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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-second session

**Manama, Bahrain
24 June - 4 July 2018**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties
inscribed on the World Heritage List**

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. 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/42COM/documents>

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 World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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I. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

1. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add

2. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707ter)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

3. Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu (China) (C 704)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2014: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Housing (Redevelopment of traditional housing)
- Management systems/management plan (issue resolved)



Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/documents/>. The report outlines progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Panchi Pond project in the buffer zone has been suspended by the Qufu government to permit further modifications;
- Recent projects have been limited to restorations (Dacheng Gate, East and West wing rooms of the Temple of Confucius, Pavilion of Thirteen Steles) and small-scale improvements to infrastructure. There have been no new large-scale construction projects within the property or its Buffer Zone. The large Confucius Museum, which is expected to open in 2018, is located 5 km away from the property;
- A stricter project approval process has been demanded of local authorities by the State Party, including Heritage Impact Assessments;
- An improved monitoring system will be implemented in three years to provide more timely and scientific information about the property and its Buffer Zone;
- The *Management Plan of Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu* was completed in 2016. It includes a specific chapter on the protection standards and requirements for the property and its Buffer Zone;
- Various plans and technical guidelines for city development, community involvement and urban construction have been developed to encourage the sustainable development of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has outlined a number of positive accomplishments made since 2015 to improve the state of conservation and management of the property. Achievements include suspending the Panchi Pond project to allow further reconsideration; encouraging a more rigorous approval process; completing the Management Plan as well as undertaking a series of plans and guidelines aimed at encouraging sustainable development. The development of an improved monitoring system is likewise commendable, but it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to examine whether it may be possible to reduce the three-year implementation timeframe. No new project documentation has been received since the last Committee decision; the planning document and the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) mentioned in the current report are evidently the ones received as Annex I and Annex II of the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party in November 2015.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to work towards a final resolution of the Panchi Pond project, in accordance with decisions made about the *Detailed Planning and Building Scheme for the Construction Project in the Area of the Ancient Panchi Pond in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Site in Qufu* and the accompanying HIA, which were submitted to China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage and to the World Heritage Centre in 2015 and were commented on by the Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016).

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the 2016 *Management Plan of Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.32 adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Takes note of the positive steps taken by the State Party to improve the state of conservation and management of the property and its Buffer Zone;
4. Encourages the State Party to work towards a final resolution of the Panchi Pond project in the Buffer Zone of the property, taking into account the comments made by the Committee in the Decision recalled above;
5. Requests the State Party to review its proposed improved monitoring system with a view to determining whether it may be possible to reduce the three-year implementation timeframe;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the 2016 Management Plan of Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

4. Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape (China) (C 1508)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Management systems / Management Plan (Need to put all 38 rock art sites under the highest protection level; Lack of a conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites)
- Management activities (Lack of monitoring systems, including a risk preparedness strategy addressing the risk of forest fire)
- Forestry / Wood production (Firewood collection)
- Surface water pollution (Use of fossil fuel for the operation of boats and other facilities in the surrounding villages)
- Land conversion; Crop production; Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals (Risk of the areas for farming growing beyond the present level)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/>

Current conservation issues

In November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/documents/>. The report presents the State Party's progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription, as follows:

- In addition to the Ningming Huashan Rock Art Site, the process of listing the 37 additional rock art sites located within the property as 'National Priority Protected Sites', the highest level of protection, has begun: relevant documents have recently been submitted for review by the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region's Department of Culture, which will officially submit this nomination to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China at a future, unspecified date;
- Efforts have been made to promote investigations at the 37 additional rock art sites, and it is planned for these investigations to be completed by 2020. Heritage monitoring and the enforcement of environmental protection law at the rock art sites have been strengthened;
- The strengthening of forest fire prevention has been addressed by means of the "Scheme for Strengthening Afforestation and Forest Fire Prevention in Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Heritage Zone" and the "Contingency Plan for Forest Fire," along with (unspecified) improved work measures and educational activities;
- Additional efforts have been made to improve the enforcement of forest resource management, to conduct forest patrols, and to restrict firewood collection from the forest (although the means of achieving the latter are not specified);
- Under the "Scheme for Promoting Utilization of Green and Clean Energy in Heritage Zones," adopted in 2016, it is planned to create a "green energy demonstration site" within the Huashan Rock Art heritage zones by 2020, employing solar-powered streetlights, water heaters and photovoltaics as well as underground methane pools, rural organic waste methane disposition, centralized biomass gasification, and Liquefied Natural Gas fuel for boats and other facilities;
- The areas allocated to farming are stable and no obvious increase or decrease in extent has occurred. Chongzuo City has taken steps to protect arable land and improve its quality through advanced technologies such as soil testing and formulated fertilization;
- In recent years, cultural heritage departments at all levels have strengthened the routine patrolling, protection and management of the rock art sites not included in the World Heritage property, including the initiation of the nomination of the seventh batch of Protected Sites of the Autonomous Region by the government of Guangxi Zhuang in 2017.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made progress regarding most of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2016. It has begun the process of placing all 38 rock art sites under the highest protection level; taken first steps towards a conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites, with consequent monitoring systems; addressed the risk of forest fire; and has limited firewood collection from the forest as a means of protecting the environment of the rock art sites. The State Party has also given consideration to using solar heating and electric power instead of fossil fuel for the operation of boats and other facilities in the surrounding villages; investigated whether any changes have occurred in the amount of land devoted to farming; and investigated whether any rock art sites within the World Heritage property are being neglected. However, the State Party has not fully reported on the Committee's recommendation to extend the Management Plan to include a risk preparedness strategy.

