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# Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Republic of Mauritius) No 1259

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## 1. Basic data

### State Party

Republic of Mauritius

### Name of property

Le Morne Cultural Landscape

### Location

Black River District

### Inscription

2008

### Brief description

Le Morne Cultural Landscape, a rugged mountain that juts into the Indian Ocean in the southwest of Mauritius was used as a shelter by runaway slaves, maroons, through the 18th and early years of the 19th centuries. Protected by the mountain's isolated, wooded and almost inaccessible cliffs, the escaped slaves formed small settlements in the caves and on the summit of Le Morne. The oral traditions associated with the maroons, have made Le Morne a symbol of the slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering, and their sacrifice, all of which have relevance to the countries from which the slaves came - the African mainland, Madagascar, India, and South-east Asia. Indeed, Mauritius, an important stopover in the eastern slave trade, also came to be known as the "Maroon republic" because of the large number of escaped slaves who lived on Le Morne Mountain.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2011

## 2. Issues raised

### Background

In 2008, during the evaluation process, the State Party agreed to ICOMOS's request that the buffer zone should be extended in the south-east part of the property in order to better preserve one of the main visual perspectives of the property. However, the village of Le Morne did not form part of the buffer zone finally adopted.

In 2010, during a mission for the cadastral monitoring of the property boundaries, carried out to demarcate the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, discrepancies in the geodesic coordinates were observed on some of the 27 reference points on the boundaries of

the property and buffer zone. The discrepancies ranged from 0.5 m to 30 m.

It was thus observed that the CD and FG demarcation lines of the original property, in the south and south-west, passed through two private houses (CD) and an aerial installation (FG). The mission also noted that 12 houses in the village of Le Morne were inside the buffer zone, whereas the initial plan indicated that the whole village was located outside the buffer zone.

### Modification

The State Party therefore has proposed a new table of the geodesic coordinates of the 27 reference points demarcating the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone (Annex 2).

In order to allow for the actual boundaries of the private properties, the property boundaries have been slightly adjusted around the former lines CD and FG. The first line becomes a set of three broken lines CC1, C1C2 and C2D, which skirt round the houses (Annex 5). The second line, FG, is moved a few metres to the north-east in order to allow for the aerial installation plot (Annex 5).

In all, the property's area is increased by 0.6 hectares, from 349 ha to 349.6 ha. The private owner affected by these two changes has given his agreement.

In order to comply with the actual boundaries of the village and its cadastral plan, the boundaries of the buffer zone to the north-east of the village are modified as follows (Annex 6):

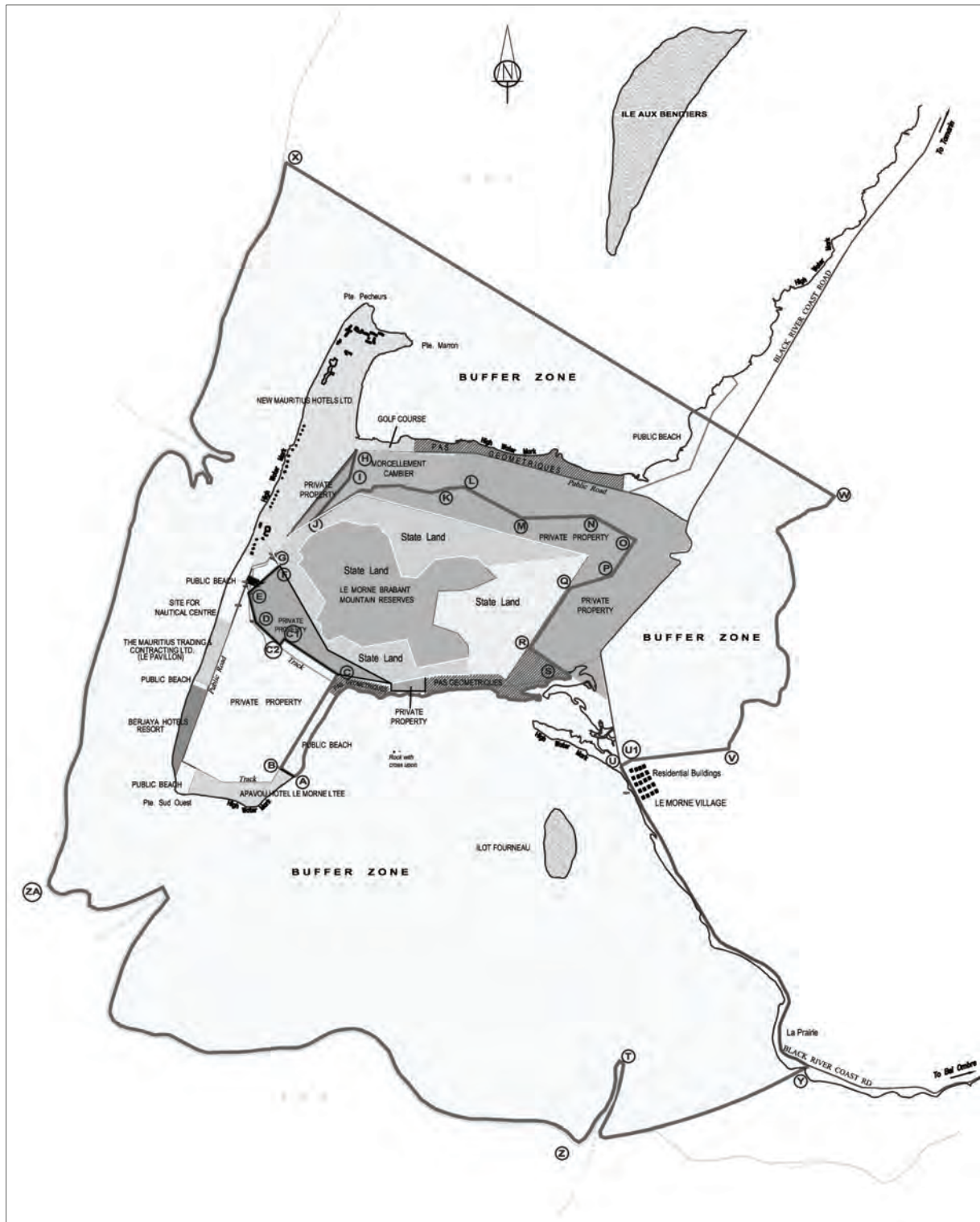
- demarcation point U has been shifted 30 m to the north, following the coastal road, in order to be opposite the path forming the northern boundary of the village;
- demarcation point U1 is created at a distance of approximately 100 m, on the northern path; the boundary UU1 follows the path;
- the boundary follows the new line U1V.

The area of the buffer zone is reduced by 2 hectares, from 2407 ha to 2405 ha.

## 3. ICOMOS recommendations

### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of Le Morne Cultural Landscape, Republic of Mauritius, be **approved**.



Maop showing the revised boundaries of the property