

Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)

No 323

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the defined buffer zone for the Royal Palaces of Abomey, Benin, be approved.

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Benin

Name of property: Royal Palaces of Abomey

Location: Province of Zou

Inscription: 1985, Inscribed on the World Heritage List in danger in 1985

Brief Description:

From 1625 to 1900, twelve kings succeeded one another at the head of the powerful Kingdom of Abomey. With the exception of King Akaba, who had his own separate enclosure, they all had their palaces built within the same cob-wall area, in keeping with previous palaces as regards the use of space and materials. The royal palaces of Abomey are a unique reminder of this vanished kingdom.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The property has been on the Danger list since its inscription as a result of the serious state of deterioration of the palaces following a tornado in 1984; and of restoration work carried out without respect for the authenticity of materials, volumes and the colours of buildings.

As part of agreed corrective measures, the Committee at its 28 Session (COM15A.14) required the State Party to put in place a clearly defined buffer zone to protect the integrity of the property.

Modification

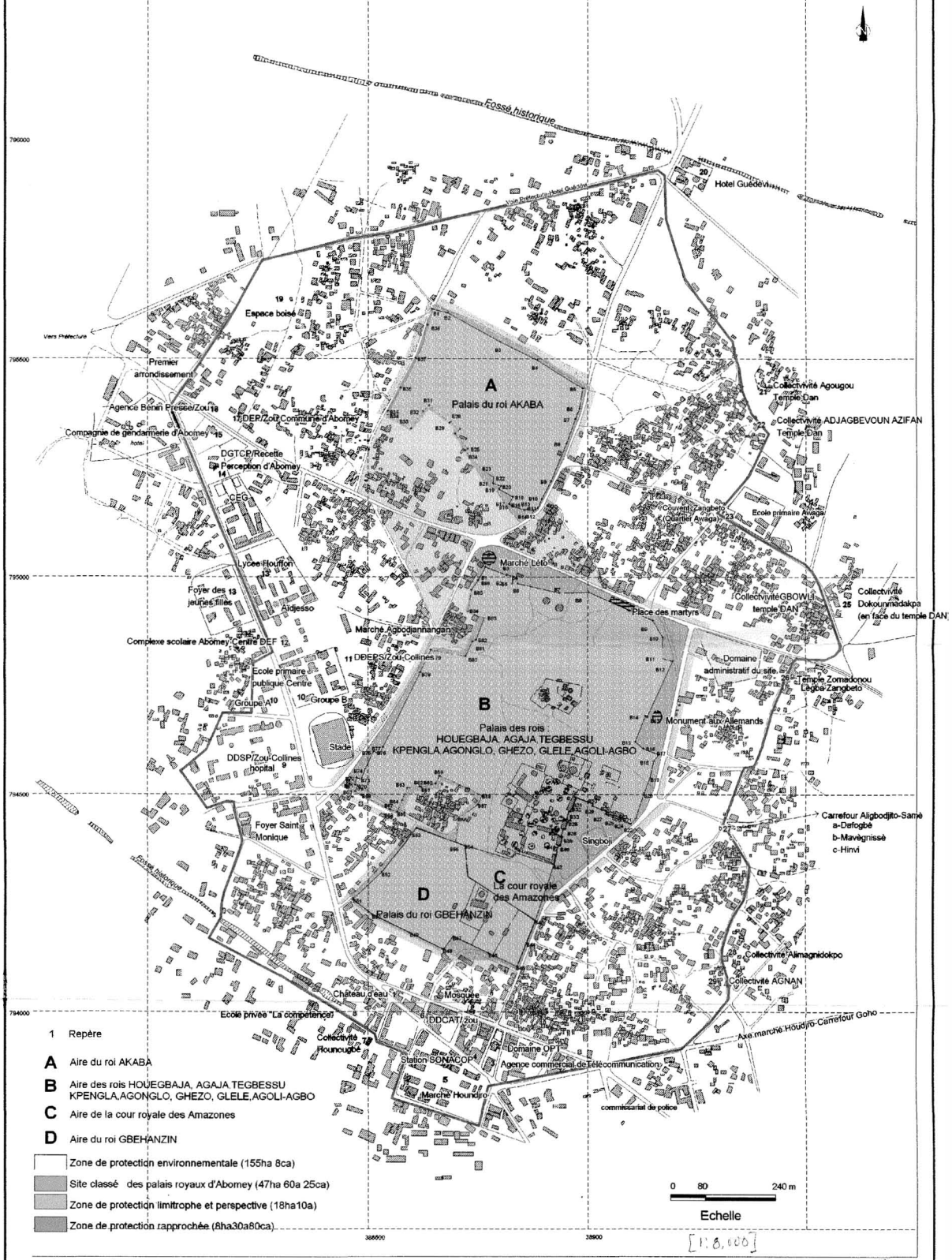
A buffer zone has now been put in place for the property. This extends up to 200 m from the inscribed boundary. It is divided into three discrete zones with differing levels of restrictions. The whole buffer zone is subject to a local by-law 2006-N°4/013/MCA/SG-SAG of 5 July 2006 which controls planning in the zone.

On 31 January 2007, the State Party submitted descriptions of the buffer zone, of its zones and of the restrictive measures in place. A map was also submitted.

From 19 to 24 February 2007, a joint ICOMOS–UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission visited the property and had the opportunity to view the buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that what has been put in place is of adequate size and provides adequate protection for the integrity of the inscribed property.

REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN
 SITE CLASSE DES PALAIS ROYAUX D'ABOMEY
ZONE TAMPON DE PROTECTION DU SITE CLASSE DES PALAIS ROYAUX D'ABOMEY



LEVÉ ET DRESSÉ : FÉVRIER 2006
 Réalisation: Aimé GONCALVES, Architecte du Patrimoine



Map showing the boundaries of the suggested buffer zone