The State Party has indicated that some presentation and green energy utilization projects are being planned and reviewed within the property and its buffer zones. No large-scale construction or development project has been implemented.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to complete the ongoing process of listing all 38 rock art sites within the property as 'National Priority Protected Sites' as quickly as possible. The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, can be better sustained over the long term through the preparation and adoption of formal mechanisms. It is therefore recommended that the State Party finalize a formal conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites with consequent monitoring systems; that it complete a formal risk preparedness

strategy for inclusion within the Management Plan that addresses, *inter alia*, the risk of forest fire; that it adopt formal mechanisms to restrict firewood collection from the forest as a means of protecting the environment of the rock art sites; and that it also adopt formal mechanisms to restrict areas allocated to farming to the present level.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to keep it informed of the progress made with the creation of a “green energy demonstration site,” in particular regarding the implementation of environmentally sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel for the operation of boats and other facilities in the surrounding villages.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.19**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party with the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of the property’s inscription on the World Heritage List, and encourages the State Party to complete the ongoing process of listing all 38 rock art sites located within the property as ‘National Priority Protected Sites’ as quickly as possible;
4. Takes note of the presentation and utilization projects within the property area and its buffer zones currently in the planning stages and under review, and invites the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
5. Recommends that the State Party prepare and adopt formal mechanisms to ensure that the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, is sustained over the long term, including:
 - a) a conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites, with consequent monitoring systems,
 - b) a risk preparedness strategy for inclusion within the Management Plan that addresses, *inter alia*, the risk of forest fire,
 - c) mechanisms to restrict firewood collection from the forest as a means of protecting the environment of the rock art sites,
 - d) mechanisms to restrict areas allocated to farming to the present level;
6. Also encourages the State Party to keep the Committee informed of progress with the creation of a “green energy demonstration site”, in particular regarding the implementation of environmentally sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel for the operation of boats and other facilities in the surrounding villages;

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.*

5. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China / Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of one of the States Parties report on the state of conservation of the property)

6. Archaeological Site of Nalanda *Mahavihara* (Nalanda University) at Nalanda, Bihar (India) (C 1502)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Management systems / Management Plan (lack of an Integrated Master Plan of Nalanda; need for strengthened approaches to visitor management and interpretation)
- Other (lack of appropriate documentation to establish the authenticity of the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/documents/> and presents progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions as follows:

- Historical research at the property continues: the peripheral mound between the Temple and the main access pathway as well as the Rukmini Sthan mound, which is located approximately 1 km from Nalanda, were documented in 2016-17, while research on Nalanda's sculptures is in progress and a report on the property's conservation and management was recently completed;
- A century's worth of historical excavation drawings has been conserved and digitized;

- Ongoing conservation and consolidation work has been undertaken at the Temple and Monastery sites between 2016 and 2017, while the patching and repairing of different structures has continued and superficial accretions have been chemically removed. The conservation work has been made subtly distinguishable from the original structure;
- The property's general landscape is being upgraded, including garden development at the Sarai mound area, which will commence shortly, and a new garden layout around Temple sites 12, 13 and 14;
- A Detailed Project Report has been finalized for upgrading and extending the Nalanda Museum in order to enhance the visitors' experience, notably through interactive displays;
- A Regional Planning Area Authority was created in August 2017 in order to monitor the preparation and implementation of the Integrated Master Plan, which the State Party hopes will be completed in 2018. The agency preparing the Plan has submitted a Preliminary Inception Report, which outlines the methodology and process for the preparation of the Plan and includes a proposal to designate a "Special Area" covering the inscribed property and its buffer zone, and possibly establish Development Control Regulations to regulate land use in the peripheral area;
- No developments or changes in land use have been proposed. The State Party assures that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will be undertaken for any developments envisaged within the property and its vicinity;
- Methodology and implementation plans for the documentation and conservation of the property continue to be developed on the basis of established norms, including the principle of minimal intervention.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made progress on a number of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription. In particular, useful historical and academic research continues to be carried out; nevertheless, a research programme with a specific focus on establishing the authenticity of the property, along with corresponding documentation of the differentiation of authentic archaeological fabric, would be advantageous. As recommended at the time of inscription in 2016, the Integrated Master Plan should contain appropriate recommendations and approaches for any development plans proposed within or in the vicinity of the property that may have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including authenticity or integrity. The State Party's reassurance that a HIA will be prepared for any such future development plans is welcomed, as is the State Party's commitment to continue to develop a methodology and implementation plan for the documentation and conservation of the property.

The State Party has not provided a specific update on the Committee's request to work out a conservation plan for the excavated remains of the property. A formal conservation plan is an important element in the suite of mechanisms intended to safeguard the OUV and authenticity of a property such as this, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its previous request. Furthermore, although the State Party reported on the upgrading and extension of the Nalanda Museum, the State Party has not reported on how it has strengthened approaches to visitor management and interpretation through the preparation and establishment of a visitor management plan, which had also been requested by the Committee at the time of inscription. A reiteration of this request by the Committee is likewise recommended.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.20**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the progress made by State Party on a number of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property;

4. *Takes note of the continuing historical and academic research related to the property and encourages the State Party to develop a research programme focused specifically on defining the authenticity of the property, including the necessary documentation to differentiate authentic archaeological fabric;*
5. *Requests the State Party to include appropriate recommendations and approaches in the Integrated Master Plan regarding any development plan within or in the vicinity of the property that may have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value, including authenticity or integrity;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to work out a formal conservation plan for the excavated remains of the property;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to strengthen its approach to visitor management and interpretation, notably by preparing and implementing a visitor management plan;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

7. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) (C 2447rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2013

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (Urban development in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)
- Mining (Industrial mining activities in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)
- Management systems / Management Plan (Interpretation strategy for the overall ensembles of palaces, temples and fortifications)
- Management activities (Vulnerabilities of certain individual structures within the forts requiring short-term conservation actions at Jaisalmer and Chittorgarh Forts)
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Industrial areas

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2017, the State Party provided to the World Heritage Centre the studies on mining in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort and information on the consolidation measures for the Kumbhalgarh Fort. On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/> and provides information on the actions undertaken to implement the decisions adopted by the Committee at its 40th session, as follows:

- Following a one-day workshop held in July 2017, the Management Plan was revised to incorporate all suggestions provided by stakeholders. The Management Plan, along with its sub-plans for visitor management, risk preparedness and livelihood generation, is to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Reports and documents dating from 2001 to 2003 and related to mining in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2017. A technical study by a committee of scientists was commissioned by the Supreme Court in 2012 to monitor the impact of mining, visitor and vehicular movement within the setting of the property;
- Regarding the Kumbhalgarh Fort consolidation measures, the State Party reports that, in the framework of previous conservation projects, temples were restored and retained their authenticity. Further restoration and stabilisation of buildings is foreseen;
- Additional information on numerous conservation and stabilisation activities at other sites within the property was provided in the State Party's report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

In 2015, the Committee recalled that, at the time of inscription, it was noted that the Management Plan for the Jaisalmer Fort, along with sub-plans including visitor management, risk preparedness, and livelihood generation for the local population, would be completed by the end of 2013, and expressed concern that no concrete progress appeared to have been made.

