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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

Krakow, Poland

2-12 July 2017

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Establishment of the World Heritage List
and of the List of World Heritage in Danger**

8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This Addendum is divided into four sections:

- I. Examination of nominations referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee
- II. Examination of minor boundary modifications of natural, mixed and cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List
- III. Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of six properties inscribed at the 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and not adopted by the World Heritage Committee
- IV. Large complex serial transnational nominations and the need for Nomination Strategies

Decisions required:

The Committee is requested to examine the Draft Decisions presented in this Document, and, in accordance with paragraphs 153, 161 and 162 of the *Operational Guidelines*, take its Decisions concerning inscription on the World Heritage List in the following four categories:

- (a) properties which it **inscribes** on the World Heritage List;
- (b) properties which it decides **not to inscribe** on the World Heritage List;
- (c) properties whose consideration is **referred**;
- (d) properties whose consideration is **deferred**.

In the presentation below, ICOMOS Recommendations and IUCN Recommendations are presented in the form of Draft Decisions and are extracted from WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add (ICOMOS) and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add (IUCN).

Though Draft Decisions were taken from IUCN and ICOMOS evaluation books, in some cases, a few modifications were required to adapt them to this document.

I. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS REFERRED BACK BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Property	Landscapes of Dauria
ID No.	1448 Rev
State Party	Mongolia / Russian Federation
Criteria proposed by State Party	(ix)(x)

See IUCN Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 3.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Inscribes the **Landscapes of Dauria, Mongolia, Russian Federation**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Shared by Mongolia and the Russian Federation, the Landscapes of Dauria is a transboundary serial World Heritage property of four component parts. It is an outstanding example of the Daurian steppe ecosystem, which covers over 1 million square kilometers, extending from Eastern Mongolia to Russian Siberia and into North-Eastern China. The serial property covers a total of 912,624 ha and comprises several protected areas in the northern part of the Daurian steppe ecoregion which occupy large areas of the transition from taiga to desert, including various steppe ecosystems. The inscribed property includes the nationally designated core and buffer zones of most of the Daurian State Nature Biosphere Reserve and the Valley of Dzeren Federal Nature Refuge (Russian Federation), as well as the core zone and a large part of the buffer zone of the Mongol Daguur Special Protected Area and the Ugtam Nature Refuge (Mongolia). Most of this property is then surrounded by a World Heritage buffer zone of 307,317 ha, which overlaps with Ramsar sites and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in both countries (Mongol Daguur in Mongolia and Torrey Lakes in the Russian Federation).

The main natural value of the property resides in its intact steppe systems (including forest steppe), interspersed with wet meadows and floodplains, at the convergence of three floristic provinces belonging to three floristic regions. This exceptional ecological context results in a diverse combination of ecological complexes which derive from the cyclic climatic and hydrological variations over the year. The property provides key habitats for rare fauna species such as the White-naped Crane, the Great Bustard and millions of other vulnerable, endangered or threatened species of migratory birds. The property is also an important area on the migration route of the Mongolian Gazelle (Dzeren) and the only place where this species is known to breed in the Russian Federation. The property also provides sanctuary to both endangered Tabargan and Mongolian Marmots, as well as to the near-threatened Pallas Cat.

Criterion (ix): The Landscapes of Dauria contains substantial and relatively undisturbed areas of different types of steppe, ranging from grassland to forest, as well as many lakes and wetlands. All these habitats host a diversity of species and communities characteristic of the northern part of the vast Daurian Steppe ecoregion. Cyclic climate changes with distinct wet and dry periods lead to high species and ecosystem diversity which is globally significant and offers outstanding examples of ongoing ecological and evolutionary processes. The property also includes key natural habitats for many animal species during their annual migration, some of which also breed in the area. The high diversity of ecosystems, biotopes and their transition-zones in the property is indicative of the many evolutionary adaptive processes undergone by species living in this unique area.

Criterion (x): The transboundary serial property conserves an excellent example of Daurian steppe and its characteristic wildlife including a number of globally threatened bird species (White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane, Swan Goose, Relict Gull, Great Bustard and Saker Falcon) as well as the endangered Tarbagan Marmot. It also provides essential breeding and resting habitat for birds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, with up to 3 million birds in spring and 6 million in autumn using the area during migration. The property also provides critical summer grounds and autumn migration routes of the emblematic Mongolian Gazelle.

Integrity

The property contains grassland and forest steppe landscapes which have suffered little from human disturbance. It includes intact breeding and resting grounds for migratory bird species of international importance as well as significant parts of Mongolian Gazelle migration routes. The selection of component parts provides an appropriate representation of the scope of biodiversity of the Daurian Steppe, although there is potential to further extend the series to include other significant protected areas. The property is in a

good condition thanks to its size, low human pressure and the absence of impacting uses and activities, such as mining. While grazing, as well as poaching and fire to some extent, could potentially affect the integrity of the property, current practice at the time of inscription is consistent with the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The States Parties should, however, strengthen their action and cooperation in the future, in order to maintain the long term integrity of the property and minimize threats.

Protection and management requirements

The property is under the highest level of protection afforded by the national laws of both countries, on Special Protected Areas (1994) and on Buffer Zones (1998) in the case of Mongolia, and on Special Protected Areas (1995) in the Russian Federation. The legal status of all types of protected area making up the property provides, in principle, an appropriate conservation regime of this unique ecosystem complex.

The property is also a good example of transboundary ecosystem cooperation, shared between governmental, scientific and non-governmental institutions. It has, since 1994, operated under the framework of the China-Mongolia-Russian International Protected Area Agreement (DIPA). This agreement provides a forum for the States Parties to discuss, on a regular basis, all issues in relation to the preservation of the property and its management, at both political and operational levels.

Regarding hunting and poaching which may potentially impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, the States Parties have committed to set up additional “zones of peace” and to reduce the hunting season in the surroundings of the property. They also regularly adopt joint working plans in order to minimize fire and poaching risks and have increased their capacities with external support from international NGOs and foreign countries. Both countries develop joint monitoring activities for Mongolian Gazelle and migratory birds, through the DIPA process, to improve their knowledge and optimize the management of natural resources which are key attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. There is a commitment to full protection of the property from possible threats from mining and other extractive industries which will be important to maintain into the future. The law in Mongolia does not prohibit mining in the protective zones of Special Protected Areas, however, the State Party of Mongolia has committed to ban mining inside the World Heritage property on the basis of the primacy of international agreements and designations.

Whilst protection and management measures are seen as meeting World Heritage requirements at the time of inscription, it is critical that both States Parties continue and strengthen their efforts in the long-term, in order to prevent impact on the property from significant threats such as changes to hydrology, climate change, illegal hunting, grazing pressure and fire damage. They should

also develop coordinated management plans at the property level, with special emphasis on the buffer zones, focused on addressing the main risks to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

4. Requests the State Party of Mongolia, in line with the position of the World Heritage Committee on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage site status, to ensure that no mining exploration and exploitation activities take place within the inscribed property;
5. Encourages both States Parties to strengthen their coordination in the transboundary management of wildlife populations, such as Mongolian Gazelles and migratory birds which depend on ecological continuity between the protected areas making up the property, and to improve their coordinated capacities to prevent and minimize the effects of hunting, poaching and other threats to the integrity of the property.
6. Also encourages both States Parties, and in particular the State Party of Mongolia, to strengthen its resources and capacities allocated to the management of the protected areas in the World Heritage property.
7. Commends both States Parties for their commitment to the protection of the wider Daurian Steppe ecosystems and further encourages them to consider, possibly jointly with China, future expansion of the transboundary World Heritage property in order to cover additional areas of forest steppe as well as critical habitats for migratory birds and those associated with the migration of the Mongolian Gazelle.

Property	Gelati Monastery [significant boundary reduction of “Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery”]
ID No.	710 Bis
State Party	Georgia
Criteria proposed by State Party	(iv)

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 5.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.32** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) which “Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2014, a request for a major boundary modification for the property to allow Gelati Monastery to justify the criterion on its own”;
3. Approves the significant boundary modification of **Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, Georgia** to exclude Bagrati Cathedral, to become **Gelati Monastery, Georgia**;

4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

On the lower southern slopes of the mountains of the Northern Caucasus, Gelati Monastery reflects the 'golden age' of medieval Georgia, a period of political strength and economic growth between the reigns of King David IV 'the Builder' (1089-1125) and Queen Tamar (1184-1213). It was David who, in 1106 began building the monastery near his capital Kutaisi on a wooded hill above the river Tskaltsitela. The main church was completed in 1130 in the reign of his son and successor Demetré. Further churches were added to the monastery throughout the 13th and early 14th centuries. The monastery is richly decorated with mural paintings from the 12th to 17th centuries, as well as a 12th century mosaic in the apse of the main church, depicting the Virgin with Child flanked by archangels. Its high architectural quality, outstanding decoration, size, and clear spatial quality combine to offer a vivid expression of the artistic idiom of the architecture of the Georgian "Golden Age" and its almost completely intact surroundings allow an understanding of the intended fusion between architecture and landscape.

