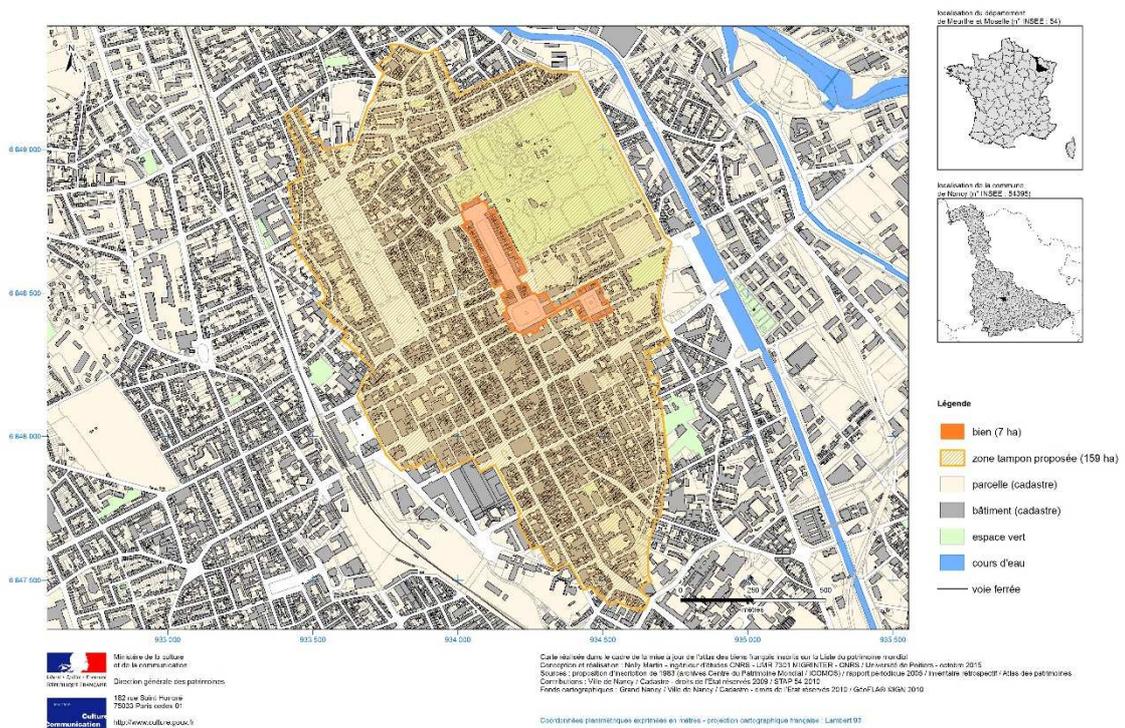
The *secteurs sauvegardés* have been established by the Law 4 July 1962, known as *Loi Malraux*, and are issued by decree to protect urban areas bearing historic, cultural or aesthetic significance. They benefit from regulatory measures that need to be developed through a detailed plan of safeguard and enhancement which is developed jointly by the State and the municipality and prevails over the masterplan, where this exists. The process of its formulation and approval envisages administrative steps that allow public participation. The scope, objectives and regulatory mechanisms for its implementation ensure an adequate level of protection for a buffer zone.

### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance in Nancy, France, be **approved**.





Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



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# Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon (Spain) No 378 Ter

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## 1 Basic data

**State Party**  
Spain

**Name of property**  
Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon

**Location**  
Provinces of Teruel and Zaragoza, Autonomous  
Community of Aragon

**Inscription**  
1986, extension 2001

**Brief description**  
The development in the 12th century of Mudejar art in Aragon resulted from the particular political, social and cultural conditions that prevailed in Spain after the Reconquista. This art, influenced by Islamic tradition, also reflects various contemporary European styles, particularly the Gothic. Present until the early 17th century, it is characterized by an extremely refined and inventive use of brick and glazed tiles in architecture, especially in the belfries.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**  
11 March 2016

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

In 1986, four components in the town of Teruel were inscribed on the World Heritage List as the 'Mudéjar Architecture of Teruel'. At that time ICOMOS queried the overall composition of the series as being either too broad or too narrow to capture this important tradition, but supported its inscription. Following further exchanges, an extension of a further six components was proposed by the State Party, and the extension was approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2001, along with amendment to the property name to 'Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon' to better reflect the series of ten components (Decision CONF 208 X.B). At that time, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee noted the need for continued work on the management plan, and the need for careful consideration of the relationships between the monuments and their urban settings. While recognising that these urban areas were covered by conservation policies, ICOMOS nevertheless queried the

adequacy of the small buffer zones identified for each component.