It is noted that the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort has still not been provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. As pointed out in the report on Jaisalmer Fort, the issue of controlling unauthorized construction is being addressed in the Management Plan, which is currently under finalization, and legislative frameworks to control developments are being implemented. In view of several previous requests by the Committee for the completion of the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort, it is suggested that the Committee request the State Party to submit the completed Plan by 1 December 2018. The State Party should also provide an update on conservation work at Jaisalmer and more details on threats from unauthorized constructions and how these are being dealt with.

The documents submitted by the State Party on the impacts of mining relate to a period before 2012, when controls on mining were introduced to ensure that no mining or blasting can take place within 10 km of Chittorgarh Fort. In 2013, the Supreme Court relaxed these controls and permitted temporary mining with heavy machines within 10 km of Chittorgarh Fort – i.e. within 1 km of the property boundary – in order to analyze the impact on mining. The relaxed controls were only in force for four weeks. These measures were taken because a large mining company challenged the 2012 order by the Rajasthan High Court banning all mining and blasting activities within 10 km of the Chittorgarh Fort's wall. It is presumed that the survey results are still with the Supreme Court, as the State Party indicates that they are *sub judice* and cannot be provided.

It is therefore suggested that the Committee also request the State Party to provide further details of the legal challenge and, as the relaxation was only in place for a period of four weeks, to confirm that the 2012 ban on mining activities and blasting within 10 km of the Fort wall is still in force.

It is noted that the State Party has provided assurances that, after extensive consolidation works carried out in 2005 at Kumbhalgarh Fort, it is now in a good state of conservation.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.35** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);
3. Regrets that, despite the Committee's repeated requests, the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort has not yet been provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its adoption, and urges the State Party to submit this document as a matter of priority, together with the requested sub-plans, by **1 December 2018**;
4. Requests the State Party to submit an update on progress with conservation and infrastructure work at Jaisalmer Fort, along with details of any unauthorised constructions and how these are being addressed;
5. Notes that the legal challenge to the mining and blasting controls in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort introduced in 2012 is still being considered by the Supreme Court, and also requests the State Party to provide more details on this matter and, as the relaxation of these controls was only temporary, to confirm that they are still in place and enforced;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

8. Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia) (C 593)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998 to 2005)

Total amount approved: USD 40,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO expert mission; January-February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ Management Plan (Establishment of a new Management Board)
- Housing (Finalization of appropriate land-use regulations in view of development pressure)

- Society's valuing of heritage (Involvement of the residents as stakeholders in property management)
- Control over sand mining (issue resolved)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/documents/>, and provides updated information on the following:

- *Integrated Management Bureau*: The Conservation Office of the Sangiran Early Man Site (SCO) has been established and ensures the coordinated management of the property with the involvement of all stakeholders;
- *Integrated Management System*: Following a series of workshops, consultative meetings and coordination meetings held in 2017, the 2017 Sangiran Early Man Site Management Plan, which incorporates the Conservation and Tourism Management Plans, has been completed. The implementation of these plans is ensured by enforcement mechanisms and the management infrastructure elaborated within the Management Plan.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Over the past year, the State Party, together with the management authorities, has succeeded in addressing the management, conservation, training and monitoring issues at the property and, as such, the completion of the Management Plan is an important accomplishment.

However, it is to be noted that, within the section on Management Mechanisms, the Management Plan points to the fact that the State Party foresees bureaucratic difficulties in establishing a new management entity. Furthermore, it is noted that the Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation Agreements establishing the cooperation and responsibilities of the stakeholders are under revision. It is therefore of utmost importance that these arrangements be put in place as soon as possible to ensure an adequate protection framework.

In its review of the Management Plan, ICOMOS suggested that stakeholder representatives needed to be appointed and involved in discussions concerning the implementation of the Plan. The long-term management of the property will depend on the well-being and positive motivation of the local communities and residents. Therefore, the Plan should address these issues and ensure their active involvement in the property's management in order to maximize congruence between tourism development and the involvement and profit of the local community. Recommendations concerning the Management Plan will be provided to the State Party.

Finally, the State Party should be encouraged to continuously monitor the implementation of regulations to control infrastructural and physical developments within the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the completion of the 2017 Sangiran Early Man Site Management Plan and requests the State Party to ensure that the new management entity, Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation Agreements are established as soon as possible, to guarantee an adequate protection framework;

4. *Encourages* the State Party to continuously monitor the implementation of regulations to control infrastructural and physical developments within the property, and to ensure the full participation of local communities and residents in its operation;
5. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the Advisory Bodies.

9. The Persian Qanat (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1506)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Management activities (Need to collect data related to each qanat and make it accessible to members of the local communities; Lack of permanent marking of the boundaries of property components and buffer zones on the ground)
- Management systems / Management Plans (Need to extend the management strategy and plans to include a risk preparedness strategy and a comprehensive tourism strategy for all property components; Need to extend the monitoring system to identify the responsible authority for each key indicator)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/documents/>. The report presents the State Party's progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The improvement and development of documentation centres accessible to the local public, along with a database centre supporting international access to the information, remains underway and is included in management plans as both a short- and long-term priority;
- Extending the management strategy and plans to include a risk preparedness strategy and a comprehensive tourism strategy for all property components remains unrealized. Related short-, mid- and long-term goals identified in a proposed update of the Management Plan include installing "risk facilities" such as oxygen masks, signing Memoranda of Understanding for police and emergency services, monitoring earthquake stability, improving signboards and visitor paths, and

producing and encouraging promotional and educational materials, programmes and events, tour packages and tourism facilities;

- Several meetings have been held regarding management approaches and monitoring systems, and a number of key monitoring indicators proposed by different stakeholders are currently under discussion;
- The boundaries of the property and the Buffer Zone are being marked by permanent steel rods placed within the most visited areas where this is physically possible. The marking has not yet been completed because of the large areas to be covered;
- The inner surfaces of the qanat galleries are being dredged periodically to enhance water flow.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party reports that many efforts have been made since the inscription of this still-active serial property to engage the stakeholders and local communities and encourage them to implement an integrated management system. The State Party specifically highlights an addition to the plans proposed within the 2016 Management Plan to include references to sustainable tourism management and risk management, though limited progress has been reported concerning this important recommendation made by the Committee at the time of inscription. Recalling the fundamental value of an overarching integrated management system and of appropriate control mechanisms for the property, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to include, as a matter of priority, risk management and sustainable tourism management sections in the integrated management system. Moreover, these sections should be strategic in character, with clear objectives that are related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including authenticity and integrity, of the property, and with indicators to measure the success of each strategy.