Gelati was not simply a monastery: it was also a centre of science and education, and the Academy established there was one of the most important centres of culture in ancient Georgia. King David gathered eminent intellectuals to his Academy such as Johannes Petritzi, a Neo-Platonic philosopher best known for his translations of Proclus, and Arsen Ikaltoeli, a learned monk, whose translations of doctrinal and polemical works were compiled into his *Dogmatikon*, or book of teachings, influenced by Aristotelianism. Gelati also had a scriptorium where monastic scribes copied manuscripts (although its location is not known). Among several books created there, the best known is an amply illuminated 12th century gospel, housed in the National Centre of Manuscripts.

As a royal monastery, Gelati possessed extensive lands and was richly endowed with icons, including the well-known gold mounted Icon of the Virgin of Khakhuli (now housed in the Georgian National Museum) and at its peak, it reflected the power and high culture of Eastern Christianity.

Criterion (iv): Gelati Monastery is the masterpiece of the architecture of the "Golden Age" of Georgia and the best representative of its architectural style, characterized by the full facing of smoothly hewn large blocks, perfectly balanced proportions, and the exterior decoration of blind arches. The main church of the monastery is one of the most important examples of the cross-in-square architectural type that had a crucial role in the East Christian church architecture from the 7th century onwards. Gelati is one of the largest Medieval Orthodox monasteries, distinguished for its harmony with its natural setting and a well thought-out overall planning concept.

The main church of the Gelati Monastery is the only Medieval monument in the larger historic region of Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus that still has well-preserved mosaic decoration, comparable with the best Byzantine mosaics, as well as having the largest ensemble of paintings of the middle Byzantine, late Byzantine, and post-Byzantine periods in Georgia, including more than 40 portraits of kings, queens, and high clerics and the earliest depiction of the seven Ecumenical Councils.

Integrity

The whole monastic precinct is included in the property and contains all the main 12th century buildings as well as those added in the 13th century. All the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value are present and included in the area. No important original feature of the monastery from the 12th and 13th centuries have been lost during the centuries, and its landscape setting remains largely intact. Not all buildings are in a good state of conservation.

Some development pressures exist, in the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property but the level of threats is low and the processes are currently under control.

Authenticity

Overall, the architectural forms, spatial arrangement and decoration fully convey their value. For a long period, major parts of the mural paintings were in a bad state of conservation. With the repair of the roofs, the process of degradation has been slowed down and restoration work undertaken although some remain vulnerable.

The one area where there is some loss of authenticity is in the Academy building which was roofless in 1994 at the time of inscription as part of the series, but re-roofed and the interiors re-shaped in 2009. The extensive buffer zone allows a full appreciation of the harmony between the enclosed monastery and its natural setting.

Protection and management requirements

Gelati monastery has been a Listed Monument of National Significance since the Soviet period and was listed in the Georgian National Register of Monuments by presidential decree in 2006. The cultural protection area was enlarged beyond Gelati Monastery to encompass the buffer zone in a Decree of the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection in 2014. The buffer zone is protected for its monuments but also for visual attributes. The natural values of the surrounding landscape are regulated by the Forest Code of Georgia, the Law on Soil Protection, the Law on Environmental Protection and the Water law that constitute the legal framework for the management of the forests and the rivers in the area. Applications for new constructions or reconstructions, including the infrastructure and earthworks within the buffer zone require the approval of the Cultural Heritage Protection Council, Section for Cultural Heritage Protected Zones, and Urban Heritage of the Agency.

Conservation work is guided by the Conservation Master Plan, produced by the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports of Georgia in collaboration with the Orthodox Church of Georgia. This plan covers conservation of the built structures as well as proposals to support the revival of monastic life that started in the 1990s and the needs of visitors. Adequate resources for long-term conservation programmes still need to be assured. A system of documentation for all conservation and restoration work and tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring of the overall stability of the various monastic buildings need to be put in place.

A Memorandum on Collaboration on Cultural Heritage Issues between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has been agreed for all properties of the church. Day to day management of the property is entrusted to the monastic community who live in the property. Longer term interventions are implemented by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. Its local representative agency is the Kutaisi Historical Architectural Museum-Reserve who is also responsible for visitor reception.

The Management Plan, 2017-2021 reflects contributions of the Church, and relevant government bodies and community groups who were involved in the consultation process. It aims to set out a shared vision for the property. The Plan was developed in harmony with the Conservation Master Plan, with the Imereti Tourism development strategy, and with the 2014 management plan for the Imereti Protected Areas that includes the valley and canyon of the Tskaltsitela River in the buffer zone. It needs approval by the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection to become fully operational and enforceable by the Ministry. A Management Committee for the property remains to be appointed and it is necessary for key roles and responsibilities to be established.

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Providing adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings,
- b) Developing a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work,
- c) Putting in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery;
- d) Approving and implementing the management structure for the property with clear responsibilities for the various agencies and organisations involved in its management,
- e) Setting up a Coordinating Committee for the property with representation from key stakeholders,

- f) Putting in place a mechanism that will allow the Management Plan, or part of it, to have status in planning processes,
 - g) Registering as soon as possible the land rights of the Patriarchate in order to avoid land disputes,
 - h) Submitting full details of proposals for covering excavated cellar areas next to the Academy, outlining the new visitor access arrangements and location of new domestic quarters for monks, including the archaeological profile of the chosen area, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - i) Augmenting the monitoring indicators to reflect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2019** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

II. EXAMINATION OF MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Alphabetical Summary Table and Index of Recommendations by ICOMOS and IUCN to the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (2 – 12 July 2017)

State Party	World Heritage nomination	ID No.	Recommendation	Pp
NATURAL PROPERTIES				
India	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	338	Bis R	6
India	Western Ghats	1342	Bis NA	6
MIXED PROPERTIES				
China	Mount Wuyi	911	Bis R	6
CULTURAL PROPERTIES				
Canada	L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site	4	Bis OK	7
Croatia	Old City of Dubrovnik	95	Ter R	7
Czech Republic	Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč	1078	Bis R	7
France	The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes	933	Bis OK	8
Georgia	Historical Monuments of Mtskheta	708	Bis OK	8
Italy	Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia	825	Bis OK	8
Netherlands	Defence Line of Amsterdam	759	Bis NA	8
Norway	Vegaøyan -- The Vega Archipelago	1143	Bis OK	9
Turkey	Historic Areas of Istanbul	356	Bis OK	9
Syrian Arab Republic	Ancient City of Bosra	22	Bis OK	7

KEY

- R Referral
 OK Approval Recommended
 NA Approval Not recommended
 OK & R Approval recommended for a component part of a serial property, referral recommended for other component parts

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A.1. ASIA - PACIFIC

Property	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
ID No.	338 Bis
State Party	India

See IUCN Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 17.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions 35 COM 7A.13 and 39 COM 7B.11 adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, India**, to allow the State Party, with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre if requested, to complete and resubmit a revised proposal for extending the boundaries of the property, taking into account the evaluation of IUCN, and to consider the options of either:
 - a) Revising and resubmitting the minor boundary modification, to only include the parts of Manas National Park that meet integrity requirements in the property, and to accord the status of buffer zone to the encroached areas that lie within the National Park, or
 - b) Submitting a revised proposal as a new nomination, allowing the full IUCN evaluation process, and if this option is pursued, consider the inclusion in the property of the extended areas which were added to the National Park in 2016;
4. Requests the State Party, in any revised proposal, to not include any established cropland or permanently encroached areas within the nominated property, and to include in its submitted information, full details regarding the relationships in place with relevant stakeholders and/or rights-holders related to the cropland areas within Manas National Park.

Property	Western Ghats
ID No.	1342 Bis
State Party	India

See IUCN Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 23.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions 35 COM 8B.9 and 36 COM 8B.10 adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and

36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), sessions respectively,

3. Does not approve the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Western Ghats, India**;
4. Invites the State Party to submit the proposal as a new nomination for a significant boundary modification, in order to enable their appropriate evaluation, in line with the procedures outlined in the Operational Guidelines.

B. MIXED PROPERTIES

B.1. ASIA - PACIFIC

Property	Mount Wuyi
ID No.	911 Bis
State Party	China

See IUCN Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 31.

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 1.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add, WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Taking note that the proposal is appropriate in relation to natural criteria,
3. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and to the buffer zone of **Mount Wuyi, China**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Provide a textual description of the cultural sites in the proposed extended area and detailed justification on how they also contribute to the maintenance of the cultural dimension of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and how they are protected,
 - b) Explain in detail the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone especially the relationship between the modified boundary and the current villages of Dayan and Xikeng and the northern section Yanshan River which are all excluded from the buffer zone,
 - c) Provide a topographical map to demonstrate the relationship between the modified boundaries with the boundary of Wuyi Mountain National Reserve (Jiangxi Province).

C. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

C.1. ARAB STATES

Property	Ancient City of Bosra
ID No.	22 Bis
State Party	Syrian Arab Republic

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 3.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and the proposed buffer zone of the **Ancient City of Bosra, Syrian Arab Republic**;
3. Pending the improvement in the situation of conflict that has affected this property, recommends that the State Party take the following actions to further support its protection and management:
 - a) Develop clear objectives for the buffer zone and provide more precise regulations concerning the heights of buildings in the buffer zone, particularly in Zones 1, 2 and 4,
 - b) Develop the Management Plan for the entire property and its buffer zone, taking into account the challenges of potential post-war reconstruction,
 - c) Promulgate and implement the revised Antiquities Law (Law of Syrian Cultural Heritage) as soon as possible,
 - d) Continue to improve the understanding and protection of the ancient water supply system.

C.2. EUROPE - NORTH AMERICA

Property	L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
ID No.	4 Bis
State Party	Canada

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 18.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Canada**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) *Confirm clearly that there are no more archaeological sites in excavation or in potential excavation in the parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,*
- b) *Clarify the future utilization of the Beak Point parcel,*
- c) *Submit photographs of the concerned five parcels,*
- d) *Provide further information on the installation of a communications tower for local fisherman and mariners for Parcel 5,*
- e) *Clarify whether other modifications of a similar nature are being considered.*

Property	Old City of Dubrovnik
ID No.	95 Bis
State Party	Croatia

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 34.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Old City of Dubrovnik, Croatia**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) *Explain in detail the methodological framework and rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone, also through cartographic, graphic and photographic documentation, in particular with regard to the protection of the relevant visual links of the inscribed property with the surrounding setting,*
 - b) *Clarify how and by when the Management Plan will be finalised and amended so as to include the necessary regulatory and management measures to allow the buffer zone to effectively act as an added layer of protection for the inscribed property,*
 - c) *Limit the passage and mooring of boats, ships and yachts (except the passage of small boats transporting the visitors to the Lokrum Island) in the coastal area between the old city and Lokrum Island.*

Property	Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč
ID No.	1078 Bis
State Party	Czech Republic

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 20.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč, Czech Republic**, back to the State Party in order to provide additional justification for the proposed change of boundary for component 001 – The Jewish Quarter. This should include additional justification for the choice of an historical (1822) boundary as the basis for the component boundary in the context of the history of property and its significant period up to World War II, as well as a clarification for discrepancies between the 1822 boundary and the proposed boundary;
3. Recommends that the State Party ensure integrated management for the property, including the former monastery.

Property	The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes
ID No.	933 Bis
State Party	France

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 22.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and to the buffer zone of **the Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, France**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Continue consultations with the municipalities affected by the minor modification of the property boundaries in line with the Management Plan approved in 2012,
 - b) Finalise the national protection of the sites for the upper part of the Éperon de Marnay,
 - c) Provide the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS with updated maps of the Loire Valley property as presented in the 2012 Management Plan.

Property	Historical Monuments of Mtskheta
ID No.	708 Bis
State Party	Georgia

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 37.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed buffer zone for **Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, Georgia**;

3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Elaborating the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan through specific provisions to address the management of different areas,
 - b) Reviewing the range of protective instruments and mechanisms to ensure integrated and comprehensive protection;
4. Also recommends, if a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission is organised, to assess the effectiveness of management of the modified buffer zone;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2018** updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

Property	Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia
ID No.	825 Bis
State Party	Italy

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 24.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Finalising the draft management plan of the property and submitting it to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre once it is adopted,
 - b) Considering the creation of a buffer zone.

Property	Defence Line of Amsterdam
ID No.	759 Bis
State Party	Netherlands

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 26.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Does not approve the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Defence Line of Amsterdam, Netherlands**;
3. Recommends that the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if

requested, to take the following actions to further support the protection and management of the property:

- a) Consider the implementation of a buffer zone for the World Heritage property in order to improve the protection of the property and its visual integrity, particularly for sections near industrial and residential development areas (and in particular, the Geniedijk area near the Schiphol Airport),
- b) Continuing to strengthen the legal protection and monitoring for the remaining areas inside the inscribed property,
- c) Ensuring that the protection of the World Heritage property is effectively incorporated into all existing and future zoning plans,
- d) Continuing to support communication and capacity building initiatives for local and provincial governments and stakeholders,
- e) Ensuring the use of 'Heritage Impact Assessment' processes for all zoning and development proposals inside and adjacent to the Defence Line of Amsterdam (particularly in relation to proposals for expansions to the Schiphol Airport and its associated facilities and surrounds),
- f) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are communicated to the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
- g) Providing updated mapping for the Fort Kijkuit component (no. 042), and an updated figure for the overall area (in hectares) of the inscribed World Heritage property,
- h) Continuing to work cooperatively with a broad range of public and private owners and stakeholders to ensure the conservation (including possibilities for adaptive reuse) of the fort structures and their settings.

Property	Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago
ID No.	1143 Bis
State Party	Norway

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 31.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and to the buffer zone of **Vegaøyen – The Vega Archipelago, Norway**.

Property	Historic Areas of Istanbul
ID No.	356 Bis
State Party	Turkey

See ICOMOS Additional Evaluation Book, May 2017, page 32.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Historic Areas of Istanbul, Turkey**;
3. Recommends the State Party to consider simplifying the names of the four component parts of the property.

III. STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF SIX PROPERTIES INSCRIBED AT THE 40th SESSION (ISTANBUL/UNESCO, 2016) AND NOT ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,
2. Adopts the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016):
 - Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland, The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement;
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards;
 - Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lut Desert;
 - Iran (Islamic Republic of), The Persian Qanat;
 - Sudan, Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park;
 - Turkey, Archaeological Site of Ani.

Property	The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement
State Party	Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland
ID No.	1321 Rev
Dates of inscription	2016

Brief synthesis

Chosen from the work of architect Le Corbusier that survives in eleven countries on four continents, the sites in seven countries on three continents, implemented over a period of half a century, for the first time in the history of architecture attest to the internationalization of architectural practice across the entire planet.

The seventeen sites together represent an outstanding response to some of the fundamental issues of architecture and society in the 20th century. All were innovative in the way they reflect new concepts, all had a significant influence over wide geographical areas, and together they disseminated ideas of the Modern Movement throughout the world.

Despite its diversity, the Modern Movement was a major and essential socio-cultural and historical entity of the 20th century, which has to a large degree remained the basis of the architectural culture of the 21st century. From the 1910s to the 1960s, the Modern Movement, in meeting the challenges of contemporary society, aimed to instigate a unique forum of ideas at a world level, invent a new architectural language, modernize architectural techniques and meet the social and human needs of modern man. The series provides an outstanding response to all these challenges.

Some of the component sites immediately assumed an iconic status and had world-wide influence. These include the Villa Savoye, as an icon for the Modern Movement; Unité d'habitation in Marseille as a major prototype of a new housing model based on a balance between the individual and the collective; Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut for its revolutionary approach to religious architecture; the Cabanon de Le Corbusier as an archetypal minimum cell based on ergonomic and functionalist approaches; and the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung that became known worldwide, as part of the Werkbund exhibition.

Other sites acted as catalysts for spreading ideas around their own regions, such as Maison Guiette, that spurred the development of the Modern Movement in Belgium and the Netherlands; the Maison du Docteur Curutchet that exerted a fundamental influence in South America; the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident as the prototype of the globally transposable Museum of Unlimited Growth which cemented ideas of the Modern Movement in Japan; and the Capitol Complex that had a considerable influence across the Indian subcontinent, where it symbolized India's accession to modernity.

Many of the sites reflect new architectural concepts, principles, and technical features. The Petite villa au bord du Léman is an early expression of minimalist needs as is also crystallized in the Cabanon de Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier's Five Points of a New Architecture are transcribed iconically in Villa Savoye. The Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor is an example of the application of these points to a residential block, while they were also applied to houses, such as the Cité Frugès, and reinterpreted in the Maison du Docteur Curutchet, in the Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette and in the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident. The glass-walled apartment building had its

prototype in the Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor.

A few sites inspired major trends in the Modern Movement, Purism, Brutalism, and a move towards a sculptural form of architecture. The inaugural use of Purism can be seen in the Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret, Cité Frugès and the Maison Guiette; the Unité d'Habitation played a pioneering role in promoting the trend of Brutalism, while the Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut and the Capitol Complex promoted sculptural forms.

Innovation and experimentation are reflected in the independent structure of concrete beams of the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, while pre-stressed reinforced concrete was used in the Couvent de La Tourette. In the Capitol Complex, concern for natural air-conditioning and energy saving led to the use of sunscreens, double-skinned roofs, and reflecting pools for the catchment of rainwater and air cooling.

Standardisation is seen in the Unité d'Habitation de Marseille, a prototype intended for mass production, while the Petite villa au bord du Lac Léman set out the standard for a single span minimal house, and the Cabanon de Le Corbusier presented a standard, minimum unit for living. The moduler, a harmonic system based on human scale, was used for the exterior spaces of the Complexe du Capitole, which reflect the silhouette of a man with raised arm.

The idea of buildings designed around the new needs of 'modern man in the machine age' is exemplified in the light new workspaces of Manufacture à Saint-Dié, while the avant-garde housing at the Cité Frugès, and the low-rent Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, demonstrate the way new approaches were not intended for a tiny fraction of society but rather for the population as a whole. By contrast, the Immeuble Clarté was intended to revolutionise middle class housing. The Athens Charter, as revised by Le Corbusier, promoted the concept of balance between the collective and the individual, and had its prototype in the Unité d'habitation, while the Capitol Complex, the focal point of the plan for the city of Chandigarh, is seen as the most complete contribution to its principles and to the idea of the Radiant City.

Criterion (i): The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier represents a masterpiece of human creative genius, providing an outstanding response to certain fundamental architectural and social challenges of the 20th century.

Criterion (ii): The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier exhibits an unprecedented interchange of human values, on a worldwide scale over half a century, in relation to the birth and development of the Modern Movement.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier revolutionized architecture by demonstrating, in an exceptional and pioneering manner, the invention of a new architectural language that made a break with the past.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier marks the birth of three major trends in modern architecture: Purism, Brutalism and sculptural architecture.

The global influence reached by The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier on four continents is a new phenomenon in the history of architecture and demonstrates its unprecedented impact.

Criterion (vi): The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is directly and materially associated with ideas of the Modern Movement, of which the theories and works possessed outstanding universal significance in the twentieth century. The series represents a "New Spirit" that reflects a synthesis of architecture, painting and sculpture.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier materializes the ideas of Le Corbusier that were powerfully relayed by the International Congress of Modern Architecture (CIAM) from 1928.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is an outstanding reflection of the attempts of the Modern Movement to invent a new architectural language, to modernize architectural techniques, and to respond to the social and human needs of modern man.

The contribution made by the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is not merely the result of an exemplary achievement at a given moment, but the outstanding sum of built and written proposals steadfastly disseminated worldwide through half a century.

Integrity

The integrity of the series as a whole is adequate to demonstrate the way Le Corbusier's buildings reflect not only the development and influence of the Modern Movement but the way they were part of its transmission around the world.

The integrity of most of the component sites is good. At Cité Frugès, within the property, new buildings on three parcels of the site - one of which included a standardised house by Le Corbusier, which was destroyed during the war - are inconsistent with the architect's concepts. At Villa Savoye and the adjacent gardener's house, integrity is partly compromised by the Lycée and sports fields built on three sides of the original meadow that surrounded the villa in the 1950s. The setting of this site is fragile. At the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, war-time destruction and post-war reconstruction has led to the collective integrity of the model settlement being affected by the loss of ten houses out of twenty-one.

At the Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut, where Le Corbusier's structure was built over a centuries-old pilgrimage site, the integrity of the site has been partly compromised by a new visitor centre and a nunnery near the chapel that cut Le Corbusier's structure from its contemplative hillside setting.

At the Immeuble locatif à La Porte Molitor, a new rugby stadium has been constructed right in front of the glass façade of the apartment block.

Authenticity

The series clearly demonstrates how it adds up to more than the sum of its component parts.

For most of the individual component sites, the authenticity is good in relation to how well the attributes of the site can be said to reflect the overall Outstanding Universal Value of the series. At Cité Frugès, on three plots traditional houses were constructed replacing Corbusian structures, while elsewhere in the urban landscape, there is a partial loss of authenticity through neglect and interior changes. At l'Unité d'habitation, the fire of 2012 destroyed a small part of the building. This has now been totally reconstructed to the original design, but with some reduction in authenticity. The authenticity of the existing Capitol Complex could be impacted if either or both of the governor's palace or the museum of knowledge were to be constructed, an eventuality that has apparently been discussed.

At the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident, the original intention for the forecourt of the Museum appears to be as a wide open space. Forecourt planting in 1999 tends to detract from the presentation of the building, its key views and the setting.

Recent developments at Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut have partly compromised the authenticity of the site in terms of its ability to convey Le Corbusier's ideas. At the Immeuble locatif à La Porte Molitor the new stadium has detracted from the ability of the glass walls of this site to convey its value, although without diminishing its authenticity.

In terms of materials, some sites have been restored and partly reconstructed in recent years, after neglect or disfigurement. Overall, the modifications can be seen to be reasonable and proportionate.

Protection and management requirements

Many of the components received early protection, mostly in the two decades following Le Corbusier's death. Some, like the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung in Stuttgart and the Unité d'habitation in Marseille, were given protection during Le Corbusier's lifetime. The nomination dossier sets out for each component the relevant forms of legislative protection. All component sites are protected at a national/federal level and their buffer

zones are adequately protected by either legislation or planning mechanisms. Given the importance of detail and setting for these 20th century buildings, it is crucial that their protection is sufficiently encompassing and sensitive to allow for protection of interiors, exteriors, context and setting.

In most of the sites, conservation measures are appropriate and are based on long-standing conservation experience and methodology. Conservation work is programmed and entrusted to specialists with high levels of skill and expertise. Conservation treatment is combined with regular maintenance, including the involvement of inhabitants, local communities, and public associations. There are conservation issues in the Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut. There is now an urgent need to implement the agreed conservation programme. There is also an urgent need for a Conservation plan to be prepared for the Capitol Complex.

A Standing Conference has been established for the overall series and will coordinate the management of the property, advise States Parties and implement actions for promotion and enhancement of the property. An Association of Le Corbusier Sites has been set up to bring together all the local authorities in whose territories sites have been nominated. Its main objectives are coordination, raising public awareness, sharing conservation experience, overall coordination and management of the series, and implementation of management plans for each of the component sites. The involvement of the expertise of the Fondation Le Corbusier – that has the moral rights over Le Corbusier's oeuvre – is crucial for appropriate management and conservation of the series, especially in those cases where the properties are in private hands other than the Fondation. Within France, Switzerland and Argentina coordinating committees have been set up to oversee the management of sites in those countries.

What remains unclear is how dialogue is undertaken between countries in relation to sensitive development projects. There would be a need for contributing States Parties to have knowledge of, and opportunities to comment on, proposed development in a component site that might compromise the value of the overall series.

Local management plans have been drawn up for each component site. These have been implemented on a partnership basis between owners and the cultural, heritage and planning departments of the local authorities in whose area they are sited. At the Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut, the management system needs strengthening to ensure the security of the site. At the Maison du Docteur Curutchet a municipal decree for the expansion of the

buffer zone and active protection of its environment has been sanctioned.

Given the special problems associated with the conservation of 20th century architecture, a continuous involvement of (inter)national specialists on the conservation of Modern architectural heritage is also essential. In Switzerland the federal administration can call such specialized experts for advice to support the local conservationists (and has done so already). A similar approach is highly recommended for other countries.

The current staffing levels and levels of expertise and training are high in all sites and mechanisms to allow liaison between sites have been put in place. Nonetheless, there appears to be a need for more capacity building on the processes of impact assessment and a need to formalise and clearly define conservation approaches and procedures across the series.

Model monitoring indicators developed for two properties in Switzerland will be developed for the rest of the series by the end of 2016.

Property	Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards
State Party	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia
ID No.	1504
Dates of inscription	2016

Brief synthesis

The serial property of 28 component sites includes a selection of 4,000 medieval tombstones (stećci) on the territory of four states: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia. These monolithic stone tombstones (stećci) were created in the period from the second half of the 12th century to the 16th century, although they were most intensively made during the 14th and 15th centuries. The stećci are exceptional testimony to the spiritual, artistic and historical aspects of the medieval cultures of southeastern Europe, an area where traditions and influences of the European west, east and south entwined with earlier traditions. The stećci are notable for their inter-confessionality, used for burial by all three medieval Christian communities, including the Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church and the Church of Bosnia (which lasted for about three centuries until the second half of the 15th century). The characteristics that distinguish stećci from the overall corpus of Europe's medieval heritage and sepulchral art, include the vast number of preserved monuments (over 70,000 located within over 3,300 sites), the diversity of forms and motifs, the richness of reliefs, epigraphy and the richness of the intangible cultural

heritage. The selected components represent a range of graveyard scales and settings.

Criterion (iii): A remarkable number of stećci, of diversified form, are found in this part of southeast Europe, conveying an exceptional testimony to medieval European artistic and archaeological heritage, with traces of earlier influences (prehistoric, roman and early medieval). The extremely large number of preserved stećci (estimated to be more than 70,000) and variety of their forms (slabs, chests, gabled roof tombstones, pillars and monumental crosses) are well represented. Their reliefs, including decorative, symbolic, and religious motives as well as scenes from everyday life, are an extraordinary testimony of medieval culture. Inscriptions in the selected graveyards offer an exceptional historical resource, and are associated with the cultures and histories of the medieval states in this region.

Criterion (vi): The stećci have been deeply embedded in historical and continual cultural traditions and beliefs and toponyms demonstrate the historical meanings and significance of the stećci. The stećci are associated with local folk and fairy tales, superstitions and customs; and their epigraphy and reliefs have significantly influenced the contemporary literature and other forms of art in all four countries, but also wider in the region.

Integrity

The integrity of the serial property is based on the ability of the selected 28 components to represent the widespread phenomena, importance and diversity of the stećci in southeast Europe. Each of the components has been conserved in situ. The state of conservation of the burial grounds and tombstones is generally stable, and each of the components are relatively well preserved. Their conditions could be improved through maintenance and active management to prevent natural processes of deterioration. The tombstones are not currently affected by development pressures. The boundaries of the components include the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property. Some of the buffer zones were revised during the evaluation process to better incorporate and preserve the important characteristics of the settings in which the burial grounds are located.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the serial property is established through the graveyards, tombstones (stećci) and associated sepulchral art of the medieval period. The stećci demonstrate the merging of religions, chivalry and folk cultures of this period. The authenticity of the selected components is demonstrated by the archaeological and historical contexts and evidence, the diversity

of types of tombstones, and the widespread occurrence of this phenomenon in this part of southeast Europe. The authenticity of the sites was one of the bases on which the selection of components was made. The stećci were carved from single stone which reflected the skills and knowledge of the master craftsmen. Decorations and inscriptions testify original aspects of the emergence and study of stećci.

Protection and management requirements

Legal protection of the 28 sites with stećci is ensured by the legislation applicable in the participating States Parties. Although the legal and administrative systems for the protection and management of cultural heritage differ, the highest level of protection in each of the States Parties has been provided for the graveyards and tombstones. Transnational coordination is established through the International Coordination Committee and through the implementation of common strategies, principles and standards. Each State Party is responsible for the protection, conservation and management of necropolises with stećci tombstones that are on its territory.

Common management plan documents have been prepared for each inscribed component by the four States Parties. These documents ensure the management of each component of the serial property according to an agreed approach and a common vision, uniform conservation standards, shared management principles and shared presentation objectives. Each of the four States Parties has appointed a coordinator, and together they form the International Coordination Body responsible for the development of the joint management of the serial transnational property.

Inventoring and research about the stećci have been a focus since the 1970s and is ongoing. There is a need to continue to improve the mapping and cataloguing of the inscribed components in line with the management system. The inscribed components are generally in a stable state of conservation, with minimal interventions. The main pressures are natural processes of physical deterioration, and condition assessments have been incorporated into the site management plans. Continued development and implementation of active conservation programmes based on the advice of expert conservators is required. Community involvement in the management and maintenance of the stećci is evident and active.

There is a need to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments and Disaster Risk Management approaches and mechanisms into the management system, in order to ensure that future proposals, programs or projects are assessed in relation to their potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property.

Visitor pressure is not a current threat. Visitor management is currently planned and implemented at the site level. Presentation and interpretation are approached by promoting the designated sites and other tourist destinations. The management plans outline current and planned tourism infrastructure for each of the components. The monitoring indicators could be augmented by additional measures related to levels of visitation.

Property	Lut Desert
State Party	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
ID No.	1505
Dates of inscription	2016

Brief synthesis

The Lut Desert is in the southeast of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an arid continental subtropical area notable for a rich variety of spectacular desert landforms. At 2,278,015 ha the area is large and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 1,794,134 ha. In the Persian language 'Lut' refers to bare land without water and devoid of vegetation. The property is situated in an interior basin surrounded by mountains, so it is in a rain shadow and, coupled with high temperatures, the climate is hyper-arid. The region often experiences Earth's highest land surface temperatures: a temperature of 70.7°C has been recorded within the property.

A steep north-south pressure gradient develops across the region in spring and summer causing strong NNW-SSE winds to blow across the area between June and October each year. These long periods of strong winds propel sand grains at great velocity creating transportation of sediment and aeolian erosion on a colossal scale. Consequently, the area possesses what are considered the world's best examples of aeolian yardang landforms, as well as extensive stony deserts and dune fields. Yardangs are bedrock features carved and streamlined by sandblasting. They cover about one third of the property and appear as massive and dramatic corrugations across the landscape with ridges and corridors oriented parallel to the dominant prevailing wind. The ridges are known as kaluts. In the Lut Desert some are up to 155 m high and their ridges can be followed for more than 40 km.

The wind also strips hard rocky outcrops bare of soil, which leaves extensive stony desert pavements (hamada) with sand-blasted faceted stones (ventifacts) across about 12% of the area. An extensive, black stony desert covers the basaltic Gandom Beryan plateau in the northwest of the core zone. The stony deserts in eastern Lut cover, as a rubbly veneer, extensive pediplains, which are rock platforms that truncate bedrock and gently slope away from the foot of neighbouring hills.

Sands transported by wind and washed in by intermittent streams have accumulated in the south and east, where huge sand-seas have formed across 40% of the property. These areas consist of active dunes some reaching heights of 475 m and are amongst the largest dunes in the world. The Lut Desert displays a wide variety of forms, including linear-, compound crescentic-, star-, and funnel-shaped dunes. Where sands are trapped around the lee of plants at the slightly wetter margins of the basin, nebkhas form to 12 m or more in height, arguably being the highest such features in the world.

Dissolved minerals evaporated from incoming streams result in white efflorescences of crystals and evaporite crusts down river beds, in yardang corridors and in salt pans (playa). Small landforms result from the pressure effects of crystal growth, including salt polygons, tepee fractured salt crusts, small salt pingos (or blisters), salt karren and gypsum domes.

The region has been described in the past as a place of 'no life' and information on the biological resources in this area is limited. Nevertheless the property possesses flora and fauna adapted to the harsh conditions including an interesting adapted insect fauna.

Criterion (vii): The Lut Desert protects a globally-recognized iconic hot desert landscape, one of the hottest places on earth. It is renowned for its spectacular series of landforms, namely the yardangs (massive corrugated ridges) in the west of the property and the sand-sea in the east. The yardangs are so large and impressive that they can be seen easily from space. Lut is particularly significant for the great variety of desert landform types found in a relatively small area. Key attributes of the aesthetic values of the unspoilt property relate to the diversity and sheer scale of its landforms; a visually stunning mosaic of desert colours; and uninterrupted vistas across huge and varied dune systems that transition into large flat desert pavement areas.

Criterion (viii): The property represents an exceptional example of ongoing geological processes related to erosional and depositional features in a hot desert. The yardang/kalut landforms are widely considered the best-expressed in the world in terms of extent, unbroken continuity and height. The Lut sand-seas are amongst the best developed active dune fields in the world, displaying a wide variety of dune types (crescentic ridges, star dunes, complex linear dunes, funnel-shaped dunes) with dunes amongst the highest observed anywhere on our planet. Nebkha dune fields (dunes formed around plants) are widespread with those at Lut as high as any measured elsewhere. Evaporite (salt) landforms are displayed in wide variety, including white salt-crusts crystalline

riverbeds, salt pans (playa) with polygonally fractured crusts, pressure-induced tepee-fractured salt crusts, gypsum domes, small salt pingos (or blisters), and salt karren. Other dry-land landforms include extensive hamada (stony desert pavements or reg) usually located on pediment surfaces with wind faceted stones (ventifacts), gullied badlands and alluvial fans (bajada).

Integrity

Due to its remoteness from major population centres and its extreme environmental conditions, including extreme heat and lack of water, much of the Lut Desert is inaccessible and therefore naturally protected. Apart from some small private landholdings in villages in the inscribed area and buffer zone of western Lut, the majority of the land within the Lut Desert is state-owned.

Within the property, only the western edge includes settlements (there being 28 villages, the largest with just over 700 people). In the buffer zone there are 15 villages and Shahdad town with a population of nearly 6,000. The region has evidence for habitation going back 7,000 years, however this has always been around the periphery of the area, because the aridity of the property rendered most of it uninhabitable.

Knowledge on the biodiversity and ecological values of the property is limited and would benefit from greater investigation to better understand the linkages between geoheritage, biological and ecological diversity.

Protection and management requirements

The property is subject to a complex and multi-level protection regime and a range of legislation, regulations and protective mechanisms apply (14 legal instruments). Legal protection and management is provided by state level authorities that work under their specific mandates. Three agencies principally share conservation and management responsibility for the property, namely the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization; the Iranian Department of Environment; and the Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO). Protection of non-conservation lands, watershed, rangeland management and desertification is under the control of the Organization of Forests, Range and Watershed Management. This agency is responsible for the prevention of illegal exploitation of deserts. Two protected areas located in the northwest and southeast are under the management and protection of the Iranian Department of Environment. The Darband-e Ravar "wildlife refuge" in the northwest partially overlaps with the area but the Bobolab "no hunting" area in the southeast only overlaps with the buffer zone. In addition to management of the protected area, the Department of Environment is responsible for

environmental assessment of development projects. The Lut Desert is also on the national heritage registration list of ICHHTO.

The property has a basic management plan at the time of inscription, which needs to be elaborated to detail threats and measures to address these; coordination arrangements for the property; specific management actions, timeframes and responsible agencies for implementation. Establishing and maintaining such a plan is an essential requirement for the protection of the property.

There is also a need to progressively build improved technical capacity to manage the natural values of the Lut Desert in light of the intrinsic links between the property's geomorphology, geology and its desert adapted biodiversity and ecology, and the relationships to local communities and visitors. Strong measures are required to protect the property from inappropriate tourism and for off road motorized access in the long term. It is also necessary to monitor impacts and undertake restoration of degraded areas in the property, particularly in the northwest where the property includes a number of villages on the outskirts of Shadad and Anduhjerd.

Property	The Persian Qanat
State Party	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
ID No.	1506
Dates of inscription	2016

Brief synthesis

Throughout the arid regions of Iran, agricultural and permanent settlements are supported by the ancient qanat system of tapping alluvial aquifers at the heads of valleys and conducting the water along underground tunnels by gravity, often over many kilometres.

Each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the appropriate level of the aquifer. Well shafts are sunk at regular intervals along the route of the tunnel to enable removal of spoil and allow ventilation. These appear as craters from above, following the line of the qanat from water source to agricultural settlement. The water is transported along underground tunnels, so-called *koshkan*, by means of gravity due to the gentle slope of the tunnel to the exit (*mazhar*), from where it is distributed by channels to the agricultural land of the shareholders.

The levels, gradient and length of the qanat are calculated by traditional methods requiring the skills of experienced qanat workers and have been handed down over centuries. Many qanats have sub branches and water access corridors for maintenance purposes, as well as dependant structures including rest areas for

the qanat workers, public and private hamams, reservoirs and watermills. The traditional communal management system still in place allows equitable and sustainable water sharing and distribution.

Criterion (iii): The Persian Qanat system is an exceptional testimony to the tradition of providing water to arid regions to support settlements. The technological and communal achievements of the qanats play a vital role of qanat in the formation of various civilisations. Its crucial importance for the larger arid region is expressed in the name of the desert plateau of Iran which is called "Qanat Civilisation". Dispersion of primary settlements on alluvial fans of the inner plateau and deserts of Iran is immediately related with the distribution pattern of qanat system across the country. The system also presents an exceptional living cultural tradition of communal management of water resources.

Criterion (iv): The Persian Qanat system is an outstanding example of a technological ensemble illustrating significant stages in the history of human occupation of arid and semi-arid regions. Based on complex calculations and exceptional architectural qualities, water was collected and transported by mere gravity over long distances and these transport systems were maintained over centuries and, at times, millennia. The qanat system enabled settlements and agriculture but also inspired the creation of a desert-specific style of architecture and landscape involving not only the qanats themselves, but their associated structures, such as water reservoirs, mills, irrigation systems, and gardens.

Integrity

The eleven qanats forming this property are still active water carriers and have retained not only their architectural and technological structures but also their function. They continue to provide the essential resource water sustaining Iranian settlements and gardens and remain maintained and managed through traditional communal management systems. These management systems have remained intact and been transferred from the distant past thanks to the collaboration of people and users.

To ensure the continued functionality of the qanats, the water catchment areas are included in the buffer zone and have been committed to highest protection levels considering their essential function in the provision of the water resources. Likewise, the agricultural areas illustrating the distribution and use of the water resources have been protected through buffer zones to allow the full long-term protection of the qanat system.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the eleven qanats has been respected regarding design, technology, building materials, traditions, techniques,

management systems as well as intangible heritage associations based on knowledge of the natural environment, material technology and the indigenous culture. Qanats have been founded and constructed based on social collaboration, communal trust and honesty as well as common sense. Furthermore, their stability and functionality has been managed, preserved, expanded and developed based on such joint cooperation.

Protection and management requirements

The eleven qanats comprising this series are included in the national register of monuments of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Their catchment and irrigation areas have been included in specifically designed protective zones with status of buffer zones. The further elaboration and completion of an inventory of the eleven components will assist in monitoring and communicating the full scope of protected attributes.

The overall management of the serial nomination is coordinated by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of the Qanat Councils and relevant government departments including the Cultural Heritage Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO), Natural Resources, Agriculture, Energy, Road and Urban Development, Environment Protection Organisation, Rural Housing Foundation and NGOs relating to cultural heritage and the environment. Daily management concerns are considered through the ICHHTO National Qanat Base which acts through ICHHTO's provincial offices. A Management Strategy and Action Plan was outlined at the time of nomination, which will be further developed into management and maintenance plans for the individual components. These will include interpretation and tourism management plans as well as risk preparedness and disaster response strategies.

The eleven qanats are managed under traditional supervision of qanat councils, each qanat with its local qanat council composed of those knowledgeable in the respective region. The traditional management systems of the inscribed qanats contribute to their unique value but are also essential to their continued preservation and transmission to future generations. Historical knowledge and craft skills preserved over many generations need to be continuously handed down to ensure the future viability of this property. This management system, set up by owners, distributors, consumers and ordinary people, has developed and evolved with the passage of time which has made qanats survive until today and will be the key to their future conservation.

The eleven qanats are further supported by financial and technical means through national resources, and conservation and management

measures at all qanats are underway respecting their authenticity and integrity.

Property	Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dunganab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park
State Party	Sudan
ID No.	262 Rev
Dates of inscription	2016

Brief synthesis

The Sanganeb Marine National Park and the Dunganab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park are located in the northern part of the Red Sea. The property is a serial site and covers 260,700 ha with a buffer zone of 504,600 ha consisting of both marine and terrestrial areas. The property's marine systems, fauna and flora are from an Indian Ocean origin, however, due to its semi-enclosed nature, it has developed unique and different ecosystems and species.

The property contains impressive natural phenomena, reef formations and areas of great natural beauty and is relatively undisturbed. The two components of the property are connected by a coastal stretch extending 125 km including mersas, inlets, fringing reefs and off-shore reef formations, and the whole serial site is geologically and ecologically connected via the open flows that facilitate the exchange of biotic and abiotic elements within the marine ecosystems of the Red Sea. It encompasses a large bay that contains islands, several small islets and some of the most northerly coral reefs in the world associated with species (including seagrass and mangroves) at the limits of their global range and evolutionary expansion, which are therefore important from a scientific and conservation perspective.

