

# Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém in Lisbon (Portugal)

No 263

ICOMOS recommends that the enlarged buffer zone for the Tower of Belém and thus the enlarged buffer zone for the Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém in Lisbon (Portugal) should be *approved*.

## 1. BASIC DATA

*State Party:* Portugal

*Name of property:* Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém in Lisbon

*Location:* City of Lisbon

*Inscription:* 1983

*Brief Description:*

Standing at the entrance to Lisbon harbour, the Monastery of the Hieronymites – construction of which began in 1502 – exemplifies Portuguese art at its best. The nearby Tower of Belém, built to commemorate Vasco da Gama's expedition, is a reminder of the great maritime discoveries that laid the foundations of the modern world.

## 2. ISSUES RAISED

*Background*

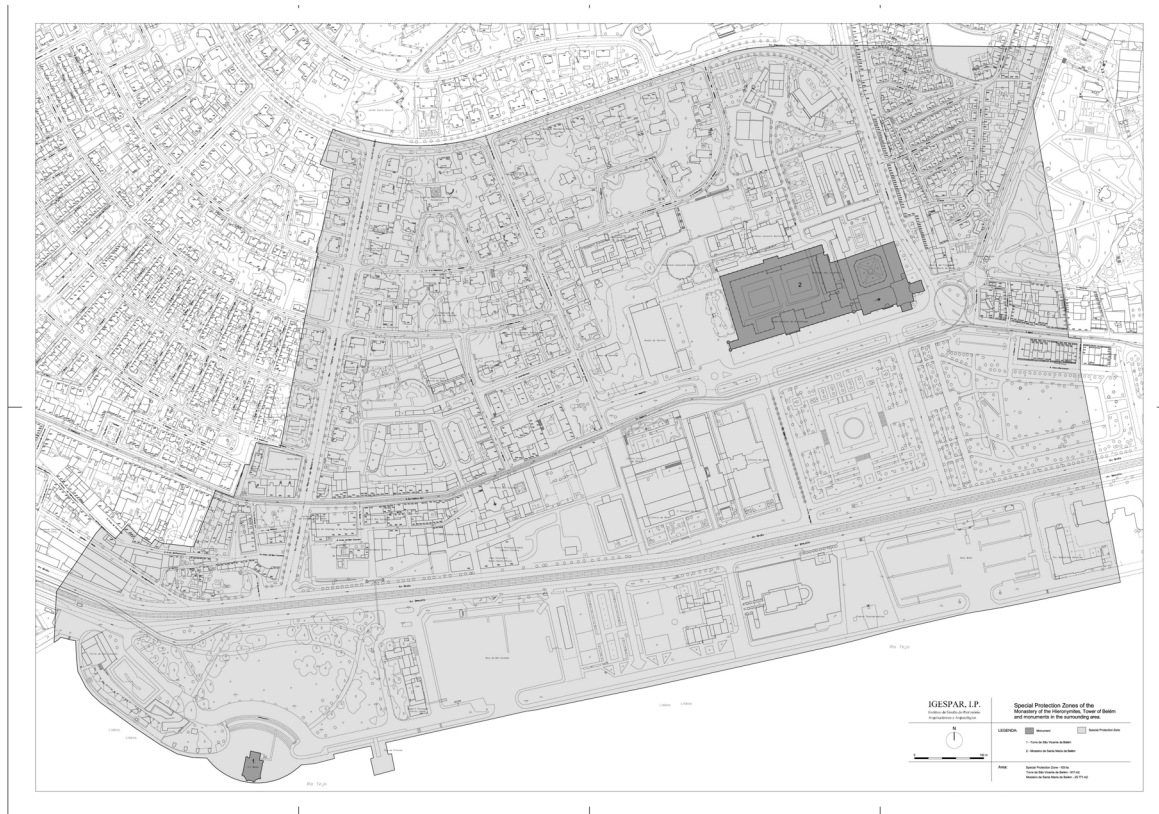
At the time of inscription, the Monastery of the Hieronymites and the Tower of Belém each had separate protection zones, established in 1960. Both sites lie within an area of historical and monumental significance associated with Portugal's maritime past and contain notable buildings such as the governor's house for the tower of Belém, the governor's house of the fort of Bom Sucesso, and the Convent of Bom Sucesso.

*Modification*

The current proposal is to enlarge the protection zone around the Tower of Belém to 44.62ha so it forms a continuous area with the existing protection zone of 58.70ha around the Monastery of the Hieronymites. This enlarged zone was given statutory protection in February 2007. The combined protection zone or buffer zone will be managed and protected as a single unit.

## 3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS considers that the proposed enlarged buffer zone greatly increases protection of the settings of the two components of the World Heritage site. It cannot however be said to protect their entire setting – particularly when the two monuments are viewed from the sea – and this wider setting will still need to be protected by planning powers.



**Map showing the boundaries of the buffer zone**