While some progress has been made regarding the other recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription, actions such as improving the collection and accessibility of data, improving the monitoring system and permanently marking the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones have yet to be fully realized. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its previous recommendations concerning these important activities and request information on the expected timeframe(s) for their completion.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.21** and **41 COM 8B.49** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. Urges the State Party to include, as a matter of priority, sections on strategic risk management and sustainable tourism management in the integrated management system, with clear objectives related to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably its authenticity and integrity, and relevant monitoring indicators;
4. Reiterates its recommendations to the State Party to:
 - a) Continue enriching the documentation centres with collected data related to each qanat in the relevant regional offices of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), and ensure the availability of this data to members of the local communities and internationally,
 - b) Extend the monitoring system to identify the responsible authority for each key indicator,

- c) *Complete the permanent marking of the boundaries of property components and buffer zones on the ground;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide an indication of the expected timeframe(s) for the completion of the above-mentioned actions;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.*

10. Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Japan) (C 1484)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)



11. Pyu Ancient Cities (Myanmar) (C 1444)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2012)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: part of the 1,892,032 USD from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-In-Trust for the project "Capacity building for safeguarding cultural heritage in Myanmar" (Phases I & II, 2011-2015) benefited the property

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / Management Plan (Lack of a conservation plan for the burial sites)
- Human resources (Need to strengthen capacity-building in the conservation of these particularly fragile and vulnerable sites)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 January 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/documents/> and provides updated information on the following:

- The Risk Preparedness Strategy for Pyu Ancient Cities has been prepared, including Risk Assessment, Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness Strategies. Formal endorsement by the Department of Archaeology is being sought, after which its approval by the National Strategic Committee for Disaster Management is expected;
- Within the 5-year Action Plan (2013-2017), Zoning and Visitor Management Guidelines for Sri Ksetra have been developed and are being implemented. These guidelines are a sub-component of the Landscape Management Plan and seek to ensure that the good management of visitor numbers (including pilgrimage visitors), while supporting the protection of the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the visitors' understanding of it. Guidelines for the cities of Beikthano and Halin are envisaged in the Action Plan within the 2018-2022 period;
- In the framework of the multi-year UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust extra-budgetary project, needs assessments and feasibility studies have been carried out to determine the viability and practicality of rehabilitating the ancient Pyu hydraulic system and promoting organic farming practices. Preliminary results ascertain that rehabilitation of the canal system can benefit local villages and strengthen understanding of complex water management systems;
- Conservation measures at Pyu Ancient Cities have been implemented and further measures are determined within the Management Plan, including training and capacity building carried out in collaboration with the Lerici Foundation, as part of the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust project.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The ongoing progress in addressing the conservation and management issues highlighted by the Committee, in particular the development of Risk Preparedness and Tourism Management Strategies, is acknowledged. It is therefore important to ensure the timely formal adoption of these strategies and their implementation. However, their successful implementation is highly dependable on an adequate number of trained staff and financial resources. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to augment the technical capacity and human resources of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, currently restricted by National Civil Service regulations, and foresee adequate, long-term financial resources to support the implementation of the Management Plan.

The studies undertaken to assess rehabilitation and restoration of the historic hydraulic system, as a means of supporting farming practices and improving the living standards of local communities, are to be welcomed. In view of the possible presence of archaeological remains buried at shallow depths at Sri Ksetra, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to carry out non-invasive investigations prior to any reclamation work of former canals or other water bodies. The work undertaken also needs to be documented through detailed studies of the history and layout of the overall hydraulic system, and through records of the reclamation work undertaken. It is recommended that the Committee also request the State Party to submit this documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Despite continued support through international technical assistance for capacity building in conservation skills, further efforts must be invested to respond to the continuing lack of adequately trained staff. A national training strategy, encompassing the upgrading of the National Field School of Archaeology to include training in management skills and conservation techniques, should be developed and adopted. This could have a significant bearing on the future successful management of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.40** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to continue addressing conservation and management issues, and in particular the development of Risk Preparedness and

Tourism Management Strategies and encourages the State Party to ensure their timely adoption and implementation;

4. *Welcoming the studies undertaken to assess the rehabilitation and restoration of historic hydraulic systems as a means of supporting the agricultural landscape and improving the living standards of local communities, requests the State Party to carry out non-invasive investigations prior to any reclamation of canals or other water bodies and to document interventions through detailed studies of the history and layout of the overall hydraulic system and through records of the reclamation work undertaken; and also requests the State Party to submit this documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Recommends that the State Party address the lack of adequately skilled human resources for the management and conservation of the property by:*
 - a) *Increasing the technical capacity and human resources of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, currently restricted by National Civil Service regulations,*
 - b) *Developing and adopting a national training strategy, which encompasses the upgrading of the National Field School of Archaeology to include training in management skills and conservation techniques;*
6. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

12. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-2007

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1979 to 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 417,619

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10 million (1979-2001) from the International Safeguarding Campaign; USD 45,000 (2005) and USD 20,000 (2011) from UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. Several UNESCO extra-budgetary projects have been approved in 2015-2016 for the emergency safeguarding, conservation and rehabilitation process of the Kathmandu Valley after the 2015 earthquake. They include USD 1 million from the Chinese Hainan Airlines Group (Cihang Foundation), USD 250,000 from the Hong Kong based Fok Foundation, USD 145,000 from the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust, USD 100,000 from the Nepal Investment Bank and USD 18,000 from voluntary contributions.

