1. BASIC DATA

State Party: France

Name of property: Palace and Park of Versailles

Location: Département of Yvelines, Region Ile-de-France

Inscription: 1979

Brief Description:

The Palace of Versailles was the principal residence of the French kings from the time of Louis XIV to Louis XVI. Embellished by several generations of architects, sculptors, decorators and landscape architects, it provided Europe with a model of the ideal royal residence for over a century.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

As part of the Periodic Reporting process for Europe, the State Party identified the need to put in place appropriate buffer zones for eight inscribed properties, of which this is one.

At the time of inscription the property had no buffer zone.

Modification

The State Party if now proposing a large buffer zone surrounding the whole inscribed site. The inscribed site consists of the area enclosing the Palace and its formal gardens together with a thin strip around the view from the end of the Grand Canal. The proposed Buffer Zone extends to a radius of 5000m from the central of the main inscribed property and to 2000m and 3000m approximately either side of the view corridor. At the far end of this corridor, the buffer zone extends to approximately 500m.

The proposed buffer zones encompasses the urban areas to the south-west, south, east and north-east of the property and the open farmland to the north, north-west and west. The non-urban areas are protected site classes.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the buffer zone for the Palace and Park of Versailles (France) be approved.
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone