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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-seventh session

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
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Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of reactive monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/37COM/>

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

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

2003 to present

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

Unrest in Côte d'Ivoire is having an adverse effect on the site, as is poaching of wildlife and fires caused by poachers, over-grazing by large cattle herds and the absence of effective management.

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents/>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 97,000

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

June 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227>

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 2 February 2013. The State Party also provided the inventory of the materials and funds for the management of the property. An IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 19 to 26 January 2013, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012). The mission report is available online at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/37COM/>.

The report and the mission noted the following progress in the implementation of the corrective measures:

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

The State Party indicates that an effective control and patrolling system has been established by the management authority of the Park (OIPR); security patrols cover the entire site and its peripheral zone, with surveillance units and sector staff, counting 65 technical agents carrying out 15-day patrols a month. The report also mentions the rehabilitation of some of the infrastructures, 166 km of access routes (of 980) and maintenance of 196 km of the boundaries.

The mission noted that the situation on the ground has improved since the last reactive monitoring mission in 2006. In addition to the patrols and equipment for the agents, the mission noted training in anti-poaching for 37 forestry commandos and 13 elements of the Côte d'Ivoire Republican Forces, training on legal procedures for 25 staff of the management body, training in ecological monitoring for 19 auxiliary villagers, 8 OIPR agents and SIG agents and ecological monitoring for the MIST data base.

b) *Development and launching of the implementation of a Management Plan for the property and a three-year rehabilitation project for the property*

The mission confirmed the information contained in the State Party report that the management body held a planning workshop in July 2012 to update the Management Plan for Comoé National Park. One of the products resulting from that workshop was a three-year rehabilitation plan for the property. However, this plan is not yet approved or implemented. The mission notes a willingness on the part of the State Party to establish a revised zoning plan for the property but remarks that no timetable has been prepared in this respect. It recommends that the State Party initiate a dialogue with the local populations when the boundaries of the property are settled, during 2013.

c) *Extension of the activities of the management structure to cover the entire property*

In its report, the State Party mentions that in view of the normalization of the socio-political situation, the OIPR has redeployed management staff to the three remaining sectors of the Park and that all management activities cover the entire area of the site.

However, the mission was informed that not all the sectors were covered by the activities of the management structure and recommends that the request of the population of Yalo relating to the creation of a control post manned by staff and equipment be favourably considered by the State Party in 2013.

d) *Restoration of the integrity of the property*

The State Party reports that the reinforcement of awareness and surveillance operations enabled notable progress in combating encroachment by cattle and in reducing signs of illegal activities. As concerns agricultural encroachment in the western part of the Park, actions are undertaken with support of local customary authorities to re-establish the integrity of the property. Regarding the issue of transhumance, requests for funds are submitted to carry out a study to recommend appropriate action to be envisaged involving all the communities and authorities.

The mission confirms the strong commitment of the OIPR and the political-administrative authorities, as well as that of the customary chiefs, to the restoration of the integrity of the property.

e) *Other World Heritage Committee recommendations*

In addition to the corrective measures announced since 2006, a certain number of specific recommendations are contained in Decision **36 COM 7A.2** of 2012.

i) *A census of the key species and indications of poaching and other threats*

The mission notes that the aerial inventory that was planned for March 2012 was postponed due to technical and administrative problems. Nevertheless, in the absence of an aerial inventory, OIPR, in cooperation with the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), carried out a ground survey between March and August 2012. Even although the methodology is different and the comparison with the 2010 results is delicate, the recent cross-country hikes indicate that most of the threats now appear to be under control. However, the mission noted that the populations of the key species (elephant, chimpanzee and lion) were greatly reduced and that the lion seemed to have completely disappeared from the property. The mission recommends the implementation of an aerial inventory, without delay, to confirm the status of the populations of the flagship species that motivated inscription of the property and that they be repeated every two years to enable the monitoring of the populations.

It did, however, produce a draft Desired State of Conservation, in cooperation with the State Party, with a series of objectives and indicators to be achieved within two to three years to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ii) *Officially confirm that no mining exploration license covering the property has been granted*

The State Party report provides no information regarding this issue. The mission notes that the information relating to mining exploitation in the Côte d'Ivoire is dispersed between the Ministry responsible for Mining and various decentralized structures on the ground.

However, the mission gathered some information concerning the Bouna zone. The coordinates of about fifteen authorized gold mining sites in this zone were recently provided to OIPR. None of these sites is located inside the property, and the nearest site is about 4 kilometres to the east of the boundary. With regard to industrial exploration, there are two excavation permits located outside the property.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important progress accomplished by the State Party since the normalization of the security situation. OIPR has been able to regain control of the property and recommenced management and surveillance operations. Pressure on the property has thus been addressed, although it still remains current. They recommend that surveillance efforts be continued and the programme of local measures around the property be strengthened, notably through the establishment of village structures around the property, the development of targeted micro-projects and the involvement of communities in the different aspects of the management of the property. They note that it is important to officially confirm the funding perspectives for the management of the Park.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the conclusion of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List was greatly degraded, especially since 2002. In particular, the populations of key species like the elephant and the chimpanzee have been reduced to a disturbing degree. Moreover, the lion appears to have disappeared from the property. Nevertheless, the mission considered the current populations of other species could be reconstituted if the appropriate conditions were present and therefore the OUV could be recuperated.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that an inventory of the populations of key species must be organized as soon as possible to assess the current state of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to define indicators and a timetable for the reestablishment of the flagship species. They note that the mission produced, in cooperation with the State Party, a draft Desired state of conservation with a series of objectives and indicators, but the value indicators can only be defined once the data of the inventory is available. The mission also proposed to update the corrective measures integrated into the draft decision. They recommend that the property be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that to date, no response has been received by the World Heritage Centre regarding the mining exploration permits that were granted inside and on the periphery of the property. They note that the mission was able to confirm that the two exploration permits in the Bouna zone do not encroach the property, but this information remains to be confirmed by the State Party for the entire property. They recommend that the Committee request the State Party to officially confirm to the Committee by 1 February 2014, that no mining permit, for exploration or exploitation, industrial or artisanal, affects the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the impact studies concerning the mining permits granted in the northern part of the property on its Outstanding Universal Value, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7.A.2** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Warmly welcomes the important progress accomplished by the State Party in the implementation of certain corrective measures since the normalization of the security situation, notably regaining control of the property by the management authority and the resumption of management and surveillance operations once again;*
4. *Regrets that the State Party has still not responded to the Committee request to confirm officially that no mining exploration permit affecting the property has been granted, and requests the State Party to officially confirm that no mining permit, exploration or exploitation, industrial or artisanal, affects the property and to submit the results of the impact studies on the mining permits granted in the northern part of the property on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Notes with concern the conclusion of the IUCN monitoring mission that the OUV for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List is greatly degraded and that the populations of key species like the elephant, the chimpanzee and the lion have been reduced to a worrying degree, but notes that the current populations of other species can recover if the appropriate conditions are reunited, and therefore the OUV can be recuperated;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to carry out an aerial inventory without delay to confirm the status of the populations of flagship species that motivated the inscription of the property and to renew them at least once every two years to monitor the rehabilitation of the populations;*

7. Takes note of the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges the State Party in cooperation with IUCN to define the value indicators once the inventory data is made available;
8. Strongly urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures as highlighted by the monitoring mission, notably:
 - a) Complete the development and rehabilitation of the necessary infrastructure for the effective control and patrolling of the property, including the establishment of staffed and equipped control posts in all the sectors of the Park,
 - b) Approve and implement the Management Plan for the property, as well as the three-year Rehabilitation Plan, taking specific note of the following points:
 - (i) Define the boundaries of all the proposed zones in the provisional zoning of the property and the activities allowed and forbidden in each zone,
 - (ii) Establish provisions for the formalization and responsabilization of the participatory management structures within all the villages that surround the property, including the control and monitoring of the property,
 - c) Finalise the restoration of the integrity of the property, totally excluding cattle in the Park, combating agricultural encroachment in all the sectors of the property and in rehabilitating the degraded land;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
10. **Decides to maintain the Comoé National Park (Cote d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981, extension in 1982

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1992 to present

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

The iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea, the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve and the insufficient institutional structure pose threats to the site.

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1266> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1575>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 425,472

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>)

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire; 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Mining;
- b) Influx of refugees;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Deforestation;
- e) Poaching;
- f) Weak management capacity;
- g) Lack of resources;
- h) Lack of trans-boundary cooperation.

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

On 13 November 2012 and 28 January 2013, state of conservation reports of the property were submitted by the States Parties of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire respectively.

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission took place from 25 February to 5 March 2013. The mission report will be available online at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/37/COM/>. The mission noted that pressure on the property had continued to increase since the last reactive missions in 2007 and 2008, but also noted progress in the implementation of the corrective measures.

a) Mining exploration permits and ongoing environmental and social impact studies (EIES)

The mission noted that the mining activities have evolved slightly since the last reactive missions of 2007 and 2008. In addition to prospection work of the Ore Mining Company of Guinea (SMFG) in the enclave created in 1993, new iron prospection work has begun in the southern periphery of the property, initiated by the Western Africa Exploitation (WAE). The mission was informed that the original boundary of the WAE overlapped the property but was rectified following marking up, so that all the activities of this company are now conducted outside the property, but on its boundary. The mission was concerned regarding the cumulative efforts of these exploration activities, close and concurrent and their correlative effects linked to the construction and exploitation work, if it is undertaken at a later date. The mission also evoked with the companies the impacts of their colateral activities linked (1) to the treatment at site of extracted materials and (2) their transport by rail to a seaboard port, as envisaged; these activities could cause important disruption, including noise that in the context of proximity to the Park, also constitute a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and degradation of its ecological integrity.

To date, only exploration work is in progress at the two sites, in accordance with modalities that do not appear to greatly affect the environment. The mission has also been informed of the two companies current environmental and social impact studies (EIES). With regard to

the SMFG permit, preliminary studies are almost completed and a first EIES report could be available by the end of 2013. The consultant responsible for the EIES provided the mission with a few initial results of the work. So far, the first results of the climate models indicate a limited climatic impact outside of the extraction zone, while the ecological inventories indicate the importance to the population of viviparous toads, endemic species of the Mont Nimba massif, of certain sectors of the mining periphery. The mission also notes that the savanna zone where the WAE exploration work is concentrated, although located outside of the property but at its immediate boundary, plays a role in the diversity, functioning and general balance of the ecosystem of Mont Nimba. The mission considers that in view of this proximity, the implementation of the two projects would have an impact on the integrity of the part of the property located between the two permits. The conclusions of the current EIES should enable a closer examination and clarification of these issues. The mission report includes specific recommendations on the pursuit of the EIES.

The mission was informed that the Guinea State Party had attributed a third permit for nickel exploration in the north-eastern periphery of the property. The mission notes that the boundary of this permit overlaps the property, but that for the time being no exploration activity is being carried out within the property. The mission considered that as for the WAE permit, the State Party must urgently modify the exploration authorization decision and exclude the part of the property located in the boundary for the zone of mining activities.

The State Party confirmed to the mission that the permit attributed to the Tata Company in Côte d'Ivoire had been cancelled and that a new permit had been attributed further away from the property. However, the mission considered that clarifications should be requested from the State Party regarding the localization of this new permit.

b) State of conservation of the property and implementation of the corrective measures

The mission noted that the threats identified by the 2007 and 2008 missions remained current. These threats have worsened in the Ivorian part due to the period of political crisis experienced by the country leading to the evacuation of the agents of the Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority (OIPR) away from the area for several years. In particular, it noted a clearing of 500 ha to 800 ha, more than 10% of the Reserve area, located in the Côte d'Ivoire, for cocoa farming. The mission also noted the gradual ecological isolation of the property linked to the rapid degradation of the forest canopy at its periphery, the buffer zones and the transition to the Biosphere Reserve, as well as in the two other central zones and in the listed Tiapleu Forest in Côte d'Ivoire. This deforestation is linked to increasing demographical pressure, consecutive of the crisis in the Côte d'Ivoire and also the presence of mining explorations in Guinea. The mission notes that this pressure will probably continue to increase in the future if mining exploitation begins.

The mission noted important progress in the implementation of some of the corrective measures. With the publication in 2010 of the Decree concerning the updating of listing and management provisions for areas of the Mont Nimba Biosphere Reserve, the legal status of the property is now clarified as regards Guinea law. In Guinea, geo-referencing work and the marking of the boundaries are underway and should be completed before the end of the year 2013. This is also the case in the Côte d'Ivoire where an effort for the marking of the boundaries has also been carried out but wrongly excluding the parts recently illegally cleared. The mission considered that this error in marking should be corrected on the ground without delay. With support from the UNDP/GEF project, the capacities of the Guinean Office of Biological Diversity and Protected Areas (OGUIDAP) on the ground and notably means for surveillance have been strengthened. The surveillance agents now enjoy a paramilitary status that strengthens their executive power. However, the management capacity of the OGUIDAP still remains very limited and is greatly dependent on the technical and financial support of the project; and the surveillance agents are still too few in number to effectively control the threats. In Côte d'Ivoire the OIPR has now reclaimed the territory of the property and its infrastructure destroyed during the conflict has been restored with support from the

Rapid Response Funds. However, OIPR does not yet ensure a permanent surveillance from the bases at Kouhan Hule and Yeale. Without authorization to carry arms they cannot carry out their duties under normal conditions and in safety. They also lack equipment and an operating budget.

Efforts have been undertaken to establish an ecological monitoring system within the UNDP/GEF project in Guinea, but this does not cover the Ivorian part, nor appears to consider several important elements of the OUV, such as high altitude savannas and water courses.

A simplified three-year management plan was adopted in 2012 for the Ivorian part of the property; its implementation is hypothetical due to lack of funding. For the Guinean part, no management plan is available but a drafting committee was set up under the UNDP/GEF project. No progress was made for the establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism. The property has no buffer zone in Côte d'Ivoire, and that of the Biosphere Reserve created in Guinea is totally inoperable. The mission noted that the state of conservation of the peripheral zone has continued to deteriorate since the last missions, due in general, to the increase of anthropic pressure. The recommendation of the 2008 mission to establish a more limited buffer zone, with a legal protection status, was not implemented. However, the important work of participatory mapping of the area was carried out with the local communities; this work could assist in the setting up of such an area with the participation of the populations, notably with the communal forestry reserves.

c) Trans-boundary cooperation

Dialogue for the establishment of trans-boundary management of the Mont Nimba Massif between Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia has recommenced since the end of the Ivorian crisis. A fourth trilateral workshop was organized in December 2012. This procedure should lead to the signature of a "Tripartite Agreement for the trans-boundary management of the Mont Nimba", and enable the definition of a common work plan. A draft statement was prepared but to date there seems to lack a political commitment to enable its signature. The mission recommended not to await the conclusion of this procedure to begin technical cooperation between OGUIDAP and OIPR and that joint surveillance operations and the establishment of an ecological monitoring system be organized.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that the OUV that motivated the inscription of the property is still present but it remains threatened by increasing anthropic pressures, notably uncontrolled fires, poaching, destruction of habitats in the periphery of the property, the extension of agricultural and forestry practices on the boundary and inside the property. They therefore recommend maintaining the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the attribution of two new mining permits near and/or overlapping the property. They consider that the cumulative impacts of these different permits are a threat to the integrity of the property. The current EIES should indicate the degree of these impacts and conclude on clear recommendations for the preservation of the OUV of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the noticeable progress accomplished in the implementation of some corrective measures by the two States Parties, but consider that an important effort is still necessary to achieve the restoration of the integrity of the property for the long-term conservation of the OUV for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. They recommend that the World Heritage Committee adopt the corrective measures proposed by the mission and contained in the draft decision below. They note that the UNDP/GEF biodiversity conservation programme for Mont Nimba provided support to the results obtained and recommend that a second phase of the programme be undertaken and extended to the Ivorian part of the property to assist the two States Parties to implement these corrective measures.

Finally, in the absence of data on the current state of the biological values of the property that would enable the definition of appropriate indicators, the mission was unable to define the Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. These value indicators should be defined as soon as an operational system for ecological monitoring of the state and tendencies of evolution of the property is established.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Takes note of the conclusion of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is still present but that it remains threatened by increasing anthropic pressures, notably uncontrolled fires, poaching, destruction of habitats on the periphery of the property, extension of agricultural and forestry practices on the boundaries and inside the property;*
4. *Notes with concern the granting of two new mining exploration permits near and/or overlapping the Guinean part of the property with cumulative impacts that could threaten the integrity of the property and urges the Guinea State Party to review the boundaries of the nickel exploration permits for the SAMA Resources Society to exclude the zone inside the property;*
5. *Requests the two States Parties that no new mining exploration or exploitation permits located around the property be granted without a Strategic Environmental Impact Study (EIES) be carried out to assess the impacts, including cumulative of these projects;*
6. *Recalls its request to the two States Parties that:*
 - a) *the EIES of the mining projects located in the mining enclave or the immediate boundary of the property be carried out in accordance with the highest international standards and in close consultation with all the stakeholders,*
 - b) *these EIES must qualify and quantify the potential impacts of these projects on the OUV of the project, at each stage of their cycle, including the construction and exploitation, taking into account their cumulative and collateral impacts linked to the treatment at site of the minerals and their transport, as well as socio-economic changes to be expected,*
 - c) *these EIES should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN prior to any decision based on their conclusions and recommendations, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Warmly welcomes the slight progress accomplished in the implementation of some of the corrective measures by the two States Parties, but also takes note of the conclusion of the reactive monitoring mission of 2013 that there remains an important effort to be made to achieve the restoration of the integrity of the property and conserve over the long term the OUV;*
8. *Also requests the two States Parties to implement the corrective measures as updated by the 2013 mission, notably:*

- a) *Finalize the geo-referencing of the Park boundaries, correct and concretize these boundaries on the ground and submit a precise map to the World Heritage Committee at its next session,*
 - b) *Restore the integrity of the cleared parts of the property, notably by the suppression of illegally planted crops with the ecological restoration of the degraded areas,*
 - c) *Reinforce the management capacity of the Guinean Office for Biological Diversity and Protected Areas (OGUIDAP) and the Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority (OIPR), notably by providing them with a operating budget for the site, increasing the number of surveillance staff, their capacities, their presence on the ground and technical resources, notably in transportation and scheduling equipment,*
 - d) *Create a buffer zone around the property in collaboration with local communities to enable an effective conservation of the OUV of the property, resorting to the establishment of communal forests,*
 - e) *Strengthen actions to benefit local communities, promoting socio-economic activities compatible with the preservation of the OUV of the property, preferably in the outlying areas further away from the boundaries,*
 - f) *Establish a harmonized ecological monitoring mechanism between OGUIDAP and OIPR in the two parts of the property,*
 - g) *Finalize and implement the management plans of the two parts of the property located in both countries and prepare a master plan establishing a general vision of the management of the whole property, that will serve for the local, public and private donors, including the mining companies, an action plan for conservation of the property and the sustainable socio-economic development of its periphery, to strengthen the visibility of the property and its OUV,*
 - h) *Organize joint surveillance operations between OGUIDAP and OIPR throughout the property,*
 - i) *Establish a permanent funding mechanism for conservation of the property and the sustainable socio-economic development of its periphery;*
9. *Recommends that a second phase of the UNDP/GEF programme for the conservation of biological diversity of Mont Nimba be developed, extended to the Ivorian part of the property to assist the two States Parties in the full implementation of these corrective measures;*
 10. *Commends the States Parties of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia for the efforts undertaken to implement a trans-boundary cooperation for the Mont Nimba Massif and encourages them to formalize this cooperation by a signature of the prepared framework agreement in the near future;*
 11. *Notes that in the absence of data on the current state of the biological values of the property that would enable the definition of appropriate indicators, the mission was not in a position to define the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and further requests the States Parties, with support from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop it as soon as an operational ecological monitoring mechanism of the state and tendencies of evolution of the property is established;*
 12. *Requests furthermore the two States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures and other*

recommendations of the 2013 mission, as well as on progress in the environmental and social impact studies linked to mining exploitation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;

13. ***Decides to maintain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1979

Criteria
(vii) (viii) (x)

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

Application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

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

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

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

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

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

International Assistance
Total amount granted: USD 268 560
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/assistance/>

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

Previous monitoring missions
April 1996: World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission; March 2006: World Heritage Centre monitoring mission; August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reinforced monitoring mission; December 2010: World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
a) Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability;

- b) Attribution of a petroleum exploration permit inside the property;
- c) Poaching by the army and armed groups;
- d) Encroachment;
- e) Extension of illegal fishing areas;
- f) Deforestation and cattle grazing.