Previous monitoring missions

February 2003: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; April 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2011: UNESCO Advisory Mission with international experts; November 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring

mission; October-November 2015: joint World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake (Severe earthquake of 25 April 2015)
- Housing (Uncontrolled urban development resulting in the loss of traditional urban fabric, in particular privately-owned houses)
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a coordinated management mechanism)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction of a forest road)
- Underground transport infrastructure (Project for tunnel road in Pashupati Monument Zone)
- Air transport infrastructure (Project for the extension of the Kathmandu International Airport)
- Localized utilities (New development projects, in particular the reconstruction of Bhaidegah Temple)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/documents> and highlights the following:

- After the 2015 earthquake, the Department of Archaeology (DoA) of Nepal has been improving its capacity to manage damaged cultural heritage and its rehabilitation at all levels. The number of staff of the DoA, especially the archaeologists, engineers, architects and other support staff has been increased, focusing on rehabilitation work and also integrating higher-level experts in different fields for the post-earthquake conservation, reconstruction and rehabilitation process. Detailed documentation and research activities have also been carried out throughout the reporting period;
- Although all seven Protected Monument Zones suffered from the disaster and the main monuments were affected, this concerned only some 17% of all monuments located within the World Heritage property, which the State Party does not consider especially significant;
- The State Party considers that these monuments can be rehabilitated through the Nepalese tradition of cyclical renewal and is committed to using traditional conservation and reconstruction techniques as well as traditional construction materials, and the post-earthquake conservation, reconstruction and rehabilitation projects have been carried out using the traditional system of conservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage;
- The DoA has prepared the six-year plan and the Recovery Master Plan and implemented post-earthquake guidelines for conservation, reconstruction and rehabilitation. The State Party considers that there will be no negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property at the end of the reconstruction and rehabilitation process;
- The post-earthquake conservation, reconstruction and rehabilitation activities have been carried out in accordance with the six-year plan and the Recovery Master Plan, and the works are carried out with community participation, which ensures social and economic benefits for local communities;
- The State Party has allocated a sufficient budget for conservation, reconstruction and rehabilitation of cultural heritage. The DoA has also received significant support from the international community, especially technical, human resources and financial support; and is calling for support from governmental and non-governmental sources and from the international community to support the post-earthquake rehabilitation process;
- The State Party is preparing to invite an Advisory mission from UNESCO before the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in order to provide advice and guidelines for the already-formulated Recovery Master Plan;
- Finally, the State Party reports that they have been working hard for the protection of the property's OUV and requests that the World Heritage Committee do not put the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The report also provides some details of the progress accomplished for individual monuments of the seven Protected Monument Zones of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the commitment of the State Party and the considerable amount of work that it has undertaken for the recovery of the property, particularly its capacity-building efforts, and the work undertaken by other international agencies. However, it must be acknowledged that scale and scope of the disaster, goes well beyond the capacity and resources of the DoA to deliver an adequate response or to coordinate the work of others.

At the time of drafted this document, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have received neither the invitation nor the Terms of the Reference for an Advisory mission to the property, as strongly encouraged by the Committee in its previous decision.

The detailed results of the Reactive Monitoring missions of October 2015 and March 2017 clearly highlight that the property is facing serious deterioration of its architectural and town-planning coherence. This has arisen not only from the immediate impact of the earthquakes, but worryingly also from most of the work undertaken during the subsequent recovery process, which is adding to the erosion of the property's integrity and authenticity. The 2017 mission report describes in clear details the scale and scope of damage to all the monument zones two years after the earthquake, the lack of any support or protection for many damaged areas, the demolition of ancillary structures, and the degradation of housing areas and commercial properties. The slow pace of recovery and the damaging restoration work carried out on some of the monuments appears to reflect the current management weaknesses across the property, the lack of adequate planning or coordination, and the overall lack of capacity to undertake the necessary documentation, research and analyses that should underpin all of the work. It is regrettable that the recommendations of both missions have not been systematically and fully followed and implemented by the State Party.

The potential and ascertained threats identified by the aforementioned missions are so considerable that the recovery process needs to be quickened and made more effective. To achieve the considerable amount of work that remains to ensure recovery, the property needs more support and more structures that allow a proportionate response to the significant threats that it faces; and it needs the development of a coherent and coordinated overall Recovery Master Plan, along with Recovery Plans for individual monument zones. It also needs stronger mechanisms to coordinate and control projects undertaken by international agencies, over-arching guidance within which all projects should be undertaken and the development of clear justifications for interventions based on evidence and documentation. To these ends, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to initiate, with technical support from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, an International Scientific Steering Coordination Mechanism tasked with assisting the State Party with developing structures to coordinate and guide the recovery of the property and its OUV and balance the needs of the fabric of the property with the social and economic needs of its communities.

Notwithstanding the good measures adopted by the State Party, the recovery process is not currently at an adequate scale to deal with the major challenges that have arisen following the earthquake. Worryingly there is a lack of evidence to support the work undertaken, which often does not respect the distinctive traditional structures, materials and local practices. All of this is impacting adversely on the OUV of the property and has potential to inflict even greater damage in the future. Therefore, the property is clearly currently facing actual and potential threats to its OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In line with the above, it is strongly recommended that the Committee consider inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in order to ensure that immediate measures can be taken to focus recovery on projects that sustain the attributes of OUV, particularly the distinctive building structures and materials, in order to avoid reconstruction and conservation that is problematic and damaging to authenticity. It is also recommended that the same support from the international community should be encouraged to support local communities in terms of their housing and social needs, as well as for conservation and reconstruction.

Finally, it should be noted again that the March 2017 mission discussed in detail with the State Party the technical, planning, legal and management measures necessary to recover the attributes of OUV. These could be considered as a contribution towards a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), which the State Party would need to propose following an inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.95** adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Acknowledges the strong commitment of the State Party and the work that it has undertaken for the recovery of the property, particularly its capacity-building efforts, as well as the efforts of international agencies;
4. Also acknowledges the scale and scope of the disaster (as described in the reports of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions to the property of October 2015 and March 2017), the laudable work undertaken but the very slow pace and quality of work and the as yet inadequate responses to recovery of the property;
5. Expresses concern that the continuing, serious deterioration of the property's architectural and town-planning coherence, which results not only from the immediate impacts of the earthquakes, but worryingly also from some of the work undertaken during the subsequent recovery process, is eroding the property's integrity and authenticity; and that damaging restoration work on some monuments reflects the current management weaknesses across the property, the lack of adequate control or coordination, and the overall lack of capacity to undertake the necessary documentation, research and analyses that should underpin all recovery work;
6. Regrets that the recommendations of the October 2015 and March 2017 missions have not been systematically and fully followed and implemented by the State Party;
7. Considers that, in order to carry out successfully the considerable amount of work needed to recover the property, significantly stronger structures must be put in place for collaboration and coordination around the support extended by the international community;
8. Encourages the State Party to initiate, with technical support from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, an International Scientific Steering Coordination Mechanism to assist the State Party with developing structures to coordinate and guide the recovery of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
9. Also considers that the potential and ascertained threats to the OUV of the property are so considerable that the recovery process needs to be made more effective, and that the scale and scope of the disaster and the response required go well beyond the capacity and resources of the Department of Archaeology of Nepal (DoA);
10. Further considers that inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger will ensure that immediate measures can be taken to focus recovery on projects that sustain the attributes of OUV, particularly the distinctive building structures and materials, in order to avoid reconstruction and conservation that is problematic and damaging to authenticity;
11. **Decides therefore, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, to inscribe Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