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for this property was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2014 (Decision 38 COM 8E).

### Modification

The proposal from the State Party is to extend the buffer zones of three of the components of this property: Santa Maria de Calatayud (extended from 0.526 ha to 1.377 ha); San Pablo de Zaragoza (extended from 1.472 ha to 1.568 ha); and La Seo de Zaragoza (extended from 1.637 ha to 3.907 ha).

The purpose of these modifications is to align the buffer zones to the boundaries of the protected areas '*Bienes de Interés Cultural*' (Properties of Cultural Interest), according to 'Law 3/1999 of 10<sup>th</sup> March, on the Cultural Heritage of Aragon'. In each case, the modifications represent expansions in the overall areas of the existing buffer zones; although the revised boundary of the buffer zone for the San Pablo de Zaragoza proposes a different shaped area that will exclude a few streets to the east and west of the inscribed component that are currently included in the buffer zone. This is justified by the State Party on the grounds that no direct views to the monument are possible from these points, and some photographs were provided to support this assertion. However, the protection provided by the buffer zone potentially also protects this component from new constructions that could impact on the setting on this component, and ICOMOS has some concerns about the protection of these areas.

The State Party has also submitted some corrections to the figures for the area of the properties and buffer zones for the San Pedro de Teruel (buffer zone area 1.15 ha) and Santa Maria de Tobed (property area 0.04 ha; buffer zone 0.11 ha). These errors in the documentation held by the World Heritage Centre were identified in the 2007 work on the Retrospective Inventory and the 2014 questionnaire for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

ICOMOS considers that the revised and enlarged buffer zones for the three components (Santa Maria de Calatayud, San Pablo de Zaragoza and La Seo de Zaragoza) will assist in strengthening the protection of the setting of these properties. ICOMOS also supports the argument that coordination of management and protection will be assisted through the alignment of the World Heritage boundaries with those provided in the relevant legal mechanisms. However, ICOMOS considers the rationale for the exclusion of some areas within the existing buffer zone for San Pablo de Zaragoza has not been sufficiently established.

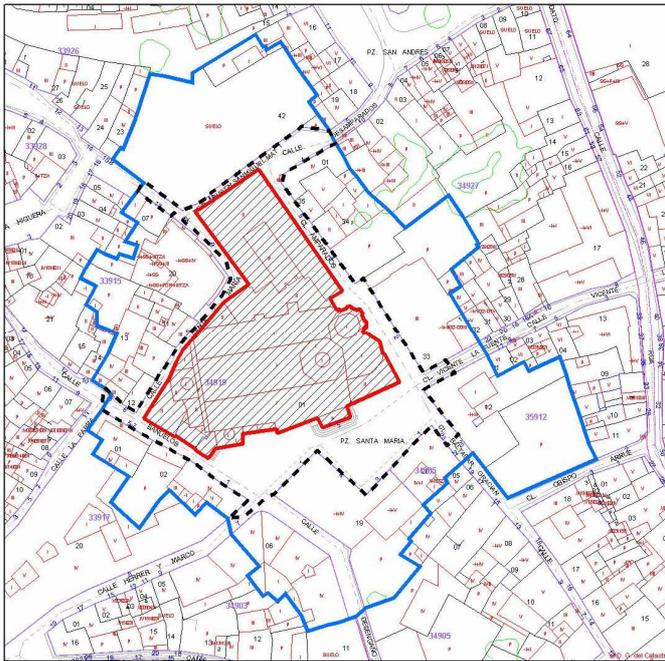
### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zones for the component sites of Santa Maria de Calatayud and La Seo de Zaragoza, Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon, Spain, be **approved**.

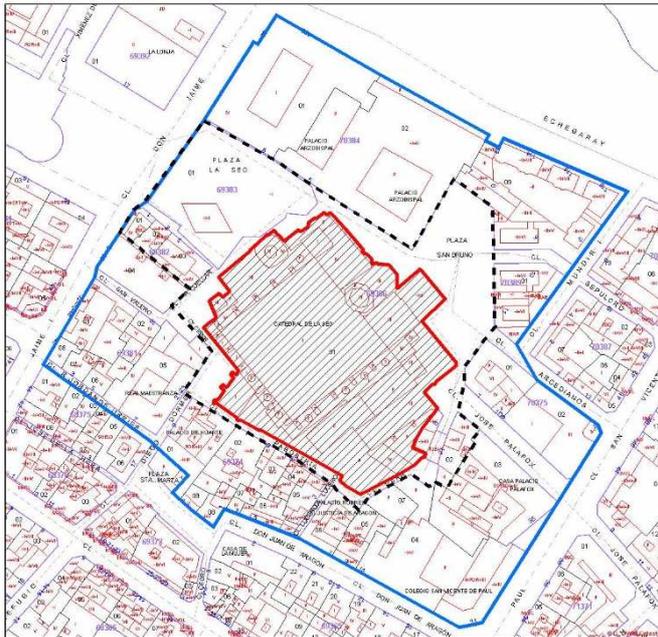
ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed buffer zone for the component site of San Pablo de Zaragoza, Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon, Spain, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Reconsider the inclusion of all areas in the current buffer zone to be incorporated into the new buffer zone; or to provide a clear rationale for the exclusion of some areas to the far east and west of the current buffer zone in terms of their relevance for supporting the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property component.



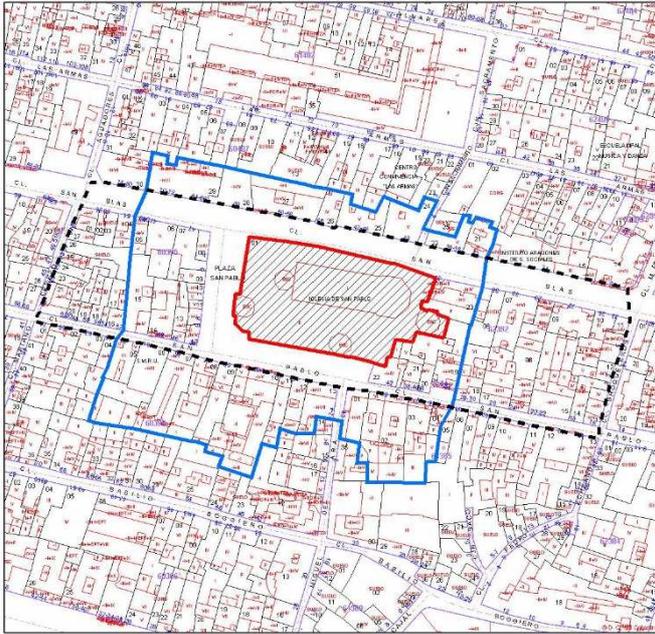
-  BOUNDARY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
-  BOUNDARY OF THE CURRENT BUFFER ZONE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
-  BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE BUFFER ZONE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

Santa Maria de Calatayud - Map showing the revised buffer zone



-  BOUNDARY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
-  BOUNDARY OF THE CURRENT BUFFER ZONE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
-  BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE BUFFER ZONE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

La Seo de Zaragoza - Map showing the revised buffer zone



-  BOUNDARY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
-  BOUNDARY OF THE CURRENT BUFFER ZONE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
-  BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE BUFFER ZONE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

San Pablo de Zaragoza - Map showing the revised buffer zone

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# Old Town of Cáceres (Spain)

## No 384 Bis

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### 1 Basic data

**State Party**

Spain

**Name of property**

Old Town of Cáceres

**Location**

Province of Cáceres, Autonomous Community of Extremadura

**Inscription**

1986

**Brief description**

The city's history of battles between Moors and Christians is reflected in its architecture, which is a blend of Roman, Islamic, Northern Gothic and Italian Renaissance styles. Of the 30 or so towers from the Muslim period, the Torre del Bujaco is the most famous.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of report**

11 March 2016

### 2 Issues raised

**Background**

The Old Town of Cáceres was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 1986 on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv). The property covers an area of 9 hectares, a zone designated in the minor modification proposal as "intra-muros". When the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, it had no buffer zone. In 1990, the City Council of Cáceres adopted the Special Revitalisation and Protection Plan of the Architectural Heritage of the City of Cáceres (also referred to as the Special Protection Plan) covering a territory with an area of 60.63 ha, providing a buffer zone that surrounds the boundaries of the property. In 2012, the World Heritage Committee (Decision 36 COM 8D) noted the clarification of the property's boundaries and areas provided by the State Party in response to the retrospective inventory.

In 2015, the State Party lodged a minor modification request for the recognition as a buffer zone of the exact territorial boundaries of the "Special Protection Plan" (designated as the zone "outside the walls"). The total area of the inscribed property and the suggested buffer zone was 69.63 hectares.

ICOMOS took the view that the reasons behind the establishment of the buffer zone were well founded: it includes significant edifices (the oratory-infirmery of San

Pedro de Alcántara, Camarena Palace), and fully corresponds to the concern of ensuring architectural coherence. This is indeed why the zone to which the Special Protection Plan applied has formed the subject of a series of protective measures – at national, regional and local level – in 1985, and then in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

However the Special Protection Plan dates back more than 25 years, and requires adaptation in the light of the current situation, based on studies that could potentially modify its zone of application. With this in mind, a coordination body was created in 2013 ("Consortium of the Monumental City of Cáceres"), bringing together the Regional Government of Extremadura, the Provincial Council and the City Council, in order to oversee the actions affecting the property inscribed on the World Heritage List and establish a rational management strategy.

At its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision:

*The World Heritage Committee,*

*1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*

*2 ; Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the Old Town of Cáceres, Spain, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*

- a) Provide further explanation of the rationale chosen for the proposed limits of the buffer zone in relation to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
- b) Provide information on the management arrangements in place for the proposed buffer zone;*
- c) Provide a timetable for the preparation of the Management Plan of the Old Town of Cáceres and finalize it.*

**Modification**

The current request of the State Party is a response to the World Heritage Committee decision referred to above. The proposed buffer zone would include the quarters of Santiago, Jose Antonio, San Juan, Santa Clara and Ribera del Marco (as marked out by the streets and plots of which they comprise), i.e. the fortified town's suburbs, which date from the 12th century and are attested by 19th century cartographic documents. In this zone, the City Urban Planning department already applies rules that prohibit unauthorised archaeological excavations, limit the maximum height of buildings, and place restrictions on the use of materials for roofs and facades. These regulations represent an effort to contain urban tensions and ensure that the environment is compatible with the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

To monitor the application of the Special Protection Plan over the years, in accordance with the law, a surveillance committee has been set up, chaired by the mayor; its members are representatives of the technical departments of city hall and of various organisations (provincial commission for historic heritage, cultural department of the

regional government, university, college of architects, associations of surveyors and engineers, federation of the construction industry and the Consortium referred to above). Between 1994 and 2013, 1,700 rehabilitation or restoration projects were undertaken, most of them in the zone in question, under the control of the Cáceres Historic Centre Rehabilitation Bureau, which provided guidance on financial, technical and environmental issues.

A management plan (combined with a revision of the Special Protection Plan) is currently being drawn up under the auspices of the City Council and the Consortium, for the period 2015-2019. A working group of urban development technicians has been set up to develop the management plan, based on the same territorial zone as the Special Protection Plan, in three phases (2016-2017). Phase 1, which was documentary and has now been completed, was intended to bring together all the information available from all partners (institutions, administrations, university, companies, foundations), and to establish a detailed GIS plan of the site and make it available online. Phase 2 consists of establishing a strategic SWOT analysis, based on surveys of the persons involved and website users. In Phase 3 conclusions will be drawn, and a proposal will thus be made for a programme of actions to be applied in 2019.

In conclusion, ICOMOS acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to maintain the integrity of the site, on the basis of existing national laws, directives and local incentives. With regard to this issue, ICOMOS considers that establishing a buffer zone around the fortified historic centre of Cáceres, as inscribed on the World Heritage List, is highly desirable, and that the State Party has clarified the boundaries of the buffer zone, in the current state of the dossier. A timetable for the finalization of the management plan, combined with the revision of the Special Revitalisation and Protection Plan of the Architectural Heritage of the City of Cáceres, has been established and the management arrangements have been clarified.

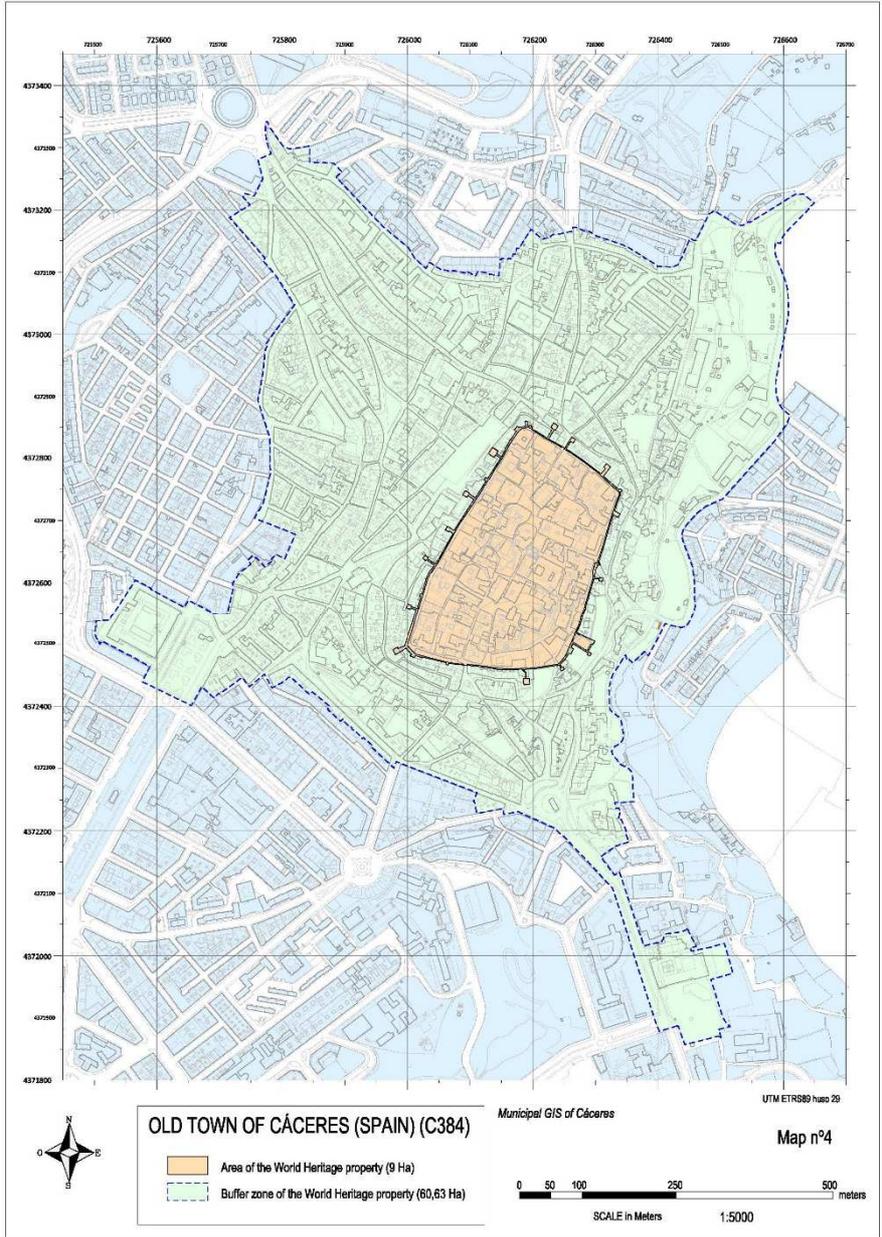
### **3 ICOMOS recommendations**

#### **Recommendations with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Cáceres, Spain, be **approved**.

#### **Additional recommendations**

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS for consideration the management plan and the Special Revitalisation and Protection Plan of the Architectural Heritage of the City of Cáceres when they have been finalized.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