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

On 25 February 2013, the State Party submitted a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property. This report highlights the important degradation in security since April 2012, the difficulty the management authority experiences in ensuring the surveillance of the property and in implementing the corrective measures adopted at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. Since April 2012, the property has been the battlefield between the Congolese Army (FARDC) and different rebel groups, notably those of the armed group Movement of 23 March (M23). They occupy the Mikeno sector of the property that contains an important population of mountain gorillas, while the FARDC are based in the Rwindi sector. The State Party also notes the appearance of new opportunist militia that have also taken advantage of current insecurity to occupy areas in the Park and its periphery. This situation has made the work of the management authority of the Park extremely difficult. The report informs that two guards of the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) were killed during two attacks in the Park.

a) Impact of the security crisis on the property

The report notes that the management authority has signalled its neutrality in the conflict, which allows it to maintain its teams on the ground, avoid looting of equipment and infrastructures and minimize large-scale poaching. The State Party indicates that the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and the fauna in particular has worsened since the crisis. The report mentions the poaching of 19 elephants and 16 hippopotamus as well as the traffic of baby gorillas. ICCN seized three baby gorillas at Bukavu, Goma and the Nairobi airport respectively and three persons were arrested and handed over to the justice.

The State Party indicates that after a total loss of control of the Mikeno sector for seven months, the surveillance staff were able to access the area in December 2012, enabling them to monitor the gorilla population and to dismantle the traps. Thus, the report notes an increase of almost 9% in the number of resident gorillas as there were eight births during the seven months when access to the sector was impossible, increasing their number from 92 to 100 gorillas in December 2012.

However, the report indicates that the number of patrols has diminished by 35% during 2012, from 5546 in 2011 to 3607 in 2012 due to the difficulty in accessing certain parts of the Park under the control of armed groups. The patrolling and awareness raising efforts have been concentrated in the Lake Edward zone as it is the most vulnerable sector of the Park due to the presence of armed groups and activities of illegal exploitation of natural resources.

The management authority has equipped itself with bloodhounds to track down the poachers and seized nine fire arms, dismantled 1064 traps, seized 225 canoes and destroyed more than 500 poachers' camps.

b) Implementation of the corrective measures

In this unstable and extremely complex context, the implementation of the corrective measures has not progressed as expected. The management authority has attempted to establish the urgent actions to protect the lives of the staff and to avoid an irreversible loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The State Party indicates that the conflict situation has had a negative impact on the dialogue initiated by UN-HABITAT and the Park authorities with the local populations for the peaceful resolution of encroachment issues. The illegal occupation of the property and the illegal exploitation of the natural resources have increased in 2012 despite guard patrols. The local populations can no longer enjoy the financial benefits generated from tourism as they have been suspended since May 2012, whereas the entrance numbers were high in 2011 and in the first quarter of 2012.

In the framework of the project "Preservation of the biodiversity in armed conflict zones", funded by Belgium, UNESCO and the International Organization for Migration (OIM), have implemented a project for the peaceful delocalization of the State administrations illegally established in the property at Lubiriha/Kasindi. This support has enabled the restoration of the presence of the Park authority thanks to the strong signal given to the populations illegally installed in the two sectors (west sector and Kilolirwe), demonstrating that measures have been taken to enforce respect for the Park.

The community conservation activities have continued despite the context, and the construction of the hydroelectric power station at Mutwanga is progressing. A system for the canalization of water was established at Rumangabo in July 2012 and the Rumangabo-Bukima road has been repaired. The report indicates that the renewable energy programme has continued with the production and distribution of briquettes at Goma and reforestation activities are underway.

c) Petroleum exploration

The report informs that since obtaining the Certificate of Environmental Acceptability, the SOCO Company has carried out missions in the Park to install the teams to conduct the campaign for the gathering of aeromagnetic and aerogravimetric data. However, the overflying of the Park by helicopter for the acquisition of the data has not yet begun due to the conflict. The State Party report indicates that the TOTAL Company, having acquired exploration rights for Block III that also overlaps a part of the property, has not yet contacted the Park authorities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the Internet site for TOTAL indicates that a campaign for the acquisition of aeromagnetic and aerogravimetric data was carried out in August 2012 in the northern part of the Block, outside the Park.

The World Heritage Centre wrote, in October 2012, to the Ministry of Hydrocarbons of the DRC, to SOCO and to TOTAL, to transmit Decision **36 COM 7A.4** and specifically the appeal of the Committee that requested TOTAL and SOCO to subscribe to the commitments, already undertaken by SHELL, not to undertake any mining or oil explorations or exploitations within the boundaries of World Heritage properties. To date, the World Heritage Centre has received no response from TOTAL. Only the SOCO Company responded, in December 2012, to inform that it already applied its own "Ethical code and conduct of business" and that its activities in the Park were authorized by the Congolese Government.

The report provides no information on the decisions taken at State level regarding the exclusion from the Park of the oil authorizations attributed to these two companies. Moreover, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the project for the new Hydrocarbons Code could permit petroleum exploration in protected areas, including World Heritage properties.

In addition, the Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT), in a press release dated 8 August 2012, indicated that petroleum exploration was necessary for the RDC to dispose of reliable information on the exploitable oil resources in the sub-soil of the Park. He also informed that based on these results, the Congolese Government would take the decision of degazetting a part of the Park for oil exploitation or renounce all exploitation in the Park.

The World Heritage Centre has not officially received the scope study, a preliminary study defining the terms of reference of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEE), that was

presented by the mandated experts to the MECN in October 2012. This study has not yet been approved by the Congolese authorities, which will engender delays in beginning the SEE and the recommendations that guide a decision regarding petroleum exploitation.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee express, once again, its deep concern regarding the degradation of the security situation that has serious repercussions on the state of conservation of the property, with notably the loss of control of a part of the property invaded by armed militia, the increase in poaching, and the illegal occupation of several parts of the Park. They consider that if security is not reestablished there is a risk that the progress accomplished over the last years by the management authority in the implementation of the corrective measures is completely lost. They note the courage of the staff who ensure the surveillance of the Park, often endangering their lives. They recall the commitments undertaken by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration in January 2011, in respect of the security situation of the sites and the operational capacity of the ICCN.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recommend that the Committee reiterate its deep concern that the State Party has not yet revised the authorization of petroleum exploration permits in the Park, as requested in its Decision **36 COM 7A.4** and as regards the declaration of the Minister of Environment indicating that the government envisages degazetting a part of the Park for petroleum exploitation. They note that the delisting of a part of the property would have an irreversible and serious impact on its Outstanding Universal Value and could contribute to its removal from the World Heritage List.

Finally, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the security situation and the pursuit of petroleum exploration emphasize the fact that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property remains extremely threatened despite the important efforts of the management authority to ensure the conservation of the property. Consequently, they recommend maintaining the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and request the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: **37 COM 7A.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.4** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in operations for the protection of the Park;*
4. *Expresses its grave concern as to the degradation of the security situation that has serious repercussions on the state of conservation of the property, notably the loss of control of a part of the property, the increase in organized and armed poaching, and the illegal occupation of several parts of the property with the risk of cancelling the progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures;*
5. *Recalls the commitments taken by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, notably regarding the security of the World Heritage properties and the strengthening of ICCN operational capacities;*

6. *Reiterates its deep concern* that the State Party has not yet revised the authorizations for petroleum exploration in the Park, as requested in its Decision **36 COM 7A.4**, and on the consequences of the declaration of the Minister of Environment indicating that the government envisaged de-zatting a part of the Park for petroleum exploitation;
7. *Expresses its serious concern* regarding the project for a new Hydrocarbons Code that would allow petroleum exploitation in protected areas, including World Heritage properties, and *requests* the State Party to renounce this project;
8. *Reiterates its request* to the State Party to cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property and *recalls* the incompatibility of oil and mining exploitation and exploration with World Heritage status;
9. *Also recalls* its appeal to the TOTAL and SOCO companies to subscribe to the commitments already accepted by SHELL and ICMM (International Council on Mining and Metals) not to undertake petroleum or mining exploration or exploitation within World Heritage properties, and its request to States Parties to the Convention to do their utmost to ensure that the mining or petroleum companies established on their territories do not damage World Heritage properties, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;
10. *Also requests* the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and notably the status of the petroleum exploration projects and the impact of the security situation on the property and, if necessary, to revise the corrective measures and their timetable;
11. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, **by 1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update of the progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
12. *Decides* to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;
13. ***Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(x)

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

1997 to present

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Proposed, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

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

International Assistance
Total amount granted: USD 103,400
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

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

Previous monitoring missions
1996 and May 2006: UNESCO World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material
See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

On 25 February 2013, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property, with summary information on the implementation of corrective measures.

As mentioned in the 2012 report, the return of the "Simba" armed group has revived the climate of insecurity in the Reserve. This group is involved in poaching, notably elephants, and illegal mining. On 24 June 2012, during the 36th session, the headquarters of the Reserve suffered a violent attack by the Simba: six people (including two Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN) guards) were killed, fourteen okapi in captivity were slaughtered, and the facilities and infrastructure of the headquarters were looted and destroyed by the rebels. A joint military operation of MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC) and FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) was carried out to secure the area. Since then, FARDC soldiers are present along the road which crosses the Reserve to dissuade the armed groups from launching additional major attacks. The guards returned to the Reserve at the end of August, while the technical and scientific staff returned there in October 2012, although security remains very uncertain. Attacks against guards, local communities and the patrol stations continue sporadically. The current circumstances of insecurity have not allowed the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to undertake the reactive

monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012).

- a) *Continue efforts to solve the problems of soldiers of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) involved in poaching*

The State Party notes the organization of joint patrols with the army in the eastern and southwest sectors of the Reserve which are under the supervision of the ICCN. These operations led to the seizure of 28 guns, 665 cartridges and 26 tusks, and the arrest of four suspects.

- b) *Officially cancel all artisanal mining rights, as well as those, encroaching on the property, granted by the Mining Cadastre*

The report states that since the June attack, almost all the mining sites that were evacuated in 2006 were re-occupied by Simba rebels. No progress has been made in the cancellation of mining titles granted by the Cadastre, encroaching on the property. Nevertheless, the results of the Conference on "Governance and transparency in the mining sector" held in Lubumbashi in January 2013 must be stressed. (See the General Report on the World Heritage properties of the DRC in WHC-13/37COM/7A.Add).

- c) *Take measures to mitigate the impacts of increased traffic in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve,*

and

- d) *Legalize and increase the scope of the pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, including obtaining the right to close the RN4 to traffic at night and set up a toll system*

The State Party emphasizes the provincial government's refusal to close the N4 to night traffic inside the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. However, talks between the managing authority and the provincial government should be re-initiated in 2013. The report also notes an increase in immigration to the site since a recent attack on the city of Mombassa.

- e) *Finalize and approve the management plan for the property*

Due to the difficult security situation, no progress has been made with this work. The draft Management Plan and the Land-Use Plan, available since 2012, have therefore not been submitted to stakeholders.

- f) *Integrate the activities of the Immigration Control Committees (ICC) and the Local Committees for Monitoring and Conservation of Natural Resources (CLSCN) in management activities of the livelihood zones*

The report provides no information on this corrective measure.

- g) *Continue efforts to strengthen surveillance*

The security situation has led to the interruption of all surveillance activities, following the evacuation of personnel from the Reserve in June. Since October 2012, the Managing Authority has been gradually regaining control of areas around the Epulu Station and the southwest sector of the Reserve. In addition, a surveillance plan has been established, surveillance stations have been reopened and illegal settlements destroyed. However, it should be noted that much of the Reserve is not yet under ICCN control. The report also notes that the deployment of a large number of soldiers, within and on the periphery, is a threat to the property and it notes the lack of commitment of the Kisangani military authorities to eradicate armed poaching.

- h) *Halt the illegal traffic of timber, minerals and ivory through its north-eastern border*

The State Party considers that the main problem in halting the illegal trafficking of natural resources is the continual rise in the price of ivory on the international and domestic market. This market is fuelled by strong demand from buyers located in large towns near the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Kinshasa.

i) Develop and implement a zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property

The report indicates the extension of the zoning system that enabled the delimitation of 27 agricultural areas and 22 hunting areas in the Reserve, as well as ongoing consultations to define the limits of the future strict conservation zone. However, it gives no information on the forest areas.

j) Wildlife inventory

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report of the 2010/2011 inventory, implemented with the technical support of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), has recently been published. The report shows a further reduction in elephant populations at the site, with a decrease in density of 30%. The distribution zone of elephants has been further reduced, and they are increasingly concentrated at the centre of the Reserve, which seems to be more secure. The report also shows that the population of chimpanzees, a species little hunted in the region, is stable. The density of small ungulates decreased while that of okapi has increased.

k) Support to the property following the security crisis

The State Party report notes that the support of German cooperation (KfW) to the site has been suspended due to safety concerns. Following the attack in June 2012, ICCN and the Coordinating Committee of the Site (CoCoSi) developed an emergency plan based on three priorities: aid to victims of attacks (guards, staff, population), urgent reconstruction of basic infrastructure, and support for joint-operations (FARDC-ICCN) to regain control of the Reserve. Through UNESCO's Rapid Response Facility (RRF) programme, financial aid was granted for the implementation of the reconstruction plan by the NGO partners at the site, Gillman International Conservation and WCS. A request for International Assistance Request for Emergency assistance under the World Heritage Fund, the main objective of which is to restore surveillance patrols and purchase equipment, was also approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for an amount of USD 75,000 in December 2012.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee express its deep concern about the dire security situation faced by the Okapi Wildlife Reserve staff and local populations, and which hampers conservation activities and the implementation of corrective measures. They note the total loss of control of the south of the Reserve and the buffer zone, invaded by Simba rebels, which has resulted in increased poaching and the reopening of artisanal mining sites. They also note that the presence of many military personnel and increased immigration in the property, indicated by the State Party, have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important efforts of the Managing Authority to regain control of the Reserve, often risking the lives of its staff. However, they consider that it is difficult for the guards to face heavily armed groups and that the lack of material support (arms and munitions) endangers their lives. They recall the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration in January 2011 in regard to site safety and strengthening the operational capacity of ICCN, notably the provision of arms and munitions for monitoring activities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the results of inventories of 2010/2011 show that the degradation of the OUV continues despite the considerable efforts of the managing authority to initiate the Emergency Plan for the Reserve, and they consider that the insecurity

will further aggravate the situation. They therefore recommend maintaining the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and propose to reinstate the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Expresses its deep concern at the continued deterioration of the security situation in the property, the total loss of control of the southern part and its buffer zone, invaded by Simba rebels, increased poaching and the reopening of artisanal mining sites and considers that if this situation continues it is likely to destroy all progress made since five years;
4. Notes with concern the results of the 2010/2011 inventories that show that the degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value continues and that the impact of the current insecurity may further aggravate the situation;
5. Expresses its appreciation to the field staff of the site who, at great risk, continue efforts for the conservation of the site, and notes that the guards continue to lack the necessary material support, arms and munitions, to deal with heavily armed poachers;
6. Recalls the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration in January 2011, notably securing World Heritage properties and the strengthening of the operational capacity of the Congolese wildlife authority ICCN, including the provision of material support, arms and munitions for monitoring activities;
7. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures and the emergency plan of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve to halt the degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and begin its rehabilitation;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation permits, to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of corrective measures, to evaluate the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and if necessary to revise the corrective measures and their implementation schedule accordingly, taking into account the evolution of the situation on the ground;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on progress made in the implementation of corrective measures, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
10. Decides to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
11. Also decides to retain the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger

9. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Current conservation issues

Since the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, the security situation in the eastern DRC has gradually deteriorated, and the political and security context has strongly influenced the implementation of corrective measures in the four properties located in that region. Salonga National Park is the only World Heritage property unaffected by this upsurge of violence as it is not located in the area of armed conflict and because it still benefits from repercussions of the Bonobo security operation for the property, launched in October 2011.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that despite the security situation, the staff of the ICCN managing authority continues their conservation efforts for the sites. However, they recognize that the restoration of the integrity and preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the DRC properties depend on national security, which is not under the sole authority of ICCN and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT).

The State Party report highlights the resurgence of commercial poaching of elephants for ivory, which is growing day by day and decimating the elephant populations in the five properties, and recalls that a strong mobilization of the international community is needed to curb this menace. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the data presented at the last Conference of the Parties to the CITES Convention, held in Bangkok in March 2013, shows that in 2011, 90% of elephant carcasses inventoried in the 5 World Heritage properties of the DRC had been poached. They note that the problem of elephant poaching affects a large part of the natural World Heritage properties in Africa (see also the introduction to Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add).

In response to decision **36 COM 7A.36** requesting the Congolese authorities to ensure the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration and a Strategic Action Plan, and to create without delay an Inter-ministerial Committee, in December 2012 the Congolese authorities put in place a framework for inter-ministerial consultation, under the supervision of MECNT. It met for the first time on 9 January 2013 with the participation of MECNT, ICCN, a representative of the Presidency of the Republic, the Deputy-Prime Minister and Defense Minister, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action. This meeting analyzed the security situation in the DRC protected areas, threats to the sites and mitigating measures to be taken by the government. The creation of the commission should be endorsed by ministerial decree in 2013.

In addition, on 23 January 2013, ICCN organized a meeting with representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN, donors, the advisor to the Minister of the Environment for Protected Areas, the Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army, all ICCN executives and World Heritage site managers, to assess the commitments of the Kinshasa Declaration and the three-year Strategic Action Plan, adopted at the high level meeting in January 2011. The meeting concluded that only about 30% of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) had been implemented. ICCN explained that the government's lack of monitoring the commitments of the Declaration of Kinshasa was linked to the political and security situation the country has been facing for more than 18 months. Based on its evaluation of the implementation of corrective measures, ICCN estimated that a two-year extension was needed to achieve the objectives of this Plan.

In regard to problems related to the attribution by the Mining Cadastre of mining concessions in several properties, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that, at the initiative of the Head of State, the Congolese Government organized a conference on "governance and transparency in the mining sector", held in Lubumbashi on 30 and 31 January 2013. Among the recommendations of the conference, they note in particular the recommendation to respect the limits of protected areas and the application of the law on

environmental protection. To monitor the implementation of the recommendations of Lubumbashi, the Directorates General of ICCN and the Mining Cadastre decided to establish a cooperative framework and meet in April 2013.

Concerning oil exploration, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party has so far taken no action to cancel the oil exploration concessions granted to the SOCO and TOTAL companies in Virunga National Park. In addition, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN have recently received information on a new project for a Hydrocarbons Code that would allow oil exploitation in the name of "public interest" in protected areas, including World Heritage properties. To this end, in April 2013, the Centre wrote to the Minister of the Environment to request him to ensure that this new code, like the Mining Code, includes provisions to comply with the 1969 Nature Conservation Law and to ensure the protection status of World Heritage Sites. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also note that the State Party has not, to date, provided the information requested by the Committee in respect of oil exploration blocks established in the central basin, many of which overlap with the Salonga National Park.