12. *Requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at 43rd session in 2019;*
13. *Calls upon the international community to support the State Party's urgent recovery work through financial, technical or expert assistance, including support for local communities in terms of their housing and social needs;*
14. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, 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 43rd session in 2019.*



13. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000 to 2007)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 1,677,936 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for 2009–2017; 34,376 EUR and USD 90,000 from the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance from 2008 to 2018; and USD 7,200 from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust in 2006

Previous monitoring missions

May 2004 and November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and September 2008: UNESCO Advisory missions; UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2009 in the context of the implementation of specific projects

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan
- Management activities
- Legal framework
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Commercial Development (Impact of the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple constructed in 2002 on the archaeological remains and the main sight lines of the property)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Air pollution
- Housing
- Industrial areas

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/> and addresses the requests of the Committee as follows:

- The Integrated Management Framework (IMF) document has been finalized, but has not yet received final approval from the Government. The State Party has attached the final draft of the IMF (Nepalese version) as an annex to the report, indicating that a final, notary-translated English version would be submitted once the IMF is adopted by the Government;
- Some development activities, i.e. pathways inside the Maya Devi Temple, have been completed as recommended by the Lumbini International Scientific Committee. Drainage, landscaping and work on the foot path have been undertaken as recommended by the Lumbini Development Master Plan and the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
- The project proposal for the development of the Lumbini World Peace City has been approved in principle, with a request that the implementation rigorously follow the national and international laws and guidelines for the World Heritage property without posing any threat to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The strategy for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, is being developed. As part of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) project, a number of activities have been undertaken, including: a geophysical survey, non-destructive excavations, mapping and recording of archaeological remains at some heritage sites, and conservation activities for the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting;
- The base map to control additional industrial encroachment has been completed. The air quality in the Lumbini Protected Zone is being assessed, and an air quality observatory has been installed in Lumbini for monitoring purposes.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is regrettable that the IMF remains to be approved by the Government, despite repeated requests by the Committee. Furthermore, while it is reported that certain activities have been carried out within the property and the buffer zone, the State Party provides no evidence whether impact assessments have systematically been carried out before their implementation. There is also no evidence that the activities carried out have followed the Archaeological Risk Map.

The ongoing research to better understand the property, the related sites and larger setting is noted. It is however of concern that, despite repeated requests by the Committee, the project proposal for the Lumbini World Peace City has been approved. The State Party did not provide details on the proposed project, nor have Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) been carried out before the approval of the project. As already highlighted in the 2016 state of conservation report, the project proposal does not refer to the World Heritage status of Lumbini, although this ought to be at the core of the development proposal, to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the OUV of the property. Given the scope of this mega-development project, the fragile nature of the property and its use as a place of pilgrimage for over 2,000 years, there are concerns that the Lumbini World Peace City project will likely have severe adverse impacts on the OUV of the property. The challenge of ensuring that the national and international laws and guidelines are followed strictly should have been addressed prior to granting approval of the implementation phase, and appropriate solutions developed ahead of time. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to carry out, as a matter of urgency, the necessary HIAs, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, and with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property. These HIAs will have to be provided to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before the implementation of any further activities.

Finally, the development of the base map to control additional industrial encroachment and the assessment and monitoring of air quality in the Lumbini Protected Zone are noted. Nevertheless, UNESCO continues to receive third-party information expressing concern about the property, especially with regard to the worsening environmental quality and increasing industrial development at Lumbini. In light of the potential impacts of development and of environmental degradation, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to develop a clear strategy and concrete further actions for

the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its setting, including - but not limited to - Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.42** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes the progress made with the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) document, but regrets the delays encountered with its adoption by the State Party;*
4. *Notes with concern that development activities have been undertaken within the property and the Buffer Zone prior to the formal adoption of the Management Plan and without systematically conducting the necessary impact assessments or following the Archaeological Risk Map;*
5. *Urges the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF document as a matter of priority, and to systematically carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the proposed projects, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, before undertaking any further work within the property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;*
6. *Expresses concern about the Lumbini World Peace City project and its potential impacts on the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details on the proposed project and carry out an HIA, in conformity with the aforementioned ICOMOS Guidelines, and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any activity is implemented;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to develop a clear strategy and concrete further actions for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019.*

14. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

15. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

16. Golden temple of Dambulla (Sri Lanka) (C 561)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,333

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November–December 1994: ICOMOS mission to Sri Lanka; March 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Continued deterioration of the paintings
- Impact of water ingress, insect activity and other natural forces
- Management systems / management plan
- Newly (in 1999) constructed temple, alien to the World Heritage complex (issue resolved)
- General deterioration of the Golden Temple
- Lack of tourism strategy and interpretation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents>, and notes progress with responses to Decision **40 COM 7B.46** and on the implementation of the recommendations of the March 2015 mission, as follows:

- The relationship between the Temple Authorities (who own the property) and State Party agencies - Department of Archaeology (DoA) and Central Cultural Fund (CCF) - has improved significantly since 2016, and there is now effective collaboration. A new 'Site Management Committee' will be established and the Management Plan will be revised. The need for a new Tourism Management Strategy is recognized by all parties. DoA and CCF are in the process of evaluating the condition of the property using previous records. There is a commitment to collaborate with local universities to achieve 'best-practice' outcomes, as well as the will to implement inclusive approach and with clearer lines of responsibility in terms of governance by associating various stakeholders ;