Sanganeb atoll is the only atoll-like feature in the Red Sea, and a submerged and overhanging predator dominated coral reef ecosystem. It consists of 13 different biophysiological reef zones, each providing typical coral reef assemblages, supporting a wealth of marine life and breathtaking underwater vistas, hosting over 300 fish species with numerous endemic and rare species. Besides providing important nurseries and spawning grounds for key species, it also hosts resident populations of dolphins, sharks and marine turtles, which use the atoll as a resting, breeding and feeding area.

Dunganab Bay, including Mukkawar Island and other islands, contains an array of habitat types, such as extensive coral reef complexes, mangroves, seagrasses and intertidal and mudflat areas which all enable the survival (breeding, feeding and resting) of endangered dugong, sharks, manta rays, dolphins and migratory birds.

Criterion (vii): Sanganeb is an isolated, atoll-shaped coral reef structure in the central Red Sea, 25 km off the shoreline of Sudan. Surrounded by 800 m deep water, the atoll-like coral reef systems are part of the northernmost coral reef systems in the world. Sanganeb is a largely pristine marine ecosystem providing some of the most impressive underwater vistas resulting from the very high diversity of physiographic zones and reefs characterized by an extraordinary structural complexity. Dungonab Bay and Mukkawar Island is situated 125 km north of Port Sudan and includes within its boundaries a highly diverse system of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, beaches, intertidal areas, islands and islets. The clear visibility of the water, coral diversity, marine species, pristine habitats and colourful coral reef communities create a striking land- and seascape.

Criterion (ix): The property is located in an ecologically and globally outstanding region, the Red Sea, which is the world's northernmost tropical sea, the warmest and most saline of the world's seas, and is a Global 200 priority biogeographic region. The property is part of a larger transition area between northern and southern Red Sea biogeographic zones and contains diverse and mostly undisturbed habitats which are outstanding examples of the northernmost tropical coral reef system on earth. The property and its surrounding area include reef systems (13 different bio-physiographic reef zones in Sanganeb Marine National Park (SMNP)), the only atoll-like feature in the Red Sea, lagoons, islets, sand flats, seagrass beds, and mangrove habitats and display a diversity of reefs, from living reefs to ancient fossil reefs. These habitats are home to populations of seabirds (20 species), marine mammals (11 species), fish (300 species), corals (260 species), sharks, manta rays and marine turtles, and the site provides important feeding grounds for what is perhaps the most northerly population of endangered Dugong. SMNP is an important larvae source area and hosts spawning sites for commercial fish species.

Criterion (x): Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Marine National Park (DMNP) supports a globally significant dugong population, given that the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf host the last remaining healthy populations of this species in the Indian Ocean. The whale and manta ray seasonal aggregations in DMNP are unique to the entire Western Indian Ocean Region and the marine park is internationally recognized as an Important Bird Area for both resident and migratory birds. DMNP is also unique as a home to species from different biogeographic origins: both northern and southern Red Sea species. SMNP lies in a regional hotspot for reef fish endemism. The property supports a high level of representation of endemic species found in the Red Sea, including the richest diversity of coral

west of India and a number of coral species which are at the limits of their global range.

Integrity

The property is an outstanding marine ecosystem that sustains intact ecological functions. It covers both shallow habitats and reef formations and deep-sea areas that are ecologically interacting by natural exchange.

The property's size is adequate to contain most of the attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value and maintains a high level of intactness through long-term conservation of its biodiversity. Sanganeb atoll is relatively remote from land-based activities and the traditional artisanal fishing around it is under the control of the Fisheries Administration of Sudan. Dungonab Bay's marine waters are protected by Wildlife Administration and Fisheries regulations. If these regulations are not promptly enforced, Dungonab Bay is likely to suffer negative impacts on the biota from the activities of the two villages at the coast, from major land use changes, salt exploitation, oyster farming, and potentially pearling. Species which are likely to be affected are coral and fish species, turtles, manta rays, sharks, dolphins, dugongs, and birds. The property has not shown any invasive or non-resident species as yet.

Protection and management requirements

The Government of Sudan has a legal commitment at both the National and State levels towards the protection and conservation of resources within its coastal waters through its comprehensive National Strategy. Several laws and regulations are in place and Sudan has signed regional and international protocols and conventions. Both SMNP (1990) and DMNP (2004) have been declared as marine protected areas by Presidential Decrees. Both are the responsibility of the Government of Sudan and various pieces of national legislation pertain to the property including the Federal Environmental Law (2001); State Environmental Law (2006); Wildlife Conservation and National Park Act (1987); National Parks, Sanctuaries and Reserves Regulation (1939); and the Game Protection and Federal Parks Act (1986).

At the time of inscription, work to update the management plans for the two National Parks was underway and this needs to be urgently completed and such plans maintained in the long-term so that both protected areas have up-to-date comprehensive plans. There is, in addition, a need to develop and maintain in the long-term an integrated management framework to coordinate management for the serial site as a whole and thus complement the two individual management plans. The participation of local communities and other stakeholders is critical to the effective management of this large property. The management authority acknowledges the

importance of monitoring the impacts of tourism on ecosystems and on local communities through the implementation of a Tourism Strategy.

The property ecosystems remain relatively weakly affected by human activities. However, regional coastal development increased recently and reinforces the need to protect these landward and marine areas. The increase of activities from local residents and tourists could intensify pollution and direct damage on ecosystems such as anchor, boat and diving damage. In addition, coral communities could be affected by predators and by coral bleaching in response to climate change. Staffing, financial resources and on-ground management need to be increased in order to manage this very large nominated area and marine buffer zone. Commitments will be necessary to increase and sustain Government funding levels particularly in light of potential tourism use and possible impact.

Property	Archaeological Site of Ani
State Party	Turkey
ID No.	1518
Dates of inscription	2016

Brief synthesis

Ani is located in the northeast of Turkey, 42 km from the city of Kars, on a secluded triangular plateau overlooking a ravine that forms the natural border with Armenia. The continuity of settlement at Ani for almost 2500 years was thanks to its geographical location, on an easily defensible plateau that was surrounded by fertile river valleys at an important gate of the Silk Roads into Anatolia. This medieval city that was once one of the cultural and commercial centres on the Silk Roads, is characterized by architecture that combines a variety of domestic, religious and military structures, creating a panorama of medieval urbanism built up over the centuries by successive Christian and Muslim dynasties. Inhabited since the Bronze Age, Ani flourished in the 10th and 11th centuries AD, when it became a capital of the medieval Armenian kingdom of the Bagratids, and profited from control over one branch of the Silk Roads. Later, under Byzantine, Seljuk, and Georgian sovereignty, it maintained its status as an important crossroads for merchant caravans, controlling trade routes between Byzantium, Persia, Syria and Central Asia. The Mongol invasion, along with a devastating earthquake in 1319 and a change in trade routes, marked the beginning of the city's decline. It was all but abandoned by the 18th century.

The principal area of the property consists of architectural remains located in three zones: the citadel, which includes the ruins of the Kamsaragan palace, Palace church,

Midjnaberd church, Sushan Pahlavuni church, the Karamadin church and the church with Six Apses; the outer citadel or walled city which includes amongst others the Fire Temple, Cathedral, Ramparts of Smbat II, Emir Ebu'l Muammeran Complex, Seljuk Palace, domestic architecture, the market, and the Silk Road Bridge; and the area outside the city walls. Rock-carved structures on the slopes of one of the valleys surrounding the city, the Bostanlar Creek, are also part of the property.

Religious monuments of Zoroastrian, Christian and Muslim influence, as well as public and domestic buildings in Ani provide a vivid and comprehensive picture of a distinctive relic medieval city which attests to the transmission and amalgamation of different architectural traditions that evolved in the Caucasus, Iran, Turkestan and Khorasan, and were translated into stone. This medieval settlement consists of remains from a multi-cultural centre, with all the richness and diversity of Medieval Armenian, Byzantine, Seljuk and Georgian urbanism, architecture, and art development.

Criterion (ii): Ani was a meeting place for Armenian, Georgian and diverse Islamic cultural traditions that were reflected in the architectural design, material and decorative details of the monuments. New styles, which emerged as a result of cross-cultural interactions, have turned into a new architectural language peculiar to Ani. The creation of this new language expressed in the design, craftsmanship and decoration of Ani has also been influential in the wider region of Anatolia and Caucasia.