Regarding the establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism, the eighth meeting of the Steering Committee for the process of creating a trust fund for protected areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was held on Thursday 28 June 2012 under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Environment. The meeting finalized the preparation of the operational phase of the project, as well as several documents governing the operation of the future Fund, also called the "Okapi Fund", the actual creation of which should be effective by July 2013. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN further note the continued financial and technical support to the World Heritage sites by donors such as Germany, Spain, the European Commission, the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and Belgium, as well as by conservation NGOs.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the creation of the inter-ministerial committee and the establishment of a framework agreement with the Mining Cadastre. They also note that the evaluation of the Kinshasa Declaration shows a low rate of implementation of the Strategic Action Plan. They believe it is important to allocate the necessary resources to the newly created inter-ministerial committee, to enable the implementation of the Declaration of Kinshasa.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee express its deep concern about the Hydrocarbons Code project that would allow oil drilling in World Heritage properties. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to cancel oil exploration licenses already granted in Virunga National Park and to ensure that no oil exploration concession is granted to the Salonga National Park or in any other World Heritage site.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM A7.36** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Welcomes the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee, a framework agreement with the Mining Cadastre and the progress made in the establishment of the Trust Fund, also known as "Okapi Fund";*

4. Notes with concern the worsening of insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties in this region;
5. Reiterates its request to ensure the full implementation of the commitments made in the Declaration of Kinshasa, and the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan, and requests the State Party to allocate to the inter-ministerial committee, the necessary technical and financial means to ensure adequate monitoring;
6. Expresses its deep concern about the Hydrocarbons Code project that could make possible oil exploration activities in the protected areas and the World Heritage properties, contrary to the commitments made by the State Party in the Kinshasa Declaration and urges the State Party to ensure that the status of protection of World Heritage properties is maintained;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to review its mining and oil exploration and exploitation permits to exclude World Heritage properties, and not to grant them within the boundaries of the DRC properties, and recalls the incompatibility of mining and oil exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status;
8. Also warmly welcomes the support of donor countries to the conservation of the five DRC properties, and calls on the international community to continue its support in the implementation of the corrective measures and the Strategic Action Plan to create the conditions necessary for the rehabilitation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the five properties of the DRC;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the status of mining and oil exploration and exploitation permits which affect the World Heritage properties, as well as on the Hydrocarbons Code, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1978

Criteria
(vii) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
1996 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
The depletion of the *Walia ibex* population and of other large mammals, the phenomenon of encroachment and the impacts of road construction

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4085>

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1057>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4085>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 293,171

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2006 and 2009 : joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2013, the State Party submitted a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, addressing remaining corrective measures that had not been completed at the time of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission in October 2009, as well as other recommendations of the 2006 and 2009 monitoring missions.

- a) *Improve the on-the-ground demarcation of the proposed extension of the property and finalize its gazetting into national law*

The State Party reports that the proposal to legalize the new park boundaries has been sent to the Council of Ministers for final approval and are expected to be gazetted by the House of Parliament within three months (i.e. by May 2013). The State Party acknowledges that after re-gazetting, an important step will be to request a modification of the boundaries of the World Heritage site in order to coincide with the newly established park boundaries, as the new areas included are critical parts of the range of the *Walia ibex* and *Ethiopian wolf*, which justify the property's inscription under criterion (x). The World Heritage Centre notes that a request for international assistance to provide consultant support for preparing the boundary modification request has been approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on 26 February 2013. Funds have been decentralized to the UNESCO office in Addis Ababa.

- b) *Review the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy, identify elements of it for immediate implementation under existing projects and programmes, and seek additional support for implementation of other priority actions*

The State Party notes that the necessary financial means to implement the grazing reduction strategy, and in particular developing a zoning scheme in an integrated approach with participation of local stakeholders are still lacking. In the meantime the State Party, with support from Austria, is taking measures to reduce grazing pressure within the property, through on-farm fodder production, introduction of zero-grazing (cut-and-carry) livestock management techniques and introduction of improved livestock breeds. In addition, park patrolling has been intensified to restrict livestock grazing in core wildlife areas. Animal health clinics have also been constructed and equipped in the buffer zone of the park, which are offering vaccinations as well as other treatments for livestock in and around the park and are

instrumental in controlling diseases, including measures against the transmission of rabies from domestic dogs potentially threatening the Ethiopian wolf.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the importance of introducing the zoning foreseen in the grazing strategy and recall that the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage In Danger (DSOCR) requests the establishment of no-grazing zones covering 30% of the park area, and 'forage harvesting zones' (for cut-and-carry forage production) covering a further 20% of the park.

- c) *Develop alternative livelihood opportunities for those currently living within the park to enable a systematic reduction in the amount of illegal cultivation and the number of park residents*

The State Party reports that the alternative livelihood promotion intervention activities carried out by the Ethiopian Government and the Austrian Government funded project are starting to show results in that some of the off-farm trainees have created assets and eventually some members of the local communities decided to move to nearby towns in search of better living. Both Federal and Regional States remain fully committed towards reducing the number of park residents by providing alternative options to the affected communities, but the low level of funding available has so far limited the results, and so far the successful voluntary relocation in 2008/9 of residents from Akwasiye Village has not yet been replicated elsewhere. The livelihood project proposal developed about six years ago is believed to need revision, and the State Party considers that with half of the originally proposed amount of USD 8.7 million, it could make a significant difference in creating alternative livelihood options for the community living inside the park and ensuring sound conservation of the property.

- d) *Donor conference*

The State Party reports that together with the World Heritage Centre and other partners it successfully organised a donor conference in Addis Abeba on 30 October 2012 in order to seek the necessary funding for implementation of the grazing and alternative livelihood strategies, which are key to fulfilling the conditions set out in the corrective measures. It concluded that almost all the invited governmental, non-governmental, private and international organizations and individuals who attended the conference showed their willingness to participate and play their own role depending on their area of interest. The World Heritage Centre notes the continued support from the Austrian Development Cooperation for the property. Following the donor conference, the World Heritage Centre with support from Spain and UNDP Small Grant Facility in Ethiopia, has been working with the State Party to set up community conservation activities at the site using the experience of the COMPACT project, which successfully piloted such activities in pilot sites around the world.

- e) *Other conservation issues – wildlife population growth, road re-alignment, and management capacity*

The State Party reports that numbers of key wildlife species have continuously increased over the past 10 years as a regular internal census shows, with current population number estimated at 899 *Walia ibex* and 102 Ethiopian wolf. It considers that the observed growth indicates ongoing progress with the improvement of the park's management.

The State Party reports that a re-alignment of the Debarq - Mekan Berhan - Dilyibza Road is being constructed by the Ethiopian Roads Authority, thus avoiding the current stretch between Buyit Ras and the Bwahit Pass, which is passing through the fragile afro-montane habitats of the park. The report further notes that another alternative alignment is also being discussed for the main road from Debarq to Adi Arkay, currently crossing the Lemalimo area which was included in the revised park boundaries.

Finally, the State Party reports that emphasis continues towards improving park management capacity, and that Government budget allocation for the Park has quadrupled from 2004/05 to 2011/12, when it reached over 2.2 million Ethiopian Birr (equivalent to 118,000 USD),

against an income from tourism (approximately 17,000 visitors per year) reaching nearly 9 million ETB (equivalent to USD 480,000), which is about equally shared by government and local organizations.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee welcome the State Party's efforts to implement the outstanding corrective measures. They note that the re-gazettal of the park boundaries is imminent and are willing to provide advice to prepare the boundaries modification request for the property once the re-gazettal has been completed and for which international assistance from the World Heritage Fund has been approved.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the successful organization of the donor conference and emphasize that it will now be important for the State Party to follow up with the interested donors and develop concrete projects in support of the implementation of the alternative livelihoods and grazing strategies. They highlight that it is crucial to secure the additional financial resources needed to implement the remaining corrective measures to reduce the grazing pressure, cultivation and the numbers of residents in the property in order to secure the long-term ecological integrity of the property and to create the conditions to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

They welcome the decision of the State Party to revise the initial livelihood project proposal in order to downscale its budget and make the best use of the available financial resources and also recall the recommendation of the 2009 monitoring mission to review the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy in order to identify priorities for immediate implementation. They suggest that the State Party could request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to assist with this if deemed necessary.

They express the hope that following the donor conference the financial resources can be secured to achieve this and recommend that the State Party establishes a program to monitor and report on the six indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger to evaluate progress in restoring the ecological integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property. They recommend that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Welcomes the report by the State Party that the re-gazettal of the Simien Mountains National Park in its revised boundaries is almost completed as well as the efforts to strengthen the management effectiveness of the property and to implement the recommendations of previous monitoring missions;*
4. *Also welcomes the successful organization of the donor conference and requests the State Party to follow up with the interested donors in order to mobilize the additional funding necessary to implement key outstanding corrective measures, in particular the grazing pressure reduction strategy and alternative livelihoods strategies;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the support already provided by different donors to assist the State Party with the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular by the*

Austrian Development Cooperation, Spain and UNDP and renews its call to the International Community to increase the financial support for this effort;

6. *Urges the State Party to continue its current efforts to implement the three remaining outstanding corrective measures, as requested by the Committee in its previous decisions, in particular:*
 - a) *finalize the gazettal of the extended park boundaries into national law,*
 - a) *implement an effective grazing reduction strategy,*
 - b) *provide alternative livelihoods for those who currently depend on cultivation and other forms of resource use within the property;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to review the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy in order to identify priorities for immediate implementation as recommended by the 2009 monitoring mission;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to provide advice to the State Party on the preparation of a proposal for boundary modification of the World Heritage property once the re-gazettal is completed, to reflect the new boundaries of the National Park and for which financial assistance has been provided from the World Heritage Fund;*
9. *Recommends that the State Party establish a programme to monitor and report on the six indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger to evaluate progress in restoring the ecological integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress accomplished in the implementation of the outstanding corrective measures and the recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;*
11. ***Decides to retain the Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
2007

Criteria
(ix) (x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood) and its secondary impacts; poaching of endangered lemurs were identified as threats for the site's integrity.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 125,000

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,890,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2011: Joint monitoring mission World Heritage Centre / IUCN

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) *Encroachment;*
- b) *Fire;*
- c) *Hunting and poaching;*
- d) *Artisanal mining;*
- e) *Illegal logging.*

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257>

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 1 February 2013, complemented by an additional report in March 2013. The reports give a brief overview of ongoing management operations and efforts to implement the four urgent corrective measures adopted by Decision **35 COM 7A.10**. The additional report provides data on the trends in illegal logging in Marojejy National Park (MjNP) and Masoala National Park (MsNP) as well as data on the management effectiveness and threat levels to all components of the property.

The following progress is reported on the implementation of corrective measures:

- a) *Finalize the registration of all existing stocks of wood and ensure their immediate seizure*

The State Party report notes that a multi-actor (administration, civil society, donors) and multi-sector (environment, forests, justice, armed forces) steering committee has been established in August 2012 under the direction of the Ministry of Environment with a mission to prepare and implement an action plan for improving governance of the precious wood sector. The report notes that the Prime Minister, in May 2012, requested technical and financial assistance from its development partners to help addressing this issue.

Following this request, the World Bank agreed to finance three studies: one to review the legal framework of the forestry sector, one to assess the feasibility and mechanisms of securing the illegal stocks of precious wood and one to determine the mechanism for the elimination of stocks, including the terms and conditions of a possible auction sale. The World Heritage Centre was able to provide comments on the Terms of Reference of these studies, which are currently being tendered and are expected to be completed by the end of 2013. The result of these studies will be discussed by all stakeholders and inform a final Government decision on how to deal with the illegal rosewood stocks. The State Party report also mentions that an independent observer will be engaged following completion of these

studies. The sale of seized stocks will not be carried out until the studies mandated by the World Bank have been completed.

The State Party also notes that the seizure of illegally cut wood was carried out in 2011 and 2012 and that several tonnes have been seized. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no precise figures are provided concerning the amount of wood seized, and no indication is provided of the proportion of total illegal stocks seized to date. The State Party further provides figures on the number of illegally cut precious wood in the property, showing a clear decline, with almost no rosewood logging but an increase in palissander logging in MjNP and reduced levels of illegal logging in MsNP.

- b) *Eliminate all of these stocks within one year after the seizure, with no possibility of renewing the stock through an appropriate process for the liquidation and control of the stock, resulting in the complete elimination of all wood stored within 18 months*

As explained above, the State Party with the help of the World Bank and its technical partners has launched a clear process which should lead to a seizure and elimination of all illegal wood stocks. No precise timeframe is given in the State Party report, but the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider the process should be completed by the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee.

- c) *Finalize the inscription file for the *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species endemic to Madagascar in Appendix III of the CITES and submit the inscription of these species in Appendix II of the CITES to the next Conference of States Parties (COP) in order to strengthen their protection status*

At the request of the State Party, and after a vote of all Parties, all species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* occurring in Madagascar were added to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at COP16, Bangkok, in March 2013. The decision refers specifically to logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets rather than other types of products of these species (more than 90% of products exported are logs and timber). The decision means that these products can continue to be traded internationally but with controls in place regarding level of trade being non-detrimental and permits required. It is hoped that this decision will facilitate control of illegal trade. The State Party report further notes that discussions to curb illegal rosewood trafficking are underway between the Malagasy and Chinese forestry administrations with the objective to develop an action plan.

- d) *Enforce the implementation of the Decree of March 24, 2010 and the Decrees of November 2000 and April 2006*

The State Party report notes that in follow up to the Decree 2010-141, the establishment of a 'special jurisdiction' to treat cases related to precious wood trafficking is foreseen in Article 12 of Order 2011-001, but does not clarify whether this was carried out.

The State Party report further notes that the Prime Minister, in September 2012, promised exemplary sanctions against offenders to curb the illegal trafficking, including any involved high officials, and forbade the delivery of permits to transport stocks under any pretext.

The State Party report further notes that communication and sensitisation sessions have been held in the six villages most involved in precious wood smuggling adjacent to Marojejy and Masoala National Parks.

- e) *Other conservation issues*

With regards to reports of artisanal sapphire miners threatening Zahamena National Park and the adjacent Ankenihena-Zahamena Corridor, the State Party notes that the first illegal miners, numbering 1500 individuals, have been pushed back to the southern buffer zone of the Park. Surrounding areas, notably Ankenihena-Zahamena Corridor, have been secured by patrols carried out by the authorities and local communities. A mixed force composed of the military, gendarmerie and police has, since May 2012, identified affected sites and expelled

the miners. All mining camps have been burned and a mining area of five hectares has been abandoned.

With regards to surveillance and law enforcement within the property, the State Party report notes that staff of Madagascar National Parks (MNP) have been trained to verbalise offenders, but notes that there is still no agreement with the Ministry of Justice and the Forest administration to give full judicial powers to park rangers. Local community members are reported to take part in patrols with mixed brigades following the establishment in 2012 of local management committees.

The State Party also reports that a standardized protocol for ecological monitoring to be used in all components of the property has been developed and that surveillance flights will be undertaken over five components of the property (excluding Marojejy). Aerial surveillance will start in 2013. The report also presents results of a threat and management effectiveness analysis of the different components of the property. The average level of threat across the property has devolved from very high in 2008 to high in 2012, with the most affected component being MsNP. The management effectiveness index has also improved slightly.

With the support of the Government of Norway, the World Heritage Centre assistance will very soon start implementing, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office of Nairobi, a project to assist the State Party with further implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important progress in the implementation of the corrective measures. They recommend that the Committee welcome the political will as shown by the Prime Minister to find a solution for the illegal stocks of rosewood and take note of the preparatory studies which are underway to inform this solution. They also recommend that the results be reviewed and discussed by the relevant stakeholders in order to reach a broad consensus on the way forward. They note that a solution for eliminating the illegal stocks is key to create the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also note the decision by COP16 of CITES to include all species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* occurring in Madagascar in Appendix II of CITES which sets controls for international trade. It is hoped that this will help to control illegal trade of the species. They further recommend that the State Party in its next report provides quantitative data on the progress towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. They recommend that the World Heritage Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.10** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Welcomes important progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures as well as its clear political will as expressed by the Prime Minister to eliminate all illegal stocks of rosewood;*

4. Takes note of the preparatory studies which are underway to identify possible solutions and requests that the results are reviewed and discussed by the relevant stakeholders in order to arrive at a broad consensus on the way forward to eliminate the illegal rosewood stocks and prevent illegal logging in the future;
5. Considers that eliminating the illegal stocks is a key condition for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Also welcomes the decision by 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to include all species of Dalbergia and Diospyros occurring in Madagascar in Appendix II of CITES and requests all State Parties to rigorously implement that decision and ensure that illegal timber from Madagascar is both forbidden and cannot enter their domestic markets;
7. Also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2011 monitoring mission;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the entire serial property, including an evaluation of the implementation of corrective measures, and data on progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
9. **Decides to retain Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1991

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

1992 to present

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

The region having recently suffered from military conflict and civil disturbance, the Government of Niger requested the Director- General of UNESCO to launch an appeal for the protection of the site

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/325>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/325>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/325>

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4623>

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 174,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2005: IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability and civil strife;
- b) Poverty;
- c) Management constraints;
- d) Ostrich poaching;
- e) Soil erosion;
- f) Demographic pressure;
- g) Livestock pressure;
- h) Pressure on forestry resources.

Illustrative material

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

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

In February 2013, the State Party submitted a summary report on the state of conservation of the property. The report provides an update on progress made since 2012 in the implementation of corrective measures and first results of the preliminary inventory of *January 2013*.

a) Implementation of corrective measures

As was the case in the reports of 2010, 2011 and 2012, the 2013 report provides little new information on the implementation of corrective measures.

The State Party reports however that the efforts being made for land restoration, and the combat against wood collecting and poaching for commercial purposes have begun to bear fruit thanks especially to a return of stability in the region. This has made possible the return of forest officers in the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (ATNR) and its periphery, the conduct of activities within the property in the context of the Co-Management of Resources in the Air and Ténéré Nature Reserve project (COGERAT), and awareness raising by eco-guards who contribute to better governance of the site.

The State Party stresses that the current difficulties are mainly related to the lack of mobilization of additional financial resources for the completion of corrective actions, and that the support of the international community is essential for the implementation of certain measures.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that despite some positive aspects, the restoration of the property still involves some important conservation issues, of which poaching, illegal wood cutting and the presence of mining-industry-related activities in and around the property. In addition, IUCN notes that there are signs of armed conflict in the property such as the presence of land mines, and that an extensive mine clearance programme should be undertaken for the site to regain its integrity.

b) Inventories of fauna and flora resources

The State Party reports that a simplified preliminary inventory of fauna and flora resources was conducted in January 2013. The inventory mission supported by the IUCN Species Survival Commission confirmed the existence of populations of some ungulate species such as Barbary sheep and Dorcas gazelle. Based on the results of the simplified preliminary inventory of fauna and flora resources, the State Party considers that the Outstanding

Universal Value (OUV) of the property is well in evidence, but that much remains to be done to maintain the integrity of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN warmly welcome this preliminary inventory mission, the first in a decade due to armed conflict and recurrent insecurity. The inventory mission, while indicating the existence of populations of some ungulate species such as Barbary sheep or Dorcas gazelle, did not however improve knowledge of the critically endangered species that make ATNR an exceptional site. In addition, the presence in the site of some flagship species such as the Saharan cheetah, addax and Dama gazelle has not been confirmed.

The results of the preliminary inventory mission highlighted the need to implement a detailed inventory of the property to identify priority conservation activities to be carried out and complete the information obtained during the preliminary inventory of January. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that a request for international assistance for this purpose was developed by the State Party, in close collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and submitted to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for approval.

IUCN noted the importance of a detailed inventory providing information on the presence of carnivorous species given the problems related to the conflict between breeders and predators reported by several observers.

c) Mining and oil exploitation

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also note that the State Party does not provide information on activities related to the mining and oil exploitation in and around the property which was requested by the Committee in its Decision **36 COM 7A.11**.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the conditions of insecurity during the last rebellion (2006-2009), as well as continuous insecurity, have hampered the implementation of corrective measures and paved the way for extensive poaching which has gradually and strongly eroded the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property of 7.7 million hectares.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN stress that the lack of specific information in the State Party's report prevents a meaningful assessment of the implementation of corrective measures identified by the IUCN monitoring mission in 2005. They also note that the State Party reports that the current difficulties are mainly related to the lack of mobilization of additional financial resources for the completion of corrective measures, and that the support of the international community is essential for the implementation of certain measures. They recommend that the property be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee welcome favourably the fact that a preliminary inventory mission was conducted in January 2013 with the support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and note that a request for international assistance has been submitted to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for a more detailed inventory mission, as requested by the Committee on several occasions. They reiterate their recommendation that a reactive monitoring mission be organized as soon as the results of this inventory are available.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Regrets that the lack of precise information in the State Party's report prevents a meaningful assessment of the implementation of corrective measures identified by the IUCN monitoring mission of 2005 in response to Committee decisions;
4. Reiterates its deep concern about the serious deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property but notes with satisfaction the gradual return of security in the area;
5. Welcomes the organization of a preliminary inventory mission to the property with the support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and notes that this mission identified the existence of populations of certain ungulate species, but that it did not improve the knowledge of critically endangered species, and that it was not able to confirm the presence of flagship species in the site such as the Saharan cheetah, Addax and Dama gazelle;
6. Also notes that a request for international assistance has been submitted to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for a more detailed inventory mission, and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a monitoring mission led by IUCN to the property as soon as the results of the inventory are available, in order to:
 - a) assess its state of conservation and progress in the implementation of corrective measures,
 - b) define the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
 - c) update the corrective measures and set a timetable for their implementation;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify information regarding the existence of an oil concession in the property and recalls that mining and oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status;
8. Urges the State Party to continue and strengthen its efforts to fully implement all corrective measures, and in particular the anti-poaching combat, as well as the other recommendations made by the 2005 monitoring mission;
9. Also takes note of the of the State Party's report, in particular the fact that the current difficulties are mainly related to the lack of mobilization of additional financial resources for the completion of corrective measures , and reiterates its invitation to the International community to increase its support to the property;
10. Requests the State Party to assess the presence of land mines within the property resulting from the last rebellion in Niger (2006-2009), and to envisage demining operations as appropriate;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and in particular the implementation of corrective measures and other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, notably the complete study of endangered species within the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
12. **Decides to retain the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

2011

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 96,600.

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

2006: UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; 2007: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; April 2011: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Road construction;
- b) Agricultural encroachment;
- c) Illegal logging;
- d) Poaching;
- e) Institutional and governance weaknesses.

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167>

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2013, the State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including a draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger for adoption by the Committee, which was developed jointly with IUCN and its Species Survival Commission. No corrective measures are proposed yet by the State Party for adoption by the Committee.

a) *Road construction*

The State Party reports that it has contacted several international donors to raise funds for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the road network in the Bukit Barisan Mountain Range, as requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 7A.13**, and that it expects that 600,000 USD will be available in 2013 to start the implementation of the SEA, which will take 18 months to complete. However, the State Party does not provide any information on whether a moratorium has been imposed on the construction of new roads that could negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

b) *Boundary demarcation, law enforcement, and governance*

The State Party reports that in 2012, 120 km of the boundary of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) have been reconstructed. It also reports continued conflicts with encroachers around Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), particularly in the Lembah Masurai District, where they remove boundary markers. A solution to this problem is still being sought, and in the meantime park rangers routinely maintain boundary markers (600 km maintained in 2012) and, as a preventive measure, plant fruit trees along the boundary (60 km planted in 2012) which can be harvested by local communities.

The State Party notes that the boundary of Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) was formally established by decree in 1997 with an area of 1,094,692 ha. In 2000, a new decree reduced the size of GLNP, which continues to cause different interpretations of the park boundaries by the park authorities and the provincial government. The Centre of Forest Boundary Consolidation is currently in the process of clarifying this issue. The State Party emphasizes that the area of GLNP which is inscribed on the List of World Heritage is based on the latter decree. Also on the basis of the latter decree, the entire boundary of GLNP in the Province of North Sumatra (372.55 km) has been reconstructed, while in the Province of Aceh, which includes the larger portion of GLNP, only 159.83 km have so far been reconstructed. The State Party further notes that, as in the case of KSNP, encroachers around GLNP have removed boundary markers, particularly in Southeast Aceh Regency.

The State Party provides detailed information on a number of efforts undertaken in recent years by the authorities (government, park authorities, police, army) to address encroachment, illegal logging and poaching, which have led to the apprehension and prosecution of a modest number of offenders in KSNP. Joint operations in BBSNP to reduce encroachment, with the participation of park staff, police, local government institutions, state attorney offices, state army, NGOs and local communities, have resulted in the voluntary relocation of 1217 households, and the destruction of 866 illegal huts and 12 illegal bridges. Furthermore, several operations conducted by GLNP authorities and police forces resulted in the destruction of 35,000 illegally cultivated rubber trees in approximately 200 ha, as well as the destruction of 10 ha of illegal oil palm and cocoa plantations. The State Party further provides information about arrests on charges of encroachment (7 people) and illegal logging (6 people) in GLNP, indicating the involvement of the Head of the Regional Disaster Management Agency of Southeast Aceh in a 40 ha encroachment, and the involvement of a local division of the army in illegal logging.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note with utmost concern that a recent report in the Jakarta Globe indicating that the Provincial Government of Aceh has proposed a new spatial plan which would convert 1.2 million ha of forests located near the property to mining, plantations, logging concessions and roads. On 2 May 2013, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting further information about this issue.

c) *Mining*

The State Party notes that the overlap between the mining areas of PT. Arustirta and PT. Aspiration Widya Chandra (1773 ha and 161 ha respectively) with GLNP is due to

ambiguities of the boundaries of GLNP (see paragraph (b) above), which are defined differently in different ministerial documents.

In relation to concerns raised in 2012 by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN about small scale illegal mining occurring within the property, the State Party notes that any mining within the property, including small scale, is prohibited by law.

d) *Wildlife monitoring*

The State Party provides a detailed account of wildlife monitoring activities conducted in recent years in all three components of the serial property, focussed in particular on Sumatran tiger, Sumatran elephant, Sumatran rhino and Sumatran orangutan. It notes that it has set up a new format of baseline data to carry out monitoring for these species, however, it is not clear if the population estimates provided in its report constitute the baseline data, as for most species these estimates cover only parts of the components of the property.

Tigers were recorded in all three parks in 2011 and 2012, with the highest number in KSNP, but does not provide tiger population trend data, nor does it provide information on levels of poaching of any of the key species.

Elephants are also encountered in all three parks, and survey data in BBSNP suggest a population decline in part of their range in 2012 compared to 2010. However, the State Party considers that the perceived decline may be a result of different survey methods. In GLNP, the State Party notes that the elephant population in Langkat Regency has fragmented into two blocks, probably as a result of the rampant illegal logging and encroachment in that area.

The State Party notes that in BBSNP, a 2012 rhino population survey concentrated on the area around the recently upgraded Sanggi – Bengkunat road with the aim to determine, among others, the effect of the road on rhino and other wildlife. Results show that rhino distribution is negatively affected by the road, as rhinos tend to avoid it. Other wildlife appears less affected. In GLNP, a camera trap survey held in early 2012 recorded 5 individual rhinos in one area, which is a significant finding as it is the first photographic evidence of the existence of rhinos in GLNP in 32 years. No rhino has been recorded in KSNP in a 2012 survey. However, the State Party notes that appropriate rhino habitat still remains in KSNP, and further surveys in different areas of the park are planned in 2013 to determine the existence of rhino.

Finally, the natural range of orangutans is restricted to the northern part of Sumatra, hence it is only found in GLNP. A survey conducted in 2011, which included degraded forests and forests up to an altitude of 1,500 metres, estimated the number of orangutans in GLNP at 6684 (4536 - 9861), which is significantly higher than the 2025 orangutans estimated in 2004. However, the State Party notes that this difference does not necessarily reflect an increase in the orangutan population, as previous surveys excluded degraded forests and forests above 900 metres. The 2011 survey further showed that total orangutan abundance is clearly higher in the western (Aceh) part of GLNP than in the eastern (North Sumatra) part.

e) *Ecosystem-based restoration plan and invasive species*

The State Party reports that in 2012, forest rehabilitation activities were carried out in KSNP, BBSNP, and GLNP, covering 11,895 ha, 13,500 ha, and 2,500 ha, respectively, by planting at least 26 different indigenous tree species. The activities were carried out by park authorities in cooperation with the army, which provided support in areas with difficult terrain or potential conflict. Further forest rehabilitation activities are planned in KSNP until 2014 included, but no information is provided on further planned activities in GLNP and BBSNP.

In regards to the invasive species *Meremia peltata*, which occurs in parts of BBSNP, the State Party notes experimental treatments that have taken place in 2012 to identify treatments with minimal environmental impact. Two projects for the removal of invasive species are planned for 2013.

f) *Emergency Action Plan and Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger*

The State Party notes that after the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, several workshops were organized at national and local level to further develop the draft Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the property. Among the outcomes of these workshops was a recommendation to improve the EAP to make sure that it is compatible with the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, while maintaining a focus on nature preservation as well as the prosperity of the people living in the area.

The State Party provided a draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, which was developed in cooperation with IUCN and its Species Survival Commission. It is noted that two of the indicators proposed (forest cover and population trend data for key species) will require comprehensive studies to establish baselines, while some indicators need to be further discussed and agreed between the State Party, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre.

g) *Other conservation issues – buffer zone and geothermal energy*

The State Party notes that GLNP and KSNP are currently undergoing the process of being designated National Strategic Areas (NSA), while BBSNP will start this process in 2013. The components of the property will form the core zones of these NSAs while the remaining area of the NSA will serve as a buffer zone. It is expected that these NSAs will effectively regulate planned and ongoing development located within their boundaries. It is further expected that the NSAs for all three components of the property will be prepared in time for the 2013 revision of the National Spatial Plan.

The State Party notes that due to the recent national energy crisis, it is considering the option of developing geothermal energy within the property, while endeavouring to minimize the resulting forest loss.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that there has been significant investment on the part of the State Party in addressing requests made by the Committee in previous decisions (**35 COM 7B.16** and **36 COM 7A.13**). The State Party reports a range of activities in terms of identifying and dealing with boundary issues (boundary demarcation, removal of encroaching settlements) and also reports having consulted extensively on its Emergency Action Plan. Though not yet finalized, significant progress has been made on the plan, and on the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. They recommend that the Committee request the State Party to invite as soon as possible an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assist the State Party to conclude, through consultation with the relevant institutions, the development of the Emergency Action Plan, the Desired state of conservation, and the Corrective Measures, and provide an agreed version of these documents to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2013.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the information provided by the State Party that funding for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the road network in the Bukit Barisan Mountain Range is expected to be released in 2013. However, they remain concerned that pressure from local governments for the construction of new roads remains high. They recommend that the Committee urge the State Party again to impose and maintain a moratorium on the construction of new roads that could compromise the outcomes of the SEA, until the SEA has been completed and its results translated into a legal framework to ensure they are applied. They also welcome the reported progress with the designation of the property's components as National Strategic Areas, and consider that this is an important step towards establishing an appropriate buffer zone and ensuring stronger oversight of spatial and economic planning in areas adjoining the property and support management of the property at a landscape level.

The three component national parks that comprise the property are the most important habitats for critically threatened iconic species explicitly recognized in the property's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the renewed investment on the part of the State Party in population monitoring for these species, but note that results obtained so far do not provide a property wide impression on overall trends.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN express concern about plans for developing geothermal energy inside the property, and they recommend that the Committee request the State Party to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments of any such plans, including an assessment of their potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre before any decisions are taken that are difficult to reverse, in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Finally, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes progress on several items previously requested by the Committee, but notes that these have not yet been finalized, and urges the State Party to continue its efforts, namely to:
 - a) Finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre,
 - b) Draft corrective measures for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN,
 - c) Complete the Emergency Action Plan, ensuring its complementarity with the Desired state of conservation;
4. Also welcomes the announcement that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the road network in the Bukit Barisan Mountain Range is expected to proceed in 2013, and also urges the State Party to impose a moratorium on the construction of new roads that could compromise the outcomes of the SEA, until it has been completed;
5. Further welcomes the reported progress with the designation of the property's components as National Strategic Areas and its implications for broader spatial and economic planning beyond the property's boundaries;
6. Notes the detailed results obtained from various ecological monitoring efforts, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts, with the objective of developing a property wide understanding of the population trends for key species;

7. Further urges the State Party to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) of any plans to develop geothermal energy within the property boundaries, including an assessment of their potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre before any decisions are taken that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Urges furthermore the State Party to continue to take measures to address the other main threats noted by the Committee in previous decisions, including encroachment, poaching, and governance issues that complicate the resolution of these threats;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission as soon as possible, in order to conclude through consultation with the relevant institutions, including the World Heritage Centre, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the corrective measures, and the Emergency Action Plan, and provide an agreed version of these documents to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2013**;
10. Further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, including a report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
11. Decides to retain the **Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

2009 – Present

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

Sale and lease of public lands for the purposes of development within the property leading to the destruction of mangrove and marine ecosystems.

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1825>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 140,000: i) USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility for the monitoring of unauthorized activities in the Bladen Nature Reserves which were impacting the property; ii) USD 30,000 for emergency conservation actions in favour of the critically endangered wide sawfish (2010); iii) USD 80,000 in support of public use planning and site financing strategy development for the Blue Hole Natural Monument (2008-2009).

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission; February 2013: IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Sale and lease of public lands within the property;
- b) Destruction of fragile ecosystems due to resort / housing development;
- c) Oil concessions within the marine area;
- d) Introduced species.

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

From 4 to 9 February 2013, an IUCN monitoring mission visited the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012). The mission report is available online at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/37COM/documents>.

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 22 February 2013. The State Party also submitted a draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which was agreed on by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. This will be examined by the World Heritage Committee under Item 8 of the Agenda of its 37th session.

The State Party's state of conservation report contains an overview of the progress made towards addressing the Committee's decision adopted at its 36th session and in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session:

- a) *Implement the necessary legal measures to guarantee the permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property, and the cessation of mangrove cutting, coral dredging and other associated real estate development activities*

The report provides no information on whether there is a legal instrument in place that guarantees that no sale and lease of lands within the boundaries of the property would occur in the future. The mission did not obtain any further clarifications on this matter. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that this critical corrective measure has yet to be implemented by the State Party. The issue of mangrove cutting and other development activities is addressed through corrective measure (b).

- b) *Ensure that development rights on existing private or leased lands within the property are clearly defined and strictly controlled with a view to conserving the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property*

The State Party indicates that the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Authority has been working on the zonation plan for the coastal areas of Belize which should provide a framework to regulate development rights. The report also states that the final integrated CZM Plan will be submitted for approval within 6 months. With regard to this corrective measure, the report also mentions several activities and projects aimed at capacity enhancement of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The mission concluded that the draft CZM Plan in its current shape, whilst being a comprehensive document, does not provide enough clarity and details on specific planning limitations with regard to the World Heritage Status of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System and recommended that the Plan should be more specific in providing detailed planning guidance. Overall, the mission considers that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2007) and other regulatory mechanisms provide a sufficient framework to regulate development projects within the boundaries of the property. However, their implementation and enforcement by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) is not always effective due to its limited resources. The mission also learned that a draft Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations recently developed should provide adequate protection to the mangroves within the property if they are formally adopted. The mission also visited the site of the proposed Yum Balisi resort which had been approved by the NEAC and concluded that there had been no activity at the site for some time, as evidenced by regrowth after significant mangrove clearing which was reportedly undertaken in 2006. Although the project had been approved and an Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) was signed on 3 August 2012, it was unclear if or when the developer would proceed with the project. The State Party indicated that in case no development commenced within a year after the ECP had been signed, the ECP would become void and any future development would require a new approval process.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that modest progress has been made in implementation of this corrective measure. Overall, the developed legal and institutional mechanisms could eventually provide an effective framework to control development projects that might have a negative impact on the OUV of the property. However, it is recommended that the State Party ensures that the World Heritage Status of the property is specifically underlined in all instruments that have not yet been finalized (Coastal Zone Management

Plan and Forests Regulations) and that a high priority is given to capacity enhancement of the EIA process so that it can more effectively assess future project proposals with regard to their impact on the property's OUV. As for the previously approved Yum Balisi project, the State Party did not submit a copy of the EIA, as requested by the Committee (36 COM 7A.15, Saint-Petersburg, 2012). It should be requested to suspend the issued ECP until the EIA of the project has been reviewed by the World Heritage Committee. It should also be reiterated that an EIA of any development project that demonstrates negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value should not be approved.

- c) *Develop and implement a restoration policy for lands having been disturbed by unauthorized activities*

The State Party reports that no restoration policy is currently in place. The mission learned that most of the unauthorized activities within the property took place some years ago and the current status and area of disturbed lands is unclear. The State Party should therefore be requested to first undertake an inventory to analyze the current state of degraded lands and, based on the obtained results, develop a set of practical instruments specifically addressing restoration of degraded lands within the boundaries of the property.

- d) *Establish a clear institutional coordination mechanism ensuring that the conservation of the property receives priority consideration within relevant governmental decision-making processes*

The State Party indicates that the recently created Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development will now encompass all agencies with primary responsibility over the management of the property. The report also notes that the World Heritage focal point had been shifted to the Fisheries Administrator. The CZM Authority and Institute is to provide a coordination role. The State Party has also reactivated the National World Heritage Committee.

Though the mission considers that significant progress had been made by the State Party in implementing this corrective measure, until there is evidence of improved coordination, it is premature to consider that coordination issues have been resolved. The mission also refers to a number of legislative instruments that have been recently drafted or are currently being developed, such as the CZM Plan, the Land Use Policy Implementation Plan, Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations, Living Aquatic Resources Bill, and underlines that it is important that the management of the property is specifically addressed in those documents and their implementation plans.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that the recent changes in the institutional structure have the potential to provide a clearer framework for the management of the property once all relevant legislative instruments are finalized and adopted and recommend that the corrective measure is amended following the recommendation of the mission.

- e) *Develop a co-management legal framework under which the respective responsibilities of the State Party and conservation NGOs can be effectively established, monitored and evaluated in relation to the conservation of the property*

The State Party reports that the new Co-management Framework developed following a thorough consultative process had been approved by the Cabinet on 12 June 2012. It will be signed between the Government of Belize and the co-managing entities.

- f) *Systematically consider and address the threat of introduced species within the management plans for the property*

The mission notes the State Party has been active in addressing the threat of introduced species. Apart from the National Lionfish Management Plan developed by the State Party in

2009, the issue is also addressed within the management plans of some of the component sites of the property. The mission further notes the Lionfish Project under which various activities and initiatives have been implemented. The mission further notes that the threat of rats is addressed within the management plans for Glover's Reef Marine Reserve and Half Moon Caye. No report is made on efforts to control the casuarina trees, an invasive species in the wider Caribbean and observed in the terrestrial part of the Bacalar Chico component by the 2009 reactive monitoring mission.

- g) *Make publicly available the information on land ownership for all lands within the property, including mangrove islands, in easily accessible format, to ensure transparency in land use and allocations*

The State Party indicates that certain land tenure information can be obtained from the Land Information Centre and the Mapping & Survey Section under the Lands Department. Information on land tenure within some of the component sites of the property is also available in their management plans. The mission considered this corrective measure as having been implemented.

- h) *Develop and implement a medium-term plan to increase the no take zones within marine reserves, establishing ecologically effective protection and replenishment areas for otherwise heavily exploited fin fish, conch and lobster*

The State Party reports that a set of actions has been undertaken in an effort to address this corrective measure. It mentions the planned expansion of the replenishment zones of marine reserves in Belize, with a focus on the Hol Chan Marine Reserve which is to be expanded by 370 square kilometres. A new marine reserve – the Turneffe Atoll – has been recently declared which greatly contributes to the network of Belize's marine protected areas. The report states that with the combination of these actions the total no take zone will constitute 10% of the Belizean Jurisdictional Seas. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that this corrective measure is partially implemented, and that regular monitoring of the effects of these measures on the populations of commercial fin fish, conch and lobster should demonstrate that protection is ecologically effective for these species before the corrective measure can be considered to have been fully implemented.

- i) *Other conservation issues – oil concessions*

The State Party reports that the number of Petroleum Sharing Agreements (PSA) in the marine areas has decreased to five (from eight) and possibly more will be relinquished soon.

The mission was given a copy of the Belize Petroleum Contracts Map showing the remaining concessions as well as copies of the PSAs and was assured that confirmation would be forwarded to IUCN and the World Heritage Centre as soon as any further agreements were relinquished.

IUCN has also learned that the Government of Belize is engaged in the formulation of an offshore oil exploration and exploitation policy that would be in line with its commitment to protect the OUV of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note this decision and are open to provide necessary support to the State Party in the development of this policy. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have also received media reports dated 16 April 2013, indicating that the Supreme Court of Belize had declared offshore drilling contracts null and void.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee recognize a degree of progress made by the State Party in addressing previous Committee decisions and in implementing the corrective measures. However, several corrective measures are yet to be implemented by the State Party and the impact on the conservation of the property of the implemented measures needs to be assessed. The mission concluded

that the OUV of the property was still preserved, but that a series of issues (development projects, potential oil exploration, introduced species) continued to threaten the property. It is therefore important to continue the progress made in certain areas and to take immediate actions to resolve the issues that have not yet been fully addressed in order to preserve the OUV and integrity of the property in the long term. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and urge the State Party to implement the remaining corrective measures.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing certain corrective measures, but urges it to address as a matter of priority the critically important issues related to permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property, clear definition and strict control of development rights on existing private and leased lands, the restoration of areas disturbed by unauthorized activities and to make a clear commitment toward no oil exploration with the property;*
4. *Welcomes the decision of the Government of Belize to develop an offshore oil exploration and exploitation policy that would be compatible with the World Heritage Status of the property and requests the State Party that the draft of such policy is provided for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
5. *Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the remaining corrective measure as updated:*
 - a) *Implement the necessary legal measures to guarantee the permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property,*
 - b) *Undertake an inventory of the lands previously disturbed by unauthorized activities with a view to identifying a set of practical solutions to restore the degraded lands within the boundaries of the property,*
 - c) *Finalize the legislative instruments and policy documents relevant to the management of the property, including the Coastal Zone Management Plan, Land Use Policy Implementation Plan, National Protected Areas System Bill, Aquatic Living Resources Bill, Forest (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations and Petroleum Exploration Framework and ensure that the requirements for the protection and management of the property are addressed in those documents as well as in their implementation and financial plans,*
 - d) *Make an unequivocal legislative commitment to eliminating all oil concessions granted within the boundaries of the property and adjacent waters and ensure that necessary legal and institutional instruments are in place to effectively control oil exploration and exploitation in areas outside the property which might have negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),*
 - e) *Carry out a property-wide assessment of marine no take zones in the property, and based on ecological criteria, identify and put into place a process designed to*

expand them in those areas of the property where the OUV is considered to be most vulnerable to fishing pressures and climate change,

- f) Carry out an assessment of the threat arising from introduced species at the property, and develop and put into place a coordinated approach amongst its components to identifying priority actions for eradication and control campaigns;*
- 6. Notes with concern that the National Environmental Appraisal Committee of Belize approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Yum Balisi Resort without previously submitting it for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to suspend the signed Environmental Compliance Plan for the Yum Balisi Resort and not to renew it until the EIA of the project has been reviewed;*
- 7. Also requests the State Party to prepare, based on the updated list of corrective measures and the Retrospective Statement of OUV and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;*
- 8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a report of the state of conservation of the property, including on progress made in implementing corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;*
- 9. Decides to retain the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

19. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1988

Criteria
(ii)(iv)(v)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Occupation of the site by armed groups, absence of management, destruction of 9 of the 16 mausoleums of the property and 2 mausoleums of the Djingareyberre Mosque, as well as the western door of the Sidi Yahia Mosque.

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

Corrective measures identified
In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
In progress

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

International Assistance
Total amount granted: USD 137,449
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds
Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 25,000

Previous monitoring missions
2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009 and 2010 joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO Emergency missions to Mali.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
a) Lack of management structure at the site;
b) Armed conflict.

Illustrative material
See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party, which began on 29 January 2013. This report was prepared in the particular context linked to the absence at the site of the management structure since 1 April 2012 due to occupation by armed groups. During this period of occupation which extended over 10 months, much

damage was caused to the main components of the property, notably the mausoleums. With the military intervention on 11 January 2013, the town of Timbuktu was liberated but the security conditions are not completely stable to be able to evaluate the degree of damage and envisage the reinstallation of the management structure of the property. Therefore, the report is based on information gathered from resource persons who remained at the site. It provides a summary overall view of the situation concerning the elements constituting the property.

a) State of conservation of the three mosques

The report describes the destruction by armed groups of the two mausoleums Ahmadou Foulane and Baber Babadje built on to the west facade of the Djingareyberre Mosque, and the sacred door of the Sidi Yahia Mosque located on its west side. The report considers that the damage greatly prejudices the authenticity and integrity of the property.

The report does not provide information on the state of conservation of the Sankore Mosque.

b) State of conservation of the 16 mausoleums

The report describes the total destruction of 9 of the 16 mausoleums of the property by the armed groups between May and July 2012. This destruction concerns the following mausoleums known currently under the names: Cheikh Sidi Mahmoud, Alpha Moya, Mohamed Tamba-Tamba, Cheikh Sidi Ahmed Raggadi, Cheikh Sidi Elmicki, Abul Quassim al Tawaty, Cheikh Sidi Elmoctar, Sidi Mohamed Boukkou and Mohamed Sangare le Peul.

The report provides no information on the state of conservation of the mausoleums that remain intact. It considers that a global evaluation of all the components constituting the Timbuktu property should be undertaken.

Furthermore, with a view to the reconstruction of the mausoleums, the World Heritage Centre has begun documentation work with funds and technical assistance provided by the Italian Government. This work should be finalized before end-June 2013 and be made available to the State Party.

c) Conservation of the Medina

The report refers to difficulties encountered within the Medina that constitutes the buffer zone. These difficulties concern notably the destruction of the mausoleums, historic monuments and places of memory inscribed on the National Heritage List; the threat of persistent insecurity and distrust among the local populations prevents the communities from undertaking seasonal communal maintenance work on the historic monuments. The report mentions other problems such as the degradation of buildings due to lack of regular maintenance following the rains; the abandon of certain houses in ruins through family inheritance; the invasion of the streets, alleys and public squares by plastic rubbish and waste waters.

In order to mitigate these problems, the report proposes the organization of workshops to reinforce social cohesion and togetherness on the one hand, and to project and organize ceremonies for the restoration of the mausoleums and mosques, on the other.

The report also recommends the revision and updating of the management and conservation plan for the property, to contribute towards its removal from the Danger List. This revision would benefit the guidelines of the Conservation Manual being prepared with assistance from the Italian Government.

d) Progress in the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions

The State Party requested emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund to strengthen protection of the property. The funds granted for this purpose (for Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia at Gao) foresee, for an amount of USD 50,000, the organization of a national seminar to prepare a preservation strategy for the property involving the local communities. These funds also foresee the organization of a training workshop for

humanitarian organizations to advise and provide support for the protection of cultural heritage in crisis situations.

From 8 to 10 April 2013 in Bamako, the State Party also organized a training workshop on the combat against illicit traffic of cultural property financed from emergency funds mobilised by the Director-General of UNESCO. This workshop brought together about thirty participants from Mali and six border countries, as well as agents from the Police, Customs and Gendarmerie forces.

e) *Actions taken by UNESCO for the protection of the property*

In order to contribute towards the implementation of Decisions **36 COM 7B.106** and **36 COM 7B.107**, UNESCO carried out the following actions, with support from its partners:

Creation of a special account to safeguard the cultural heritage of Mali

In July 2012, at the request of the Committee, the UNESCO Director-General created a Special Account to support the Government of Mali in its efforts to protect and rehabilitate the property affected by the armed conflict. UNESCO then addressed a circular letter to its Member States requesting them to make a voluntary contribution to this Account. Croatia and Mauritius responded favourably to this request.

Awareness within the international community

Since the beginning of the crisis in Mali, the Director-General of UNESCO launched ten appeals, urging all the parties to respect the preservation of cultural sites and property, and requesting the mobilization of the international community to support the efforts of the Mali authorities in the protection of its cultural heritage. In parallel, she addressed letters to the powers of the neighbouring countries of Mali, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the European Union (EU), and to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Director-General briefed the Secretary General of the United Nations on a regular basis.

As a result of these actions, the United Nations Security Council adopted three resolutions on Mali in 2012: (Nos. 2056 in July, 2071 in October and 2085 in December) urging the protection of the cultural property of Mali.

UNESCO also carried out two information actions: a document in the format of a passport (8,000 copies) and an A3 format map (2,000 copies) on the cultural heritage of the northern regions of Mali were prepared. These documents provided information on the importance and geographical location (GPS coordinates) of major cultural properties of these regions and were made available to the Mali military authorities and the countries engaged in the military intervention in Mali in December 2012.

Visit of the Director-General to Timbuktu

The UNESCO Director-General visited Timbuktu together with the French President, Mr François Hollande, on 2 February 2013. This visit constituted a very strong sign of the importance and the role of culture for the reconstruction and reconciliation of the country. It enabled the Director-General to realize the extent of the damage caused to cultural property, in particular to the mausoleums and the manuscripts and to confirm the urgent need for a mission to be sent to the site as soon as possible to evaluate the exact extent of damage and initiate reconstruction actions.

On 8 February 2013, the Director-General organized a meeting of the Member States of UNESCO to brief them on the results of her mission.

Preparation of an Action Plan to safeguard cultural heritage and the ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu

At the initiative of France and UNESCO, a Day of Solidarity for Mali was organised on 18 February 2013 at UNESCO Headquarters. During the day, an international expert meeting

was held and, under the impetus of a group of experts on Mali established by UNESCO, resulted in the adoption of an Action Plan for the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage and safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali. This expert group included the following institutions: International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), School of African Heritage (EPA), African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), International Center for Earthen architecture, – National Superior School of Architecture in Grenoble (CRAtterre-ENSAG). Following this meeting, the Government of Mali addressed a letter to UNESCO requesting its support in the implementation of the Action Plan. The Kingdom of Norway provided the first response by granting financial assistance of USD 170,000 to safeguard the manuscripts of Timbuktu.

Organization of an evaluation mission to Timbuktu

As soon as security conditions will allow, the evaluation mission decided upon by the UNESCO Director-General, will take place. Its primary goal is a detailed technical evaluation of the extent of the damage caused to the Mali cultural heritage, notably in Timbuktu in order to determine priority actions for rehabilitation and conservation to be carried out in cooperation with the Government of Mali and the United Nations Coordination Bureau in Mali; and to examine the Action Plan adopted on 18 February by UNESCO. This mission will include expertise from the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM and ICOMOS).

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that due to armed conflict in the northern regions of Mali, no mission has visited the site to evaluate the state of degradation caused to the property and to propose corrective measures, as well as to evaluate the Desired State of Conservation, as requested by the Committee. They expressed concern as to the extent of damage, in particular regarding the destruction of the mausoleums and the door on the west side of the Djingareyberre Mosque.

They commend the commitment and availability of the State Party throughout the crisis, enabling the collection of information on the extent of the degradation, raising awareness and mobilising the international community and the preparation of an Action Plan for Mali.

They consider that the UNESCO mission to visit Timbuktu shall be determinate in envisaging the corrective measures and in defining the reconstruction strategy for the cultural properties that have been destroyed.

They further consider that this reconstruction strategy should closely involve the local communities who are the main custodians of the cultural property.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.106** and **36 COM 7B.107**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Commends the State Party for having requested emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund to implement priority actions to strengthen the protection of the Timbuktu property;*

4. Expresses its concern regarding the damage caused to the Timbuktu property, in particular to the 11 mausoleums and the door on the western side of the Djingareyberre Mosque and the lack of maintenance and conservation activities concerning the other elements that constitute the property, which threatens the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Timbuktu;
5. Also expresses its concern with regard to the State Party's inability to field a mission to evaluate the precise state of conservation of the property and propose measures for the preservation of its OUV, due to armed conflict;
6. Thanks the Director-General of UNESCO for the efforts deployed to respond to Decisions **36 COM 7B.106** and **36 COM 7B.107**, notably through the creation of a Special Account to safeguard Mali cultural heritage and raise awareness within the international community;
7. Also thanks France, Mali and UNESCO for having organized a solidarity day for Mali during which an international expert meeting was held resulting in the adoption of an Action Plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the ancient manuscripts of Mali;
8. Further thanks the UNESCO expert group on Mali, composed of the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), , the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the School of African Heritage (EPA), the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and International Center for Earthen architecture, – National Superior School of Architecture in Grenoble (CRATERRE-ENSAG) for having contributed to the preparation of this Action Plan in close cooperation with Malian and French experts;
9. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to prepare the corrective measures as well as a Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, once the situation in the northern regions of Mali is stable, and after the UNESCO evaluation mission to Timbuktu;
10. Launches an appeal to the State Parties to the World Heritage Convention, African Union, European Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), other African organizations and the international community to contribute in the implementation of the Action Plan for the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage and safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the Timbuktu property, and specifically the progress achieved for the preservation of its OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
12. **Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(ii)(iii)(iv)

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

2012 to present

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

Following the coup d'état in March 2012, the town is occupied by Islamist groups. This situation led to the absence of maintenance and management of the site although it is threatened to collapse.

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 23,333 on Emergency International Assistance

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 20,000

Previous monitoring missions

May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of site management
- b) Armed conflict

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 29 January 2013. This report was prepared in a particular context due to the absence at the site of the management structure for the property since 1 April 2012, because of its occupation by armed groups. This period of occupation extended over more than 10 months during which no practical traditional maintenance activities were carried out at the site. Following the military intervention on 11 January 2013, the town of Gao was liberated but security conditions are not fully in place to ensure a precise report on the state of conservation of the property or to envisage the reinstallation of the management structure for the property. Thus, the report is based on information gathered from resource persons who remained at the site. It provides a very summary overview of the state of conservation of the property.

a) *Measures undertaken by the Ministry of Culture*

The report indicates that following inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party undertook protection measures aiming to reinforce surveillance at the site, implement an appropriate communication plan on the different components of the site and to postpone the traditional maintenance practices causing the massive exodus of worshippers, men and women.

The report also mentions that awareness-raising activities were carried out, thus “avoiding the anger of Islamists who refuse the cultural practices associated with the religious sites”. It also indicates that no acts of vandalism occurred at the site.

b) *Maintenance of the building*

The report indicates that because of the aging of the materials, the Tomb of Askia experiences recurrent problems of collapse of the columns provoking large areas of the roof of the building falling down due to extremely heavy rainfall. The lack of maintenance caused by the crisis situation has accelerated the deterioration of the architectural components and the risk of collapse of the building, with the collapse of one of the columns in 2011. This situation also increases the risk of looting and the confiscation of furniture from the surrounding necropolises.

c) *Progress in the implementation of World Heritage Committee decisions*

See the report on the state of conservation for Timbuktu (C119)

d) *Actions undertaken by UNESCO for protection of the property*

See the report on the state of conservation for Timbuktu (C119)

e) *Organization of an evaluation mission to Gao*

As soon as security conditions permit, a UNESCO evaluation mission to Gao will be fielded. Its main objective will be a detailed technical evaluation of the state of conservation of the property to determine the priority actions for the rehabilitation and conservation to be carried out in cooperation with the Government of Mali and the United Nations Coordination Bureau for Mali. It will also aim to specify the Action Plan adopted on 18 February 2013 in UNESCO. This mission will include Advisory Body expertise.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that due to the armed conflict in the northern regions of Mali, no mission has been to the site to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and propose corrective measures and the Desired State of Conservation, as requested by the Committee. They recommend that the Committee express its concern regarding the lack of maintenance of the property that is provoking the deterioration of its architectural elements and increasing the risk of collapse of its columns. They commend the commitment and availability of the State Party throughout the crisis to raise awareness and mobilise the international community and prepare an action plan for Mali.

They consider that the UNESCO mission to Gao will be decisive in envisaging corrective measures and the Desired State of Conservation and in defining the rehabilitation and safeguarding strategy of the property, which should strongly involve the local communities.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.106** and **36 COM 7B.107**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Commends the State Party for its request for emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund to implement priority actions to strengthen protection for the Tomb of Askia property;
4. Expresses its concern with regard to the lack of maintenance of the property causing the deterioration of its architectural elements and increasing the risk of collapse of its columns, due to the closure of the management structure of the property since April 2012, which constitutes a threat to the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
5. Also expresses its concern that the State Party has been unable to carry out a field mission, due to armed conflict in the region, and evaluate the precise state of conservation of the property and propose measures for the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Thanks the Director-General of UNESCO for the efforts undertaken to respond to Decisions **36 COM 7B.106** and **36 COM 7B.107** through notably the creation of a special account for the safeguarding of Mali's cultural heritage and awareness-raising of the international community;
7. Also thanks France, Mali and UNESCO for organizing a solidarity day for Mali during which an international expert meeting was held, which resulted in the adoption of an action plan for the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage and ancient manuscripts of Mali;
8. Further thanks the UNESCO expert group on Mali, representing the Advisory Bodies, the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the School of African Heritage (EPA), African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), and the International Centre for Earth Construction – Ecole nationale superieure d'architecture, Grenoble CRA-Terre-ENSAG), for having contributed in the preparation of this action plan in close collaboration with Mali and French experts;
9. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare all the corrective measures, as well as a Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, once a return to stability in the northern regions of Mali is effective, and following the UNESCO evaluation mission to Gao;
10. Launches an appeal to the States Parties of the World Heritage Convention, the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and to other African organizations and the international community for their contribution in the implementation of the action plan for the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage and the ancient manuscripts of Mali;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on progress achieved for the preservation of its OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
12. Decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2001

Criteria

(i) (iii) (iv) (vi)

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

2010 to present

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

Fire that resulted in the destruction of part of the property

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 111,292

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount granted: 2011-2012: 68,365 USD from the Japanese FIT for an Expert Appraisal Mission

2013-2015: 650,000 USD from the Japanese FIT for the project: Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2010, August 2011 and November 2011: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Destruction by fire of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a State of Conservation report on 21 March 2013 in response to the request of the Committee at its last session.

a) *Reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and development of a Master Plan*

The State Party reports that the Buganda Kingdom, in consultation with government, has completed a draft Master Plan for the reconstruction and conservation of the entire property. This Plan will be implemented in six phases. The main forth phase is the reconstruction of the main tomb house *Muzibu Azaala Mpanga* in accordance with the agreed restoration strategy. The Plan was not submitted for review and it is not clear whether it has been approved, or is a revised version of that mentioned in the 2012 Report, or whether it responds to the request of the Committee to address critical issues such as landscape

management, urban pressure, enforcement of regulatory measures and increased collaboration between the different levels of authority and stakeholders.

The preliminary phases of the Plan, which cover the reconstruction of the Wamala tombs and the Balongo houses, and the re-construction of the protective fence, are in effect preparatory work for the main project during which craftspeople can gain experience on traditional construction.

It was anticipated that details in the design drawings for the main project will be informed by the results from the renovations and repairs carried out at Wamala. No report was provided on progress with the Wamala tomb work, which started in March 2012, nor a timeline for its completion or for its integration with the Kasubi Action Plan. The 2011 mission had noted the need for the timeline for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga project to be revised and suggested that a critical path be established with proposed benchmarks. These have not been provided.

On 1 March 2013, a plan of operation was signed between UNESCO and the Government of Uganda for the project “*Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger*”. This project is generously supported through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for an amount of USD 650,000. It aims to support the cost of qualified supervision and of scientific support for the reconstruction of the destroyed roof to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is sustained. It will also provide an opportunity for a programme to carry out research on thatching of the royal tombs under the responsibility of a technical team from Japan.

b) *Fire fighting and disaster risk management*

The Uganda Government and the Buganda Kingdom have jointly developed a draft risk management strategy, which is being discussed with Japanese experts. The technical team from Japan visited the site in March 2013 with a view to contribute to finalizing the strategy. Meanwhile the site manager, who has been trained in Japan on disaster preparedness, is due to undertake capacity building on site for the rest of the stake holders.

Emergency fire fighting equipment has already been installed on site for protection during the reconstruction process.

The UNESCO-Japan technical project mentioned above also aims to set up an efficient disaster risk management scheme at the property with all necessary equipment.

c) *Research on traditional practices and knowledge associated with traditional architecture*

The State Party reports that the Makerere University School of Architecture has been commissioned to collect and document the traditional building practices of other Ganda tombs and palaces that will inform the detailed plans and practices for the reconstruction of Kasubi Tombs. Over the past year the team has studied the Wamala Tombs, Buddo Nagalabi coronation site, Kyebando Kyabaggu Tombs, Bamunanika Palace and Bumera Tombs. They have also undertaken archive work at Lubaga Cathedral, at Namirembe Cathedral and at the Brothers of Christian Instruction at Entebbe. The team is expected to continue their research at archives and libraries in the wider East African region.

d) *Capacity building strategy*

The State Party reports that the Chief Thatcher Wabulakayole and other thatchers have undergone training whilst re-building the three small Balongo houses in the property. The main areas where further capacity building is needed have been identified and a capacity building plan is being implemented in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and agencies. This includes various campaigns to involve young people and volunteers at the Kasubi tombs.

e) *Interpretation and public awareness programme*

The State Party reports that with support from UNESCO emergency funds, the Government together with Buganda Kingdom has commenced an interpretation and public awareness programme on the restoration of the property. A national sensitization workshop has taken place, meetings with elders, county chiefs and clan leaders have been organized, information pamphlets and an exhibition have been created, and a radio programme broadcast. The second phase of this awareness programme is yet to be finalized.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies welcome the further progress made with preliminary work for the major reconstruction work of the *Muzibu Azaala Mpanga*, in particular the continuing research on traditional architecture, the training of craftspeople, capacity building in skills needed for the project, and pilot re-building projects. They note the need for capacity building to be structured, as recommended by the 2011 mission, and suggest that a fully-fledged capacity building strategy still needs to be put in place to include components such as maintenance, resources management, conservation and documentation training, among others.