- A Conservation Strategy for wall paintings conservation was prepared with an international expert familiar with the property who undertook site inspections in October 2016 and April 2017. The advice received has been incorporated into a 'Statement of Conservation Strategy', which will form part of a revised Management Plan for the property. This Statement mentions, *inter alia*, two important projects for the documentation, the 3-D laser scanning mapping project to be implemented in 2018 and the manual graphic documentation project foreseen from 2018 to 2020. A 10 to 12-year programme of research into original painting materials and techniques has been instigated, remedial treatment for paintings and polychrome structures has been proposed, and the State Party hopes to collaborate with an international conservation organization;
- Various research projects have been undertaken on the conservation issues, notably a study by the Isotope Hydrology Section of the Atomic Energy Authority revealed the sources of water seeping into the cave shrines and the comprehensive measures to be taken to address the issue will be integrated into the revised Management Plan. A research laboratory is expected to be set and running within 2018;
- The State Party also reports on intentions to support re-vitalization of traditional materials and practices in wall painting, to seek international assistance in the development of a pilgrim/visitor management strategy, to re-design the internal lighting strategy, and to replace current terracotta floor tiles. Other proposed conservation initiatives include analysis of hydro-geological issues and water percolation, an experimental 'automated environmental monitoring system' (to measure visitor-induced environmental change), and research studies of wall structures and micro-organic and insect impacts (especially potter wasps);
- It is not intended to ban interior flash photography, as requested by the Committee, owing to absence of compelling scientific evidence; nonetheless, a survey will be undertaken to assess the potential impact of flash photography on visitors.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The improved relationship between the State Party agencies and the Temple Authorities, as well as a more structured management mechanism represent a positive shift in the management arrangements for the property. The proposed site management committee responds to the Committee's previous priority request. It is now urgent that this committee become operational and prove itself efficient so that it may contribute to the much-needed improvement in site management, by meeting on a regular basis to determine matters related to the conservation and management of the property.

The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains threatened by natural forces including water ingress, insect activity and decay, as well as the impact of very substantial visitation by pilgrims and tourists. While progress with strategic planning for wall painting conservation and the involvement of an international expert is welcome, as are programs for research and analysis of the causes and responses to physical threats, the 2010 Management Plan remains to be updated and not fully implemented, despite the findings of the 2015 mission and previous Committee decisions. It has now become even more critical that the Management Plan be revised, based on the newly-proposed management arrangements and technical findings, the clear definition of the interface between the State and Temple authorities, and the setting of short-, mid- and long-term strategies for both conservation and pilgrim/visitor management, as well as budget planning (as requested by Decision **40 COM 7B.46**). The draft of this revised Management Plan, including the recently-prepared 'Conservation Strategy Statement' should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The continuing absence of a tourism management strategy means that mechanisms are not yet in place to manage one of the major threats to the OUV of the property, and the lack of control over the number of pilgrims/visitors entering the caves, or other regulatory measures, continues to adversely affect both the condition of the caves and wall paintings and the quality of the visitors' experience.

All of these matters have been raised over several years with the State Party through previous Committee Decisions and through the findings and recommendations of the 2015 mission. However, in view of the changes that have occurred in the personnel and approach of the Temple Authorities and the intentions expressed by the State Party, it would be appropriate to allow a further opportunity for critical matters to be addressed before the Committee considers whether the threats to the integrity and authenticity of the property amount to ascertained or potential danger to its OUV.

The State Party and its agencies are proposing numerous research and investigation studies, as well as remedial works to the caves and wall paintings, and initiatives to address water ingress, insect

damage and decay. In view of the potential effects of the works on the attributes of the property that contribute to its OUV, it would be appropriate for comprehensive information to be provided to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the State Party's advice regarding the improved arrangements for the conservation and management of the property between the Temple Authorities, the Department of Archaeology and the Central Cultural Fund, as well as the preparation of a 'Statement of Conservation Strategy' and other initiatives that have been instigated or are planned in order to conserve wall paintings, sculptures and other significant attributes of the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to implement the proposed Site Management Committee and related management structures, with clear lines of responsibilities, as a matter of urgency;
5. Requests the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the March 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as appropriate;
6. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to revise and update the Management Plan for the property, based on clearly-defined governance and communication structures, while incorporating traditional management systems, and defining the interface between the State and Temple authorities, the setting of short-, mid- and long-term strategies for both conservation and pilgrim/visitor management, and budget planning, as well as incorporating the recently-prepared 'Statement of Conservation Strategy', and to provide the draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to facilitate the preparation of a comprehensive Tourism Management Strategy, which has strong regard to a balanced approach considering the role of the property as a pilgrim site, the vital needs for the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value and the needs of visitors, and submit the draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit details of proposed works to the property which may affect its Outstanding Universal Value, including projects for wall painting and sculpture remedial treatment and laser cleaning, floor tile replacement, and hydro-geological projects, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any irreversible decisions or physical interventions occur;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, if adequate progress in the**

implementation of the above recommendations has not been made, and in case of the confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of the World Heritage in Danger.

17. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

18. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland) (C 1321rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (i)(ii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1321/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1321/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

Management and institutional factors, including:

- Need to introduce Heritage Impact Assessment procedures for proposed development at all component sites
- Lack of monitoring indicators for all component sites and of agreed overall conservation approaches and procedures for the series
- Need to refine the power of the Standing Conference to allow full understanding by all States Parties of major development proposals in all component sites, in relation to their potential impact on the overall series
- Need to complete the Management and Conservation Plans for Chandigarh
- Unclear protection of the buffer zone for Maison Guiette
- Unclear implications of the new Heritage Law in France

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1321/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the seven States Parties submitted a combined state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1321/documents/> and addresses progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee at the time of inscription of the series, as follows:

- Currently none of the States Parties use Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), although ICOMOS France is organizing a seminar on impact studies with a view to this mechanism being introduced in France;
- Some monitoring indicators have been developed for each component site, based on a model proposed and agreed in February 2016 for two sites in Switzerland;
- Through the Standing Conference for the series, States Parties discuss approaches to current restoration projects on the basis of common principles, articulated in the Management Plan, which are applicable to all component sites. The Standing Conference may also mandate the

Foundation Le Corbusier or international experts, such as ICOMOS or ICCROM, to assess potential impacts, or decide to inform the World Heritage Centre on the basis of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, in consultation with the State Party involved;