Criterion (iii): Ani bears exceptional testimony to Armenian cultural, artistic, architectural and urban design development and it is an extraordinary representation of Armenian religious architecture known as the "Ani school", reflecting its techniques, style and material characteristics.

Criterion (iv): With its military, religious and civil buildings, Ani offers a wide panorama of medieval architectural development thanks to the presence at the site of almost all the architectural types that emerged in the region in the course of the six centuries from 7th to 13th centuries AD. It is also considered a rare settlement where nearly all of the plan types developed in Armenian Church architecture between the 4th and 8th centuries AD can be seen together. The urban enclosure of Ani is also an important example of a medieval architectural ensemble with its monumentality, design and quality, as well as the tunnels and caves beneath Ani plateau, which connect to the surrounding volcanic tufa setting of deep river valleys.

Integrity

All the elements that constitute the basic values of Ani are located within the boundaries of the property. Although the majority of

structures having monumental characteristics are still standing on site, there is not a single monument that is not facing serious structural problems of stability, either missing parts of the fabric, due to seismic action or human destruction, or problems of unsuccessful interventions. The visual integrity of the landscape is affected by the quarrying activities on the east side of Arpaçay Creek and the inappropriate use of pasture areas of the rock-cut caves in Bostanlar Creek and Arpaçay Creek. The State Party is currently addressing the highly vulnerable state of conservation of key attributes of the property through the implementation of a comprehensive conservation strategy and action plan.

Authenticity

The remoteness of the uninhabited city of Ani, with its impressively standing monumental buildings, over an invisible landscape of underground tunnels and caves surrounded by deep river valleys, provides a mostly unaltered window onto the past. The property has also not undergone any modern development. Nevertheless, earthquakes, the harsh climate and human destruction have affected the overall authenticity of the property. The level of authenticity of material, substance, and workmanship has been affected by large amounts of new fabric introduced in a number of restoration projects, causing loss to the original building fabric. On-going conservation practices have focused largely on addressing the effects of deterioration processes on the property with a stronger emphasis placed on carrying out interventions that maintain the qualities of the original materials and techniques as well as on removing the earlier improper interventions in a number of monuments.

Protection and management requirements

The archaeological site of Ani has been registered on the national inventory since 1988 as a 1st Degree Archaeological Conservation Site that is surrounded by a 3rd Degree Archaeological Conservation Site, with continual enlargements in site boundaries. These registrations put the property under the protection of Turkey's National Law No. 2863 for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties that requires approval by Kars Regional Council for the Protection of Cultural Assets of all plans and projects to be implemented in registered sites.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which is the main responsible government body for conservation and management of the site, is organized at both central and local levels. The General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums centrally regulates the activities of its local branches, and fulfils certain tasks regarding monument restoration and World Heritage issues. Local branches that are relevant in this case are the Kars Regional

Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Erzurum Directorate of Surveying and Monuments, and the Directorate of Kars Museum.

Measures taken in recent years by the State Party have greatly protected the most important monuments of the property. A Conservation Oriented Development Plan for the two registered sites was approved in 2011, through a process based on scientific principals and participation of stakeholders at different levels.

A Strategic Conservation Master Plan, prepared by the Ministry with scientific support from experts, was approved by the Ministry on 3 February 2016. It lists the provisions of all legal conservation documents related to the site, and includes an updated SWOT analysis as well as interrelated policies and principles that are reviewed in reference to the Management Plan. The Strategic Conservation Master Plan should be revised in order to present a more comprehensive needs assessment for each listed monument, as well as the required interventions and priority areas, as the basis for conservation and monitoring of the property.

The Management Plan for the property was approved on 30 March 2015. Priorities set for the period 2015-2020 in the two plans include emergency measures against seismic and environmental risks to ensure the intact survival of monumental buildings, context excavations and research to reveal their urban setting, improvement of visitor and research facilities at the site, enhancement of Ocaklı Village through better integration with the property, and educational programmes towards these ends. A Heritage Impact Assessment approach should be integrated into the management system, so as to ensure that any project regarding the property be assessed in relation to its impacts on the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

IV. LARGE COMPLEX SERIAL TRANSNATIONAL NOMINATIONS AND THE NEED FOR NOMINATION STRATEGIES

Although transnational serial nominations are considered to be very desirable in fostering international cooperation, which is at the heart of the World Heritage Convention, some of them may not initially be successful without focused guidance and agreed planning.

In those cases, which involve the preparation of large complex serial transnational nominations and/or related potential serial extensions, as well as large resources from many States Parties sometimes over a considerable number of years, the Committee should be aware of their scope in advance of the submission of a nomination. Moreover, when complex serial transnational nominations have to be submitted over several cycles, a nomination strategy for the whole series should be agreed upon as soon as possible, ideally before the first property or properties are nominated.

Currently, out of the 34 serial transnational or transboundary properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, only 5 (Struve Geodetic Arc, Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps, Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System, The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement and Stećci Medieval Tombstones Graveyards) are shared among more than 3 States Parties and almost all have been inscribed over the last 6 years. Considering the degree of complexity which is inherent to the preparation of serial transnational nominations, it appears that those involving a minimum of 4 States Parties may benefit from a previously agreed nomination strategy, so as to reduce the chances that they experience significant problems during the nomination process and in order to facilitate a phased nomination approach by providing a plan of the overall final property. Similarly, for groups of transnational serial nominations linked by a concept, of which currently the only example is the land-based Silk Roads, a nomination strategy should be provided in order that the Committee may understand the rationale for the nomination of the first series.

As for nominations benefiting from the Upstream Process, it is important to emphasize that, even if the Committee takes note of a nomination strategy, this is not prejudicial and does not imply that the complex serial transnational nominations or extensions concerned would necessarily be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Thematic study and nomination strategy for the Frontiers of the Roman Empire

In the context of the preparation of a number of proposals for extensions from several States Parties to the serial transnational property Frontiers of the Roman Empire, a thematic study has been undertaken of by involved States Parties on the basis of which a Nomination Strategy has been conceived and agreed upon by all of them.

In 1987, Hadrian's Wall (United Kingdom) was inscribed, but only in 2005, with the approval of the extension to the Upper German-Raetian Limes (Germany) the property became a serial transnational property being renamed "Frontiers of the Roman Empire". Another extension was approved in 2008, the Antonine Wall (United Kingdom), bringing the serial transnational property to its current status.

Over the years, the idea of aiming at one single property encompassing the remains of the frontiers of the Roman Empire extending through Europe, Middle East and North Africa was advanced and was object of discussion between States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Eventually, as the idea proved to be too challenging in various ways, including the manageability of such vast potential property, other less ambitious, but more feasible options were discussed. To facilitate this process, it was suggested that a Thematic Study of the remains of the overall Roman frontiers could be a valuable tool to guide the development of a nomination strategy. This Thematic Study has now been undertaken.

This Thematic Study includes a Nomination Strategy which proposes that substantial and distinctive sections of the Roman frontiers will be nominated as individual series, initially in Europe and later in the Middle East and North Africa, under an overall framework of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire that will actively encourage dialogue and shared practices. These nominated sections will demonstrate an ingenious variety of military responses to local natural and political conditions.

The detailed nomination strategy is currently confined to the Roman Frontiers of Europe and foresees augmenting the current serial property via three serial nominations for the Lower German (i.e. Lower Rhine) frontier, the Danube frontier, and the frontier of the Roman province of Dacia.

The timetable for the implementation of the nomination strategy is the following:

- end of 2017 creation of an overarching collaborative framework;
- January 2018 submission of the nomination dossier for the Danube frontier, western segment;
- January 2020 submission of the nomination dossier for the Lower German frontier;
- January 2021 submission of the nomination dossier for a significant boundary modification to add the eastern section to the Danube frontier property;
- January 2021 submission of the nomination dossier for the Dacian frontier.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 8B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,
2. Noting that some large complex serial transnational nominations involving a minimum of 4 States Parties may benefit from an agreed nomination strategy before their official submission,
3. Commends the involved States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for their work towards a solution for a feasible nomination process for the remainder of the serial transnational property Frontiers of the Roman Empire and also commends the States Parties for having participated in the preparation of the Thematic Study, and the development of an overall Nomination Strategy for the whole Roman frontiers and a detailed strategy for the European section of the Roman Frontier;
4. Takes note of the nomination strategy process for the remainder of the serial transnational property Frontiers of the Roman Empire presented in Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add;
5. Emphasizes that, if and when, it takes note of a nomination strategy, this is not prejudicial and does not imply that the complex serial transnational nominations proposed would necessarily lead to an inscription on the World Heritage List.