They note that no details were provided on progress with the Wamala tomb work, which started in March 2012 and was seen as a crucial project that would inform technical and design details on the main project, nor details as to how it will be integrated with the Kasubi Action Plan. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recall that the 2011 mission had noted the need for the timeline for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga project to be revised and for a critical path to be established with proposed benchmarks, and that these have so far not been provided.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies also note that a draft Master Plan for the property has been drawn up. Based on the recommendations made by the 2011 mission, they reiterate the need for this Plan to address wider issues than the restoration project, such as urban encroachment and unregulated urban development that can pose additional threats to the property, and the need for the Plan to include appropriate regulations, guidelines, and a work plan and timeframe for its implementation. They also suggest that the Committee request that this Plan be submitted for review.

Finally, they recommend that the Committee welcome the continued support for the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga tomb, and particularly for fire fighting and disaster risk management, and research on thatching of royal tombs, which is being provided with financial support by the Government of Japan through UNESCO.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Welcomes the continued progress made by the State Party on preliminary work for the major reconstruction project on the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, in particular the continuing research on traditional architecture, the training of craftspeople, capacity building in skills, and pilot re-building projects, and urges it to continue its efforts in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

4. Notes that no revised timeline for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga project has been provided, or a critical path established with proposed benchmarks, as recommended by the 2011 mission; and also urges the State Party to progress both of these as soon as possible;
5. Takes note with appreciation of the important contributions provided by the Government of Uganda and the Buganda Kingdom for the reconstruction project for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga;
6. Thanks the Government of Japan for providing additional funding, and for its continuing support through UNESCO to the re-construction project, in particular towards fire fighting and disaster risk management, and for research on thatching of royal tombs;
7. Also notes the progress made with the development by the Buganda Kingdom, in consultation with the government, of a phased draft Master Plan for the reconstruction and conservation of the entire property;
8. Reiterates the need for the Master Plan to address wider issues than the restoration project such as urban encroachment and unregulated urban development that can pose additional threats to the property, and to include appropriate regulations, guidelines and a work plan and timeframe for its implementation; and requests the State Party to submit the Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also takes note of the capacity building work that has been undertaken, especially the continuing research on traditional architecture, the training of craftspeople, and skills development needed for the project, and further notes the need for capacity building to be structured, as recommended by the 2011 mission;
10. Suggests that a fully-fledged capacity building strategy still needs to be put in place to include components such as maintenance, resources management, conservation and documentation training, among others, and also requests the State Party to submit this strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Further takes note of progress made with the first phase of an interpretation and public awareness programme on the restoration of the property, and further urges the State Party to continue this work through the development of the second phase of this programme;
12. Encourages the State Party to invite an ICOMOS advisory mission to the property in order to provide technical advice on the continued implementation of the reconstruction project and appropriate monitoring arrangements;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, and on the implementation of the above and the recommendations of the 2011 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
14. Decides to retain the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

23. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(iv)

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

2001 to present

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 7,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 20 February 2013 which provides details of progress with lowering the groundwater levels, and with constructing a protective perimeter fence. From 18 to 23 November 2012, a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012). The mission considered progress with corrective measures. It also identified new threats arising from the de-watering process and from inappropriate reconstruction and new construction.

The mission report is available online at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/37COM/documents>

a) Lowering the groundwater levels

The State Party reported on the technical details of the de-watering project which was initially defined in three phases. The mission reported that the first phase of the dewatering project in the central area has been implemented, while the second and third phases within the wider agricultural ditch have been abandoned as the underlying methodology of electrical pumping was now seen to be unaffordable and unsustainable in the long term. A new project is now being developed to modify the irrigation methodology in the agricultural areas surrounding the property to one using a “drip” method, thereby reducing the underlying problem and eliminating the root causes of the high water table.

The water problem in the central area of the property is now under control, as long as the pumps keep running. However, the lowering of the water table has resulted in the re-deposition of subterranean soluble salts from the soil onto the surface of exposed archaeology with devastating results, such as rapid deterioration of stone blocks and subsurface voids which precipitate the collapse of archaeological structures. The mission considered that this salt problem is the most pressing threat to the property and that a conservation condition survey needs to be carried out immediately to establish the level of damage and the rate of deterioration of the constituent parts. Once the survey data is collected, it needs to be examined to establish a prioritized treatment programme for the exposed remains that can be implemented urgently. Flooding still affects approximately 25% of the property and approximately 30% of the entire area enclosed by the agricultural drainage ditch. The mission considered that it would be very unwise to risk further destruction of exposed archaeological material by draining more areas before methods for mitigating the negative effects of drainage have been determined, and the resources for their implementation secured. The mission confirmed that exposed archaeological features in the still flooded areas are at risk and considered that the most cost effective method of protecting them would be to rebury the exposed structures on the basis of an agreed, specific, reburial methodology that could guide future excavations and also aid current interpretation.

b) *Reconstruction work at the Great Basilica*

Between late 2010 and early 2011 a project of dismantling and rebuilding archaeological walls was undertaken at the Great Basilica. This involved the complete dismantling of the walls, removal of all historic mortar and other original construction materials, discarding of blocks not deemed to be usable, the rebuilding of walls with modern mortar and with new blocks to replace those discarded, and the cutting back of the original face of the retained original blocks in order that they match the new material. It appeared that the aim was to rebuild the walls to allow them to support a new roof and thus provide a covered area for visitors. The mission considered that the methodology for this work is completely inappropriate. The current work has led to total loss of all authenticity or historic context for the walls concerned. The work was being undertaken in the name of anastylosis, although anastylosis should not, except in the most exceptional of cases, involve the demolition and rebuilding of remaining in-situ original structures. The mission considered that the only anastylosis work that might be considered at Abu Mena is the re-erecting of some of the

marble columns. It recommended that no further reconstruction should be considered, just conservation of existing materials.

c) Proliferation of constructions on the property

The mission observed that adjacent to the main Basilica, at the culmination of the road that was built for accessing the dewatering pumps and service buildings, a flat area has been developed. In addition to the wooden church built over the altar of the main Basilica, there is now a large pilgrims rest building and several other structures of varying degrees of permanence. The mission recommended that these permanent structures, tents and container cabins need to be removed, with the exception of the church and rest house to be addressed at a later stage, as soon as possible and that there should be a moratorium on all construction in both the property and its setting within the agricultural drainage ditch. Several other recent constructions can also be found on the land of the property.

d) Boundaries of the property

The mission confirmed that the current boundary of the property bears little relationship to the extent of the ancient complex. In order to define a boundary that reflects the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, there is an urgent need for a thorough archaeological survey to determine the extent of the archaeological remains. This could then inform the delineation of an appropriate boundary which would need to be submitted, along with a buffer zone, to the World Heritage Committee as a minor boundary modification.

e) Security

The State Party reported that work on surrounding the property with a fence had started on 21/10/2009 and, although currently stopped, it will be continued. The mission noted that the property is not permanently staffed or patrolled. The surrounding agricultural drainage ditch has crossing points around its circumference and unrestricted vehicular access is available at all times. There is evidence of vehicles accessing all areas within the agricultural ditch and it would appear that an area adjacent to the northern most drainage channel is being used as a dumping ground for construction waste.

f) Visitor Facilities

The mission noted that visitor facilities at the property are limited to those supplied by the modern monastery which caters for the needs of pilgrims. The majority of visitors are indeed pilgrims who tend to visit only the main Basilica and surrounding archaeological structures. Upwards of two hundred thousand people visit the site on Christian holy days and services are held for these pilgrims at the Basilica. The pilgrim facilities consist of a moderately substantial wooden rest house located at the end of the pump house service road and a small wooden church built over the ancient altar of the main Basilica. These facilities are not sanctioned and cannot be thought of as anything more than temporary. The State Party reported that various proposals for a visitor centre outside the archaeological area had been considered and that these would need to be implemented as funds become available. The mission considered there was a need for a strategy to inform the development of appropriate structures at appropriate places and the provision of information on or near the property. It also suggested that consideration should be given to allowing the local community to run necessary transportation across the site in the summer months, in order that they profit from the property and therefore have a vested interest in its preservation.

g) Archaeological and conservation surveys

The mission noted that there has been no further progress on initiating a survey of the extent of the archaeological remains within the boundary of the property since the missions of 2005 and 2009. There has also been no further progress on initiating a conservation condition survey of the exposed archaeological structures at the property. Other than the reconstruction work (now halted) at the main basilica, there has been no progress on designing and/or testing conservation methodologies for their suitability as treatment options

at the property. There is no formalized conservation recording system at the property. A conservation strategy is urgently needed that will encompass necessary surveys, condition reports, investigation into appropriate methodologies, and the need for capacity building and adequate resources.

h) Management plan

The mission noted that there has been no further progress on the preparation of a management plan for the property since the missions of 2005 and 2009. It also noted the real need to manage the property both for its archaeological remains that are the attributes of its Outstanding Universal Value and for its focus as a pilgrim destination. A management system and plan that draws together these two aspects is needed urgently, which would set out visitor management arrangements that allow coordination between arrangements for pilgrims and for other visitors, and address appropriate facilities for both, better interpretation and improved security, as well as mechanisms for delivering the necessary conservation surveys and planning.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the first phase of the de-watering project that involves continuous pumping of water has been implemented in the central areas and that it is now considered possible to change the irrigation arrangements in the surrounding agricultural areas. They also note that lowering of the water table in the central area of the property has resulted in the deposition of subterranean soluble salts onto the exposed archaeology, which are having a devastating impact on the deterioration of stone masonry. In order to mitigate this damage, they further note the recommendation of the mission that a conservation condition survey needs to be carried out immediately to establish the level of damage and rate of deterioration to inform the establishment of a prioritized treatment programme for the exposed remains that could be implemented urgently. And as a corollary, they note the need to delay immediate de-watering of the remaining areas and to bury existing remains until adequate stabilisation methodologies have been devised.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the view of the mission that the dismantling and rebuilding at the Great Basilica carried out was entirely inappropriate in terms of its methodology and impact on authenticity and historical context, and that no further reconstruction should be considered.

As well as being visited as an archaeological site, parts of the property attracts large number of pilgrims and there is a need for a visitor strategy, within the framework of a management plan, that allows for a coordinated approach to all visitations and to the provision of information and interpretation. The current uncontrolled development around the Basilica was considered by the mission to be most regrettable and certain buildings should be removed.

Although the political situation over the past two years has inhibited progress with securing the property and with the development of conservation surveys, conservation plans and a management plan, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies reiterate the view of the mission that basic surveys and conservation plans are essential in order that any work can be undertaken with adequate knowledge, as is the management plan that should provide the agreed framework for action based on of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and an agreed and logical boundary.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Notes with alarm the devastating effect the de-watering has had on the archaeological remains, and urges the State Party to undertake conservation condition surveys as soon as possible and establish a prioritized treatment programme that could be implemented urgently;
4. Also notes the need to delay immediate de-watering of the remaining archaeological areas until adequate stabilisation methodologies have been devised and in the meantime to consider burying existing remains on the basis of a detailed re-burial strategy;
5. Expresses its concern at the inappropriate dismantling and rebuilding carried out at the Great Basilica and its impact on authenticity, and also urges the State Party not to undertake further reconstruction;
6. Regrets that inappropriate structures have been built around parts of the monuments and requests the State Party to demolish these (apart from the temporary wooden church and pilgrim rest house to be considered at a later stage) as soon as possible and put in place a moratorium on all construction within the property;
7. Recommends that the State Party develops a visitor strategy, within the framework of a Management Plan, that allows for a coordinated approach to all visitations and to the provision of information and interpretation for both visitors to the archaeological site and for pilgrims;
8. Also regrets that no progress has been made in recent years on basic surveys and conservation plans or on the Management Plan, all of which are part of the corrective measures, and further urges the State Party to initiate the work in order that an agreed action plan can be put in place based on the attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Also requests the State Party, on the basis of surveys, to submit a logical boundary for the property and an appropriate buffer zone as a minor boundary modification;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2014**, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
11. **Decides** to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

See Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add.2

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2005 to Present

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

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

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

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4105>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/documents>

International Assistance

Total amount granted: USD 60,000

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178>

and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 21 February 2013 in response to the decisions made by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012).

The draft statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property has been submitted by the State Party.

a) *International expert meeting*

The expert meeting, organized within the framework of the international assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund, to make an analysis of the different factors that affect the materials of the property, took place from 20 to 25 October 2012. Priority actions were identified and the results of the meeting were essential to identifying measures to mitigate decay factors, criteria for conservation and restoration interventions, research applied for conservation programmes and conservation priorities and management issues that had yet to be addressed. The recommendations made have been integrated in the review process of the Management Plan and were considered for the formulation of the Desired State of Conservation for the property. The State Party submitted the final report of the meeting highlighting, in the recommendations, the commitment of the State Party to develop public policies and to ensure on-going proper allocation of resources.

b) *Desired State of Conservation for the property*

The State Party included a draft statement which has been revised and is proposed for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session.

c) *Conservation strategy and Priority Interventions Programme*

The State Party reports that on the basis of the draft Desired State of Conservation (DSOC) and with the results from the expert meeting, a conservation programme that will include financial estimations of costs and a precise timeframe will be developed. The final conservation programme shall take into consideration the terms of the DSOC as approved by the Committee.

As for the Priority Interventions Programme, human resources for the management of the site have been maintained and the Saltpetre Museum Corporation has strengthened its staffing levels. Work on the Head Doctor's House was concluded and consultants have been hired to implement consolidation works on the primary mills of the Santa Laura Saltpetre Works and the homes of coordination managers of Humberstone Saltpetre Works. In addition, restoration of the Humberstone General Store will be conducted and the space rehabilitated to function as the Saltpetre Era Interpretation Centre. Funding for the extensive endeavour has been secured from the National Tourism Board, public regional funds and a mining company. No additional information was provided on whether funding has been secured for the sustained implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme.

d) *Balance of allocation of resources for visitation and for conservation*

The State Party notes that although significant resources are being invested in the improvement of visiting conditions, mainly due to the fact that contributions are coming from the National Tourism Board, there are also projects being implemented from these funds that attend to the Priority Interventions Programme. With the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party considers that a more comprehensive outlook towards allocation of resources currently exists, which should facilitate the implementation of balanced and sustainable strategies.

e) *Management Plan*

The 2013-2018 Draft Management Plan was revised after the expert meeting, but the State Party anticipates further reviews as the Plan is circulated for comments. The Draft Plan is

included in the report and the Advisory Bodies will make its evaluation available to contribute to the finalization of the Plan.

f) *Mitigation measures for the bypass of Route A-16*

Within the framework of the Environmental Impact Assessment System, the State Party reports that the requirements to ensure that no impacts occur on the property from the works have been identified by the Saltpetre Museum Corporation and by the National Monuments Council. Measures include archaeological rescue and monitoring, securing the boundaries, improving access with a single, safer and more functional entrance. These have been set forth to the Ministry of Public Works and to the implementation company. No additional information was provided on when it is expected that these measures will be implemented.

g) *Other issues*

As requested by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party has also submitted the adequate maps with the revised boundaries and buffer zones which shall be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party also reports that the Saltpetre Survey in the Province of Tamarugal has been completed, which will allow the creation of a complete record of the sites associated with saltpetre which exist today. The museology plan funded by the National Tourism Board was also completed in 2012 and includes proposals for signage at the site.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that the Committee welcome the results from the expert meeting which will provide essential information to develop the adequate criteria and identify priorities for interventions in the short, medium and long terms. They also recommend that the Committee urge the State Party to finalize the Conservation Plan and its related programme and, based on that, review the Management Plan and integrate the results not only of this meeting, but of additional studies that have been carried out, so as to develop comprehensive and holistic programmes to address the conservation and management challenges being faced.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Takes note of the results of the International Expert meeting (October 2012) and urges the State Party to integrate them in a comprehensive Conservation Plan for the property, including financial estimations of costs and a precise timeframe for its implementation;*
4. *Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of conservation and management measures and also urges it to continue its efforts with particular attention to the following:*
 - a) *Continue with the implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme and secure the necessary resources for sustained interventions,*

- b) *Based on the Conservation Plan, finalize and adopt the Management Plan and ensure that adequate resources exist to make an effective preservation system for the property operational;*
5. Adopts *the following Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as follows:*
- a) *Urban and industrial constructions of the Santa Laura and Humberstone saltpeter works have been stabilised, and their integrity and authenticity are guaranteed, on the basis of an agreed, long-term, comprehensive conservation strategy, and conservation plan. These buildings bear witness to the key historical, industrial, and social processes associated with the Humberstone and Santa Laura saltpetre works,*
- b) *The management system is fully operational, with adequate funding for operation. The comprehensive management plan, with conservation and management provisions for the property and its buffer zone, is fully enforced and implemented through an interdisciplinary group, with the participation of involved institutions and social stakeholders,*
- c) *The World Heritage property complies with safety and security standards for visitors and workers, and the assets of the property are adequately protected. Its Outstanding Universal Value is reliably conveyed to the public, which facilitates comprehension of the saltpetre era and the mining processes,*
- d) *There is a buffer zone that is protected and regulated;*
6. Also adopts *the following corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation in order to ensure conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property and meet the Desired state of conservation:*
- a) *Measures to be implemented within two years:*
- Stability, authenticity, integrity, safety, and security:*
- (i) *Continued implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme (PIP), according to its 2005 and 2008 definitions.*
- (ii) *Development of a draft comprehensive conservation plan based on the necessary scientific research, a clear conservation strategy, and the appropriate safety and security standards.*
- (iii) *Continued implementation of security and protection for the site, preventing the theft of materials, and prosecuting those who engage in this kind of activity.*
- Management system and plan:*
- (iv) *Review, approval and initial implementation of the management plan for the new period.*
- (v) *Set up qualified management team.*
- (vi) *Explore means to count with appropriate and sustained human, material, and financial resources.*
- Presentation of the property:*
- (vii) *Assessment and definition of visitation and presentation requirements and enhance visitor security measures.*
- (viii) *Definition and adoption of a visitor strategy and interpretation plan.*
- Buffer zone:*

(ix) *Establishing a buffer zone, defining regulatory measures to ensure its protection, and initiate procedures for gaining necessary approvals.*

b) *Measures to be implemented within five years:*

Stability, authenticity, integrity, safety, and security:

(i) *Full implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme (PIP), according to its 2005 and 2008 definitions.*

(ii) *Full design and initial implementation of the comprehensive conservation plan, based on the necessary scientific research, a clear conservation strategy, and the appropriate safety and security standards.*

(iii) *Security and protection measures for the site fully operational.*

Management system and plan:

(iv) *Sustained implementation of the management plan and fully operational management system in place.*

(v) *Management plan articulated with local and regional planning instruments.*

(vi) *Appropriate and sustained human, financial and material resources for the conservation and management of the property secured.*

(vii) *Stable and continuous contribution by the State for the conservation and management of the property, in a framework of shared funding (public / private).*

Presentation of the property:

(viii) *Visitor strategy and interpretation plan fully in place.*

(ix) *Site's facilities and activities contribute to the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.*

Buffer zone:

(x) *Buffer zone fully established and approved and regulatory measures for its protection adopted and enforced.*

c) *Proposed indicators:*

Stability, authenticity, integrity, safety, and security:

(i) *Number of adequate and efficient conservation interventions carried out (following the prioritized course of action set forth in the Programme for High Priority Interventions).*

(ii) *Monitoring of state of conservation (material integrity) of the buildings.*

(iii) *Evaluation of the appropriateness and efficacy of interventions for the buildings.*

(iv) *Adoption of the conservation plan.*

(v) *A safety and security system implemented (guards, information signs).*

Management system and plan:

(vi) *Adoption of the management plan.*

(vii) *Funds allocated for the operational needs, considering sources and levels of furnishing of financial funds (private, public, generated by the property, etc.)*

(viii) Number of personnel working on the site (professional, technical and administrative levels).

(ix) Prioritized yearly action plans derived from the Management Plan.

Presentation of the property:

(x) Proactive social participation in conservation and management endeavours.

(xi) Number of visitors, frequency of visit, origin and type of visitors.

(xii) Satisfaction with the visit.

(xiii) Increased resources derived from sustainable tourism practices.

Buffer zone:

(xiv) Adopted buffer zone map and integrated with local and regional planning instruments.

(xv) Definition and implementation of regulatory measures for the buffer zone;

7. Requests the State Party to provide three printed and electronic copies of the Management Plan upon completion;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
9. Decides to retain **Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile)** on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

Criteria

(iv) (v)

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

2005 - Present

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

- a) Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004, 2005 and 2010;
- b) Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements.

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

Adopted, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/449>, to be updated in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies

Corrective measures identified

Adopted previously, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1603>, to be updated in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

To be updated in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage) for the planning, implementation and subsequent publications of participatory workshops and meetings with artisans and civil society in Coro and La Vela.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on 15 April 2013 that includes information about actions carried out in response to the decisions made by the World Heritage Committee.

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been completed by the State Party. However, the State Party has not submitted the Desired state of conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as was requested by the World Heritage Committee.

Following the recommendations of the 2011 reactive monitoring mission, the State Party reports on the finalization of the database for the register of cultural heritage in Venezuela (RPC-Venezuela). This database is now publicly available on the internet and includes inventories and information about cultural properties in the country inscribed in the World Heritage List.

a) Conservation measures

The State Party reports that the Management Committee established in 2011 set out a series of measures for the property. Consolidation and restoration works were carried out by the Community Councils of Coro and La Vela, with technical and administrative support from the Institute of Cultural Heritage. Fifty traditional houses were restored and it is expected that four more restorations will be concluded by the second quarter of 2013. In addition, the government of the State of Falcon purchased three historic houses and completed their restoration and adaptation. Both *Casa de las Ventanas* and *Casa del Tesoro* will function as museums, while the future function of the *Casa del Sol* has yet to be established. However, no detailed information is provided on the museographic interventions to adapt the building. Other interventions are also being carried out at other historic constructions, such as the Convent of San Francisco and *Casa Lugo*, and minor preventive maintenance at churches.

Conservation interventions have been funded with resources allocated by the Presidency of the Republic and implemented with multidisciplinary participation. Works have also sought to preserve and enhance traditional building techniques and craftsmanship, as well as capacity transfer to new generations. In this respect, it is worth underscoring that the Workshop

School of Coro has been maintained, as a joint effort between the Municipality of Miranda and the Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development.

b) Legislative framework and regulatory measures

The State Party notes that legal measures continue to be implemented in accordance with the Law on protection and defence of cultural heritage. Ten legal proceedings were initiated in Coro and two in La Vela for infractions. It also reports that the Municipality of Miranda is currently developing a new Municipal Ordinance for the protection and care of built heritage, which will be subject to public consultation throughout 2013 prior to its approval; though no concrete information is provided on the measures planned in this new legal instrument.

The State Party further mentioned that the Institute of Cultural Heritage issued administrative ruling no. 029-12, which establishes norms and procedures for archaeological and paleontological activities and will also regulate research works in the national urban and non-urban protected areas. It is expected that this measure will enhance the protection of archaeological remains within the inscribed property and its buffer zone and related areas, such as the Taima Taima Paleontological Park.

c) Management arrangements

The State Party reports that the Office for Strategic Projects and Design for the heritage areas of Coro, La Vela and their protected areas (OPEDAP) was created by administrative ruling no 018/12 in October 2012. According to the State Party, this office will organise and harmonise public, private and popular power actions aimed at ensuring the conservation of the architectural, structural and stylistic values of the heritage buildings and public spaces of the protected areas of Coro and La Vela. This office should serve as the management office for the property from the formal, legal and technical point of view.

The State Party reports that the office has already coordinated actions taken by the Government of the State of Falcon, by the Municipalities of Miranda and Colina, by Community Councils and by the community in general. The State Party also mentions that the office has provided assistance to civil society and public and private entities with regard to interventions at 67 buildings, and that it has held multi-stakeholder meetings that have resulted in the creation of a network of heritage ensembles to undertake comprehensive actions for the protection of built heritage. However, detailed information on the coordinative competences of the office has not been provided, nor has it been provided on its participative structures.

Moreover, no Management Plan has been submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as it was requested by the World Heritage Committee. It is expected that OPEDAP, as a planning body, will define actions to be undertaken at the inscribed property and its buffer zone, as well as design guidelines for intervention, protection and enhancement of the protected areas, which should serve as the basis for the Management Plan.

d) Boundaries and buffer zone

As requested by the World Heritage Committee, the geographical and cartographical information for the property and its buffer zones was submitted to the World Heritage Centre as part of the Retrospective Inventory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

e) Planned interventions and other issues

As was requested by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party reports on other actions undertaken at the property, such as the updating of signage and interpretation, or dissemination and outreach actions to promote the tangible and intangible values of the property have also been undertaken, including publication and wide distribution of information materials, workshops, exhibits and presentations.

The development of project proposal for large scale drainage works for the Municipalities of Miranda and Colina, as well as the proposal for road works and restriction of vehicular traffic at the Zamora Street, have also been reported by the State Party. These interventions are planned within the framework of the recommendations of the 2011 reactive monitoring mission, though no precise technical or legal information is provided on the actual intervention projects.

The State Party additionally informs on the reopening of the Airport of Coro as a way of developing the touristic attractiveness of the property, but no detailed information is provided on the impact of this infrastructure.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the actions implemented by the State Party to address the conditions that warranted the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Although some activities faced challenges identified by the Committee in previous years, the precise functioning of new legal and technical managerial instruments needs to be ensured. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the official establishment of a management office for the property is an essential step in ensuring the implementation of systematic and coherent course of action and that the formulation and approval of the Management Plan should be undertaken as a priority measure.

Moreover, detailed technical information should be provided by the State Party on the museographic aspects of the conservation of built heritage, as well as on planned interventions for the drainage system and for the restrictions of vehicular traffic at Zamora Street.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies also underscore the importance of continuing efforts with regard to capacity building and transfer of knowledge on earthen architecture construction and conservation, as these will ensure the long term sustainability of the property.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party in addressing conservation concerns at the property and encourages it to continue such efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Urges the State Party to develop and approve the Management Plan for the property, including a conservation programme with short, medium and long term priorities, provisions for risk management and provisions for public use, and requests it to submit three printed and electronic copies of the draft Management Plan by **1 February 2014** for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, the technical specifications and details of the projects for large scale drainage at the property and regulation of vehicular traffic at Zamora Street prior to implementation;*

6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to update, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Desired State of Conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a revised timeframe, and to submit a proposal to the World Heritage Centre by **30 November 2013** for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in view to submit the final proposal to World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014 for approval;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;*
8. ***Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

II. GUIDANCE FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE DESIRED STATE OF CONSERVATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF PROPERTIES FROM THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

At its 35th session, the World Heritage Committee amended Paragraph 183 of the *Operational Guidelines* to formally adopt, when considering the inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, a Desired state of conservation for the removal of this property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) (Decision **35 COM 7C**).

It also requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare “*clear modalities and guidance for the drafting and adoption of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger*”, for examination at its 36th session. Furthermore, at its 18th session (UNESCO, 2011), the General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention* endorsed the recommendations made by the UNESCO External Auditor on the Global Strategy, including to “*strengthen the monitoring of properties; define monitoring indicators for the state of conservation*” and to “*fully use the mechanism of In-Danger listing, in conformity with the provisions of the Guidelines (both for inscription and removal)*” (Resolution **18 GA 8**).

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have since published a Guidance Note to provide advice on preparing, monitoring and reporting on the DSOCR (see Annex 1 of the present document). The primary audiences are those involved in this process, including States Parties and site managers.

The DSOCR is a defined state of conservation that a property must reach in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened by serious and specific danger, and to enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is intended to enable the World Heritage Committee to take informed decisions regarding when a property should be removed from, or retained on, the List of World Heritage in Danger, on the basis of the status of threats, of the recovery of any damaged attributes, and of the capacity of the property’s protection and management system to control threats.

The DSOCR, and particularly its indicators, should be part of a property’s overall management. For example, indicators should ideally be incorporated into a site’s existing monitoring framework, in order to track progress in achieving the DSOCR. Its framework can also play an important part in coordinating the engagement of various actors in the conservation and management of a property, including States Parties, community groups and non-governmental organizations.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are actively supporting States Parties to develop and submit DSOCR for the majority of endangered properties, but note that in some cases the development of DSOCRs is delayed by the need to establish baseline data on a property’s values, for example through surveys.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7C**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*

3. Welcomes the publication of guidance on the Desired State of conservation for the removal of a property from the List of World Heritage Danger (DSOCR);
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to continue supporting States Parties in developing and submitting DSOCRs for all properties included in the List of World Heritage in Danger, by its 40th session in 2016 at the latest, and considers that properties should be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the Desired state of conservation for removal is met;

DESIRED STATE OF CONSERVATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF A PROPERTY FROM THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

GUIDANCE NOTE

The purpose of this Guidance Note is to provide advice on preparing, monitoring and reporting on the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of a property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The primary audiences for the Guidance Note are those involved in this process, including States Parties and site managers. This will also be useful for anyone interested in the DSOCR process.

1. Background - the List of World Heritage in Danger and DSOCR

A World Heritage property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger when it is threatened by serious and specific danger, whether potential or ascertained (see Box 1 below). In order for a property to be removed from this List, it must be determined that it is no longer under threat (in line with Paragraph 191 of the *Operational Guidelines*).

The decision to remove a property from the List of World Heritage in Danger should therefore be based on demonstrating the reduction of threats, the restoration of deteriorated attributes, and the capacity of the property's protection and management system to prevent the threats from recurring.

In 2007, the World Heritage Committee requested the establishment of a Desired State of Conservation¹ in order to facilitate sound decisions for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (**Decision 31 COM 7.3**, 2007). The Committee also requested that States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger prepare draft Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for these properties which did not have such statements, as these are the basis for the development of DSOCRs.

Box 1: *Operational Guidelines* paragraph 177 setting out procedures and criteria in relation to the implementation of the List of World Heritage in Danger.


In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the *Convention*, the Committee may inscribe a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger when the following requirements are met:

- a) the property under consideration is on the World Heritage List;
- b) the property is threatened by serious and specific danger;
- c) major operations are necessary for the conservation of the property;
- d) assistance under the *Convention* has been requested for the property;
- e) the Committee is of the view that its assistance in certain cases may most effectively be limited to messages of its concern, including the message sent by inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that such assistance may be requested by any Committee member or the Secretariat.

¹ Note that Desired State of Conservation is not yet included in the *Operational Guidelines*.

2. What is DSOCR and how does it relate to other instruments and processes linked to the List of World Heritage in Danger?

The Desired State of Conservation for removal of a property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is part of the wider conservation system for Danger listed properties. The different components of this system are described below:



Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: The inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the World Heritage Committee recognizes that a property is threatened by serious and specific danger, whether potential or ascertained.

Corrective Measures: The Committee requests States Parties to implement a set of actions, called Corrective Measures, in order to remove the threats to a property and enable the restoration of any deteriorated attributes within a specific timeframe.

The Desired State of Conservation for removal is a defined state of conservation that a property must reach in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened by serious and specific danger, and to enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is achieved through the successful implementation of the Corrective Measures.

Removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger: When the Desired State of Conservation for removal is achieved the Committee may decide, if the property is no longer under threat, to remove it from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. Preparing a DSOCR framework, including Desired State indicators (see Annex 3)

The four key elements of the DSOCR framework

The Desired State of Conservation for removal (DSOCR) is assessed through a set of indicators which are developed on the basis of a review of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the Corrective Measures and the overall state of conservation of the property. The indicators should provide an effective and transparent way of evaluating when a property has reached the Desired State of Conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The four key elements of a Desired State of Conservation for removal framework are described below:

- Indicators to monitor Outstanding Universal Value**, including for attributes, integrity (for natural and cultural properties²), authenticity (for cultural properties only), and protection and management. These indicators should measure the restoration of the attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value and relate to the Corrective Measures established by the Committee. In cases where a property's attributes are degraded, indicators should ascertain that the restoration of attributes is

² The notion of integrity for cultural heritage is currently under development and has not yet been adopted by the Committee for integration into the *Operational Guidelines*.

well underway at the time of removal from the List in Danger, but do not need to ascertain full recovery. Indicators should ideally relate to existing monitoring systems.

- ii. **A rationale for the indicators selected.** For natural properties, forest cover is a good indicator for a forest property inscribed under criteria (ix) and/or (x) because it is fundamental to maintaining biodiversity; for cultural properties rate of conservation of the built fabric is an appropriate indicator for properties under criteria (iv) that sustain the value of buildings or architectural ensembles.
- iii. **A method of verification for each indicator,** for example for natural properties through surveys of the property's attributes (e.g. wildlife populations, habitat extent and condition), or protection and management measures (e.g. regular patrol visits, adoption of laws or policies); and for cultural properties condition assessments and monitoring to verify the state of conservation of the built fabric, the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks to protect the setting, among others. Methods of verification should be feasible and should ideally be based on existing monitoring systems in order to significantly reduce the cost of measuring indicators.
- iv. **A timeframe for the realisation of the DSOCR,** which should be realistic and allow sufficient time to implement the Corrective Measures and other conservation actions as necessary, to carry out adequate monitoring in order to determine whether the DSOCR indicators are met, and to enable recovery of any deteriorated attributes. In cases where attributes are degraded it may take time to restore these and therefore the timeframe for the realisation of the DSOCR will be longer than that for the implementation of the Corrective Measures.

For example, for natural properties if populations of species are damaged by poaching, once the poaching is brought under control through the Corrective Measures it will take time for these populations to be well on their way to recovering and to enable a site's removal from the List in Danger. In the case of cultural properties, where the decay of materials has compromised the integrity of the property, and its ability to convey its Outstanding Universal Value, these conditions will require sustained actions to reverse, including investments in conservation interventions, and will need subsequent maintenance actions to ensure the long-term preservation of the property.

Preparing the DSOCR framework

The draft DSOCR framework is prepared by the State Party, in collaboration with the site manager and other stakeholders, and is included in its annual state of conservation reports, which are submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Body reactive monitoring missions to properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger should assist States Parties and site managers in developing and finalizing DSOCR frameworks. Indicators should ideally relate to existing monitoring systems in order to significantly reduce the costs of monitoring the DSOCR framework. Additional advice on preparing and monitoring DSOCR can be sought from the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre.

Table 1 provides detailed guidance on preparing a DSOCR framework, including indicators. Annex 3 provides a form which can be used by States Parties to prepare the DSOCR framework, and examples of such frameworks for natural and cultural sites are provided in Annexes 1 and 2.

Adopting the DSOCR framework

Once completed, the DSOCR framework is submitted to the Advisory Bodies who recommend a version for approval by the World Heritage Committee, in close consultation with the State Party, the site manager and the World Heritage Centre. The agreed DSOCR is presented to the World Heritage Committee for adoption.

Box 2: Example DSOCR Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (see Annex 1 for the full DSOCR)

The DSOCR framework for the Okapi Wildlife Reserve was developed following a joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2009, in cooperation with managers of the property and their partners. It consists of eight indicators measuring the restoration of the property's attributes (biological values), integrity and management.

- **3 attribute indicators** (percentage of forest cover, abundance indices for key species of fauna, edos are attended by fauna)
- **3 integrity indicators** (status of resident population, indices of poaching, status of mining quarries)
- **2 management indicators** (frequency and extent of patrols adoption, implementation of management plan)

These indicators are supported by a rationale and method of verification, and are based on the state of the attributes for which the property was inscribed, as documented in its Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. A timeframe of three years is proposed, as well as a survey at the end of this period in order to monitor progress in meeting the DSOCR indicators.

Box 3: Example DSOCR Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (see Annex 2 for the full DSOCR)

The DSOCR framework for the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone was developed following a joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2010, in cooperation with the site manager of the property, representatives from the authorities in charge of cultural heritage and ICOMOS.

The DSOCR establishes the desired state of conservation of the property and a series of corrective measures to be implemented over a 3 year period.

The main indicators to assess the progress made in addressing the threats to the physical fabric and material integrity of the property include:

- Reduction of the rate and extent of deterioration at the main nine palaces and exposed decorated surfaces (Method of verification: annual condition assessment surveys, number of conservation and maintenance projects at priority areas, monitoring of water table levels)
- Functioning boundaries for the property (Methods of verification: existence and maintenance of vegetation barriers and perimeter walls, monitoring of solid waste management practices)

The main indicators to assess the progress made in regard to protection and planning include:

- Adoption of regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and full enforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks passed by the State Party (Methods of verification: approval/enactment of regulatory measures for Law No. 28261 to ensure the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property)
- Relocation of illegal settlers in collaboration with pertinent authorities (number of people relocated)
- Adequate control of encroachments and urban pressure (Approval/enactment of Management plan and integration with territorial and urban development plans, aerial photographs, monitoring of the buffer zone and limits of the property).

The main indicators to assess the progress made in regard to management include:

- Operational management arrangements and budgets secured for the comprehensive implementation of the Management Plan (Methods of verification: approval/enactment of management plan and existence of budgets)
- Functional institutional arrangements with adequate resources secured for long-term implementation of the formulated Management Plan (Methods of verification: number of staff, existence of annual operation budgets).

4. Monitoring and reporting on the DSOCR framework (see Annex 4)

The Desired State of Conservation for removal process is an integral part of World Heritage monitoring and reporting processes, and should also be integrated into a property's overall management. An overview of the ways in which the DSOCR framework fits in with these processes is provided below:

Site management

The Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and particularly its indicators, should be part of a property's overall management. For example, indicators should ideally be incorporated into a site's existing monitoring framework in consultation with the site manager; in order to track progress in achieving the DSOCR.

The Desired State of Conservation for removal framework can also play an important part in coordinating the engagement of various actors in the conservation and management of a property, including States Parties, community groups and non-governmental organisations.

Monitoring and reporting processes

Progress towards achieving the indicators should be reported by the State Party within its annual state of conservation reports (using the form provided in Annex 4).

The Advisory Bodies evaluate the progress achieved in meeting the indicators and report on this within the joint World Heritage Centre / Advisory Body state of conservation reports. When substantial progress is achieved, a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Body monitoring mission visits the property and makes a recommendation regarding its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger to the World Heritage Committee, based on an evaluation of the DSOCR framework.

5. Removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The Desired State of Conservation for removal is intended to enable the World Heritage Committee to take informed decisions regarding when a property should be removed from, or retained on, the List of World Heritage in Danger, on the basis of the status of threats, of the recovery of any damaged attributes, and of the capacity of the property's protection and management system to control threats. Danger Listed properties should be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the Desired State of Conservation is met.

Table 1: Guidance on preparing a Desired State of Conservation for removal framework (using the form provided in Annex 3)

Steps	Point to consider
<p>1. Review the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the Corrective Measures, and the property's state of conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Review key documents/data</u>: Indicators should be chosen on the basis of a thorough review of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, Corrective Measures, and the overall state of conservation of the property. ii. <u>A DSOCR cannot be prepared without a SOUV</u>: A Statement of Outstanding Universal Value defines a property's Outstanding Universal Value and therefore provides a baseline for the indicators. If a SoOUV is unavailable, a retrospective statement should be drafted prior to preparing the DSOCR. The technical guidance note on drafting retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value is available on IUCN's website - www.iucn.org/worldheritage/
<p>2. Develop a set of indicators to monitor Outstanding Universal Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Choice of indicators</u>: The indicators should relate directly to a property's Outstanding Universal Value, i.e. the criteria under which it is inscribed, the attributes that sustain those criteria, its integrity and/or authenticity and its protection and management, as defined in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The indicators should focus on the key threats that are the basis for the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as the attributes affected by these threats. → Indicators must be measurable, time-bound, supported by a clear rationale, verifiable, and developed in consultation with the site manager and other stakeholders. → The wording of indicators should also indicate the 'direction of change', i.e. an upward or downward trend, a minimum or maximum threshold, or the adoption of specific policies. When there is the progress in achieving the Desired State of Conservation for removal, the indicators will typically reflect either an upward trend in the condition of attributes, or a downward trend in threats. → In cases where a site's attributes are degraded, indicators should ascertain that their restoration is well underway at the time of removal from the List in Danger, but do not need to ascertain full recovery; → Indicators should ideally relate to existing monitoring systems, where possible. ii. <u>Relate indicators to Corrective Measures</u>: The indicators should reflect the Corrective Measures adopted by the Committee to address the threats which led to inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. iii. <u>Natural property example indicator</u>: "Reduction in deforestation levels to a maximum of 10%, and cessation of illegal activities such as mining. iv. <u>Cultural property example indicator</u>: "Adoption of regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and relocation of illegal settlers in collaboration with pertinent authorities"

3. Develop a rationale for each indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The rationale should explain why each indicator was chosen with reference to the current state of conservation of the property and the importance of the indicator in relation to the property's OUV. ii. <u>Natural property example rationale:</u> "Grazing by domestic stock remains the most critical problem affecting the ecological integrity of the property. No grazing zones covering a minimum of 30% of the property are necessary to bring this threat under control. There are no census statistics, but according to the GRSPD there are 38,000 livestock units in the 17 counties which have land in the park. Addressing this threat should, over the long-term, restore the park's richness in species and habitats." iii. <u>Cultural property example rationale:</u> "Continuous illegal invasion of the legally protected area constitutes a threat to the fabric of the property; establishing mechanisms to monitor this activity as well as the enforcement of regulatory measures are crucial to control this decay factor. This measure is essential to ensure the conservation of the archaeological site and to maintain its conditions of integrity over the long-term"
4. Specify a method of verification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Methods of verification must be feasible and should ideally be based on existing monitoring systems, where possible. ii. <u>Natural property example method of verification:</u> "Surveys of the values of the property (e.g. wildlife populations, habitat extent and condition), or measures of particular protection or management measures (e.g. regular patrol visits, adoption of laws or policies)." iii. <u>Cultural property example method of verification:</u> "Condition assessments and monitoring to verify the state of conservation of the built fabric, and assessments on the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks to protect the setting."
5. Set a timeframe for the DSOCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Set a realistic timeframe:</u> Ultimately, the DSOCR should measure the success of the Corrective Measures and other conservation actions in removing the threats that led to Danger Listing, and in restoring any damaged attributes. Therefore, the timeframe for the DSOCR should be realistic and allow sufficient time to implement the Corrective Measures and other conservation actions as necessary, to carry out monitoring of the DSOCR indicators, and to enable recovery of any damaged attributes. Indicators should be systematically tied to clear and realistic conservation actions, e.g. within the property's management plan. ii. <u>What happens until the indicators are met?</u> The property should be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the indicators are met and the property is no longer threatened by serious and specific danger.
6. Summarize the approach adopted to establish the DSOCR	<p>The process adopted to establish the DSOCR should be briefly described. For example, was it developed during a World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission in collaboration with the site manager and other stakeholders?</p>

ANNEX 1: Nature case study

Okapi Wildlife Reserve DSOCR (Source: 2009 UNESCO/IUCN Mission Report)

6.1 Establishment of the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

On the basis of the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the mission has developed, in cooperation with the managers of the property and their partners, a proposal for the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, consisting of 8 indicators (I) in order to measure the restoration of the biological values of the property, its integrity and its management. These indicators should be achieved before the Okapi Wildlife Reserve can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

6.1.1 BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS

The biological indicators should enable an assessment of the state of the biological values that constitute the basis of the OUV of the property, i.e. maintaining the diversity, abundance and distribution of species. Two types of measurements can be accepted: forest cover and the abundance indices of key species of fauna.

6.1.1.1 *Forest cover*

The maintenance of forest cover of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve is proposed as an indicator for the desired state of conservation, as it constitutes a requirement for the maintenance of floristic diversity, including the abundance and distribution of key species.

The surface of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve is 13,726 km² and the current surface of encroached areas (essentially in the agricultural zones) is 1,400 km², i.e. 10 %. The indicator should show that the encroached area does not grow larger and thus does not exceed 10 %.

I 1: The surface of encroachment in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve does not exceed 10 % of the total surface. [Methods of verification: periodical analyses (5 years) of satellite images; monitoring of the boundaries of agricultural zones].

6.1.1.2 *Abundance indices (rate of encounter) of key species of fauna*

A key element of the desired state of conservation is the fact that viable populations of flagship species are present in the property. An important indicator is the improvement of trends in the abundance of these species.

The 2008 report on the distribution and frequency of fauna and human activities in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve indicates a reduction of abundance indices of the majority of species of large fauna between 1995 and 2006³. Although it is unlikely that the recovery of pre-war indices can be

³ The results of surveys of fauna indicate that the populations of elephants and okapis have diminished by 48% and 43% respectively between 1995 and 2006.

achieved within the coming five or six years, particularly for elephants⁴, it is nevertheless necessary to empirically demonstrate that a gradual recovery of populations is underway.

Monitoring abundance indices of large fauna is notoriously difficult for methodological reasons⁵ and requires relatively significant financial resources. Additionally, the situation in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve is complicated due to the fact that there are areas with different hunting pressure (agricultural zone, hunting zone, conservation zone). It is therefore necessary to use a methodology for monitoring the rate of encounter of fauna that is on the one hand statistically sufficiently robust to detect actual trends, and on the other hand feasible from a logistic and financial perspective. The method will be based on a simplified version of the systematic survey protocol used for previous surveys, of which the sampling scheme and the geographic locations of all transects are known. The rate of encounter of illegal human activities will also be collected through this protocol (see § 6.1.2 – management indicators).

The sampling scheme should include all three zones (agricultural zone, hunting zone and conservation zone). In addition to the three flagship species identified in the Statement of OUV (okapi, elephant, chimpanzee), the rates of encounter of small ungulates and duikers, “common” species particularly targeted by the bush-meat trade, will be monitored. For logistic and financial reasons, this systematic survey can reasonably only be carried out once (in 2012).

The rates of encounter (fauna and human activities) derived from the patrol monitoring system will also be monitored continuously and should confirm a gradual improvement of the situation. It should nevertheless be emphasized that the indices derived from patrol monitoring and those derived from systematic surveys are not directly comparable as they are collected through differing methods and with different means. However, the trends will be comparable.

According to the surveys report (Rapport IMU n° 9, 2008), the rate of encounter of indirect indices of species of fauna in the three sampled zones in 2005/2006 were:

	Rate of encounter of indirect indices (indices/km) (nests for chimpanzees, dung for other species)		
	Agricultural zone	Hunting zone	Conservation zone
Elephant	1.33	1.20	1.72
Okapi	0.11	0.22	0.51
Chimpanzee	0.35	0.45	0.82
Small ungulates	0.20	0.51	1.18
Red-flanked duiker	0.22	0.51	1.41
Yellow-backed duiker	0.06	0.13	0.25

⁴ In the case of forest elephants, of which the home ranges exceed the boundaries of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, it is unlikely that the population can reach the same level as in 1995 (estimated at 7,500 individuals using the Reserve) on account of the loss of its habitat outside the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (advancement of human activities – agriculture, forest exploitation – from east to west). Nevertheless, an increase in abundance indices will help to show an improvement of the level of protection even if the absolute number of elephants remains below that of 1995.

⁵ Contrary to trees, animals move and are quite rarely seen during surveys. Survey methods are therefore based on indirect indices (dung, tracks, nests) on the basis of which estimations of abundance are calculated. Consequently, the estimations of absolute abundance of populations are often imprecise (large variance) and the collection of data is time consuming (and therefore costly). Therefore, generally the abundance index (rate of encounter of indirect indices) is sought, rather than the absolute abundance of individuals. This index allows the monitoring of trends even if absolute numbers are unknown.

This represents, for the period 1995-2006, the following declines (all zones combined):

Elephant: -48%
 Okapi: -43%
 Chimpanzee: no data
 Small ungulates: -26%
 Red-flanked duiker: -42%
 Yellow-backed duiker: -59%

The rates of encounter of 2006 will serve as the baseline for the establishment of benchmarks to be achieved in 2012. Obviously it is not realistic to expect a complete reversal of these declines in a period of 6 years (2006-2012). On the one hand, poaching will not stop overnight and on the other hand, animal populations, particularly of large species with long reproduction cycles, need time to recover. In addition, the rate of change will be different per zone, higher in the conservation zone and lower (or even nil) in the agricultural zone.

The following indicators are proposed:

I 2: In 2012, the evolution of rates of encounter of fauna indices compared to those of 2006 will be:

	Agricultural zone	Hunting zone	Conservation zone
Elephant	no decline	≥ 10%	≥ 20%
Okapi	no decline	≥ 10%	≥ 20%
Chimpanzee	no decline	≥ 10%	≥ 20%
Small ungulates	no decline	≥ 15%	≥ 35%
Red-flanked duiker	no decline	≥ 15%	≥ 35%
Yellow-backed duiker	no decline	≥ 15%	≥ 35%

[Method of verification: systematic survey based on the methodology applied to the 2005/2006 surveys; patrol monitoring data]

Attendance of *edos*⁶ by large fauna (elephant, bongo, buffalo) is a good indicator of the level of protection. Being open environments, these areas are quickly abandoned by forest animals when poaching intensifies. Four *edos* are particularly important: Mehwa, Kiboko, Boyea, and Afaru. These *edos* should be monitored regularly and recent traces of attendance confirmed. The presence of concentrations of grey parrots and green pigeons at Mehwa should be maintained. The attendance of *edos* can be verified during patrols or research visits through the presence of attendance indices (tracks, dung, ...).

⁶ Forest clearings rich in mineral salt that attract animals

I 3: The *edos* Mehwa, Kiboko, Boyea, and Afaru are actively attended by fauna.
[Methods of verification: regular patrol visits; aerial overflights]

6.1.2 INTEGRITY AND MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

The main factor influencing the level of encroachment and the level of hunting in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve is the number of people having their residence there. A major objective of the management of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve is to stabilize this number. The demographic census of 2003 has counted 17,000 people living inside the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, and 37,000 people living within 15 km of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. A census is currently in progress and the results will be available during the first half of 2009. According to preliminary analyses, it is likely that the number of people currently living inside the Okapi Wildlife Reserve will be between 20,000 and 21,000. Although with the establishment of an immigration control system it is possible that this number will be slightly lower (by regulating the situations of resident and non-resident people), it is nevertheless unlikely that the situation of 2003 can be re-established. It is therefore necessary to halt immigration in order to stabilise the population at its current level.

I 4: In 2012, the resident human population inside the Okapi Wildlife Reserve does not exceed 21,000 people.
[Method of verification: demographic census in 2012; data from the registers of residents of each village].

Other integrity indices are the indices of illegal activities. The major illegal activities inside the property are poaching and mining:

I 5: In 2012, the indices of poaching (illegal hunting) have reduced by at least 60% in the conservation zone and by at least 30% in the hunting zone compared to the situation in 2006.
[Methods of verification: 2012 fauna survey; patrol monitoring data].

I 6: The mining quarries identified in 2006 are not re-opened and no new quarries are established.
[Method of verification: aerial overflights (twice a year)].

In order to measure if adequate protection is in place to maintain the values and integrity of the property, the following indicators are proposed:

I 7: At least one kilometre of patrol is carried out each year in 85% of 5km x 5km quadrants of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.
[Method of verification: patrol monitoring data]

I 8: The management plan of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, foreseeing the establishment of a conservation zone with national park status, is officially adopted and implemented.
[Method of verification: ministerial decree for the adoption of the management plan; decree for the creation of the conservation zone with national park status].

6.1.3 CALENDAR FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The mission considers that if security conditions are met and the efforts for the implementation of the corrective measures continue, these indicators could be achieved in 3 years (2012).

In order to ensure the monitoring of these indicators, the mission considers it necessary to organize, before the end of 2010, a review to elaborate the methodology to be used for the 2012 survey. The aim is to propose a lighter, but statistically sound⁷ version of the methodology used for the 1995 and 2005/2006 surveys.

⁷ In particular it is necessary to elaborate a methodology that would allow minimizing the variance coefficient for the rates of encounter, because with methodologies generally used in forest environments in Central Africa it is difficult to detect changes of less than 20%.

ANNEX 2: Culture case study

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, Peru

Chan Chan Archaeological Zone in Peru was inscribed on the World Heritage List and immediately on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1986 due to the fragility of its earthen architecture and decorated surfaces, exacerbated by the lack of sustained conservation and maintenance practices, the illegal occupation of the property, unregulated farming activities, rising water table levels and the delay in implementing protective measures. The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011)

Since the inscription of the property three reactive monitoring missions were carried out. The 2007 mission to the property identified a series of corrective measures to be implemented by the State Party and which were subsequently reported in the annual state of conservation reports presented to the World Heritage Committee.

In 2010, with the approved Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the mission worked with the site manager and the authorities in charge of the cultural heritage in Peru, and developed a draft Desired State of Conservation which was subsequently revised by ICOMOS and the State Party prior to its approval by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012).

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

Based on the adopted Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property, several measures were identified to ensure that the threats affecting the property were systematically and holistically addressed.

The Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger that was adopted is as follows:

- a) *Operational and sustainable management system for the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone in place, including functional institutional arrangements and secured funding,*
- b) *Approval of revised Management Plan and integration with other planning tools at the municipal and provincial levels, particularly for the management of the buffer zone,*
- c) *Continued implementation of conservation and maintenance measures at the property, including mitigation measures to address the vulnerability of the earthen architecture remains,*
- d) *Legislative and regulatory measures to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities at the site enacted and enforced;*

State of conservation of the physical fabric of the property

Conserving the physical fabric and the material integrity of the archaeological site is crucial for sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices and from rising water table levels had eroded the physical integrity of the property and affected a significant number of attributes of the property, in particular the ability to distinguish the differentiated use of space, the characteristics of the architectural elements and the decorative features, as well as the remains from agricultural systems and irrigation systems.

The following corrective measures were identified for conservation:

- Comprehensive conservation condition assessment and monitoring to assess the existing state of conservation of the property,
- Identification of priority areas for the implementation of conservation and maintenance actions,
- Implementation of priority and emergency conservation measures at vulnerable areas of the property, with particular focus on the nine palaces and areas with decorated surfaces, as well as measures centred on the control of water table levels,
- Definition and adoption of conservation guidelines for intervention,
- Implementation and maintenance of the physical delimitation of the property including vegetation barriers and perimeter walls,
- Comprehensive assessment of the current conditions of the existing site museum, identification of priority emergency measures and definition of a comprehensive intervention programme to be included in the public use plan.
- Addressing of solid waste management at the boundaries of the site in collaboration with pertinent authorities,
- Monitoring programme fully in place to evaluate the efficacy and results of interventions and to revise them if needed,
- Interventions for public use at the property, particularly in respect to the site museum in accordance to provisions included in the revised Management Plan,
- Interventions for risk management in accordance to provisions identified in the Management Plan,

The main indicators to assess the progress made in addressing the threats to the physical fabric and material integrity of the property include:

- Reduction of the rate and extent of deterioration at the main nine palaces and exposed decorated surfaces. (Method of verification: annual condition assessment surveys, number of conservation and maintenance projects at priority areas, monitoring of water table levels)
- Functioning boundaries for the property (Methods of verification: existence and maintenance of vegetation barriers and perimeter walls, monitoring of solid waste management practices)

Protection and and Management

The illegal occupation of the property, as well as the unregulated farming activities and the lack of efficient implementation of legislative and regulatory measures affected the integrity of the property. These conditions particularly affected the remains of the prehispanic production sectors, in particular the agricultural units, the outlying residential areas and intermediate architecture. The setting and visual integrity of the property was also impacted negatively by illegal farming practices, which had been exacerbated by pending resolution of land tenure and relocation issues and by encroaching urban and infrastructure development.

For protection and planning, the following corrective measures were identified:

- Updating of the Management Plan, including a revised risk Management Plan and a public use plan as well as scheduled and costed provisions for the conservation and management of the property and its buffer zone,
 - Finalization of the definition of the buffer zone and its regulatory measures in collaboration with municipal authorities,
 - Dissemination and circulation among stakeholders of updated plans for the property and its buffer zone, including provisions and regulations for each zone. Collaboration with entities in

defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the World Heritage property,

- Finalization of regulations for Law no. 28261 to address fundamental issues such as the illegal removal of soil, agricultural works and the illegal occupation at the property,
- Integration of the Management Plan in territorial and urban development plans,
- Dissemination of the revised Management Plan to strengthen public and private support in its implementation.

The main indicators to assess the progress made in regard to protection and planning include:

- Adoption of regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and full enforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks passed by the State Party (Methods of verification: Approval / enactment of regulatory measures for Law No. 28261 to ensure the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property)
- Relocation of illegal settlers in collaboration with pertinent authorities (Methods of verification: number of people relocated)
- Adequate control of encroachments and urban pressure (Methods of verification: Approval/enactment of Management plan and integration with territorial and urban development plans, aerial photographs, monitoring of the buffer zone and limits of the property).

For management, the following measures were identified:

- Evaluation of effectiveness of existing institutional arrangements to include revised provisions in the updated Management Plan,
- Identification of sources for secured funding in the long-term,
- Full and systematic implementation of the revised Management Plan in accordance to prescribed policies,

The main indicators to assess the progress made in regard to management include:

- Operational management arrangements and budgets secured for the comprehensive implementation of the Management Plan (Methods of verification: approval/enactment of management plan and existence of budgets)
- Functional institutional arrangements with adequate resources secured for long-term implementation of the formulated Management Plan (Methods of verification: number of staff, existence of annual operation budgets)

Based on discussions with the site manager and the national authorities, and in consideration to the existing resources and capacities, it was considered that the identified corrective measures could be implemented within a three year period.

ANNEX 3: Template worksheet – Desired State of Conservation for removal framework

How was the DSOCR developed?

Timeframe for implementation

	N	INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION
ATTRIBUTES				
INTEGRITY/ AUTHENTICITY				
PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT				

ANNEX 4: Template worksheet – Progress Report on the Desired State of Conservation for removal framework

	N	INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	STATUS OF INDICATOR
ATTRIBUTES					
INTEGRITY/ AUTHENTICITY					
PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT					

ANNEX 5: Decision 31 COM 7.3 – Outcomes of the benchmarks meeting

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7C** and **30 COM 9** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Thanking the Government of the Netherlands for having hosted the meeting of experts, which took place from 2 to 3 April 2007 in Paris, as well as all the experts who contributed to it,
4. Noting the results and recommendations of the expert meeting,
5. Decides to formally adopt a monitoring framework for World Heritage properties;
6. Decides to integrate the monitoring framework into the next revision of the Operational Guidelines and to ensure cross referencing for all World Heritage processes;
7. Specifically requests for the revision of the Operational Guidelines to ensure the link between outstanding universal value and the format for nominations (Annex 5: 4a on present state of conservation and 4b on factors affecting the property);
8. Further requests the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to establish desired state of conservation in all state of conservation reports to facilitate sound decisions, specifically for inclusion in / removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Urges the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to provide technical guidance on how to draft statements of significance / outstanding universal value and requests ICCROM to use the funds, already allocated, for a focussed guidance manual, in consultation with IUCN and ICOMOS, to be published by the end of 2007;
10. Noting the prioritised implementation strategy with focus on the application of the monitoring framework to properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, requests States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger to prepare a draft Statement of outstanding universal value for these properties,
11. Further requests all States Parties, with the Advisory Bodies, to prepare a draft Statement of outstanding universal value for their properties prior to the arrival of a reactive monitoring mission, and to ensure that the draft statements of outstanding universal value be prepared in advance for the next cycle of Periodic Reporting;
12. Requests that stakeholders be involved in preparing all reports required under the World Heritage Convention (nomination documents, state of conservation reports, periodic reports) in order to ensure full participation in the definition of the values and desired state of conservation of a property;
13. Recalls the requirement that at the time of inscription the Committee decision should entail a clear Statement of outstanding universal value with authenticity and/or integrity and decides to add the requirements to describe the desired state of conservation;
14. Notes confusion around the term "benchmarks" and requests instead the use of the terms "desired state of conservation" and "corrective measures" in all state of conservation documents relating to the List of World Heritage in Danger, and adopts in principle the format for state of conservation reports in Annex II.