- The Foundation Le Corbusier set up a committee to inform decisions on conservation, restoration and development projects and also agreed to create a Restoration Archives for sites worldwide;
- The work to “complete” the Geometrical Hill with a sundial has been undertaken, while work is in progress at the Martyrs Memorial, where sculptures produced approximately twenty years ago by a local sculptor, in line with Le Corbusier’s original drawings, will be installed; India has submitted separately on 30 November 2017 the Site Management Plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site Capitol Complex, Chandigarh to the World Heritage Centre;
- The Chandigarh Conservation and Preservation Plan, initiated in early 2016, is progressing. The report submitted includes a detailed site evaluation report for the buildings, monuments and open spaces has been produced by the appointed conservation architect for the Plan. As the property represents the first large-scale use of exposed reinforced concrete in India, the conservation plan will include a separate guidance on concrete conservation and preservation, developed in cooperation with experts. It will also detail Architectural Regulations to guide interventions such as the restoration of original materials and finishes, which should be carried out under the guidance of technical expert and must be identifiable on close inspection and/or through rigorous documentation. The Chandigarh Conservation and Preservation Plan should be completed by 2020;
- At the time of inscription, the protection of the buffer zone for Maison Guiette was not set out. It is now confirmed that there is no specific protection in place, although some protection is derived from zoning regulations (nature conservation and residential zones) and from spatial plans. The government of Flanders is currently investigating whether a Spatial Improvement Plan might provide the necessary specific protection;
- In the buffer zone of Casa Curutchet an irregular modification of colour on the façade of a neighbouring building was noticed. Legal action was taken by the Municipality of La Plata to stop and reverse this violation;
- France has clarified that its new Heritage acknowledges the concepts of buffer zones and Management Plans; which are now identified in municipal and territorial planning documents;

In relation to possible extensions of the series, the Standing Conference will monitor any sites included on Tentative Lists as candidates for the series, and give its opinion on any extension proposals.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The clarification of the proactive over-view taken by the Standing Conference in considering the potential impact of development proposals and standards for conservation work across the whole series is welcomed.

Although the report details how impact assessment of individual proposals is undertaken at the level of component sites, the lack of use of HIAs means that there is a lack of consistency in the way impact assessments are undertaken and that the impacts are considered only on individual component sites. However, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the States Parties to strengthen approaches to impact assessment through using HIAs and through ensuring impacts are considered against the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the series as a whole. In this respect, the creation by the Foundation Le Corbusier of a Committee to inform decisions on conservation, restoration and development projects could help spearhead these changes.

The creation of Restoration Archives for sites in France and around the world by the Foundation Le Corbusier is to be welcomed as a substantial contribution towards the harmonisation of technical and methodological approaches to the conservation of Le Corbusier’s buildings, and specifically in relation to its potential for guidance on reinstatement or replacement of materials and features.

For Chandigarh, the detailed work being undertaken on the Conservation Plan and its broad scope are encouraging. The proposed technical advice on concrete conservation and preservation, and on the rationale for architectural interventions, should provide the very necessary context for drawing up detailed conservation proposals for specific aspects of the property.

Work on the completion in Chandigarh of the Geometrical Hill and proposed work on the Martyrs Memorial, is noted, as is the fact that both are in line with Le Corbusier’s drawings. It is not clear if this work has been considered by the Standing Conference. It is suggested that details of these projects should have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in advance

of work being approved or undertaken, and that the Committee should now request the States Parties to submit as soon as possible detailed documentation on both these projects.

The current lack of specific protection for the Maison Guiette buffer zone is noted. Given the way its urban setting has already been impacted by infrastructure projects, and the fact that the enlarged buffer zone was aimed at protecting the integrity from any visual impact, it is recommended that the Committee underscore the need for targeted protection that is directed at a specific analysis of the site's needs, to augment the generic protection that is currently offered.

It is noted that possible extensions of the series have not been discounted. Although the Standing Conference will monitor Tentative Lists, and give its opinion on any possible extension proposals, it is recommended that the Committee encourage States Parties to ensure the Standing Conference approves in advance any proposal for Tentative List entries before they are submitted.

An ICOMOS Technical Review of a project to renovate the train station and its surrounding area in the buffer zone of the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, submitted under Paragraph 172 of the *Operation Guidelines*, will be provided to the State Party of Japan.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.31**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes clarification that the Standing Conference of States Parties takes a pro-active approach to considering the potential impact of development proposals and standards for conservation work across the whole series, and the creation by the Foundation Le Corbusier of a Committee to inform decisions on conservation, restoration and development projects;*
4. *Noting that although impact assessments of individual proposals are undertaken at the level of component sites, Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are not used in line with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties as impact is only assessed on the components rather than on the whole series, encourages the States Parties to strengthen approaches to impact assessment through using HIAs and through ensuring impacts are considered against the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the series;*
5. *Also welcomes the creation of Restoration Archives by the Foundation Le Corbusier as a substantial contribution towards the harmonisation of technical and methodological approaches to the conservation of Le Corbusier's buildings, and specifically in relation to its potential use for reinstatement or replacement of materials and features;*
6. *Notes the detailed work being undertaken on the Chandigarh Conservation Plan due to be completed by 2020, and specifically its broad scope that includes proposed technical advice on concrete conservation and the rationale for architectural interventions to be used as a basis for detailed conservation proposals for specific aspects of the property;*
7. *Also notes that work has been undertaken in Chandigarh to complete the original plans of the Geometrical Hill and the proposed work to complete the Martyrs Memorial but regrets that details of these were not submitted in advance in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests the State Party of India to submit detailed documentation on both these projects as soon as possible and by **1 December 2018**;*

8. Further notes the current lack of specific protection for the Maison Guiette buffer zone and, considering the existing changes to its urban setting and the fact that the recently enlarged buffer zone aimed to protect its integrity from any visual impact, also requests the State Party of Belgium to put in place protection that addresses the specific needs of the component site and augments the current generic protection;
9. Notes furthermore that possible extensions of the series have not been discounted and also encourages States Parties to ensure that the Standing Conference approves in advance any proposal for Tentative List entries before they are submitted by an individual State Party to the World Heritage Centre;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, 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 45th session in 2021.

19. Stećci Medieval Tombstones Graveyards (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia) (C 1504)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Lack of consistency of mapping and cataloguing of the selected components of the serial property
- Lack of conservation programmes at selected components, based on the advice of skilled conservators
- Lack of monitoring indicators to assess the impact of development and tourism
- Lack of operational coordination of the various bodies involved in the management of each of the components
- Lack of planning instruments
- Heritage Impact Assessment and Disaster Risk Management tools approach not integrated into the management system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, a state of conservation report was submitted by the four States Parties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/documents/>, to respond to the Committee's decision on concerns raised at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), at the time of the inscription of this transnational serial property. The States Parties' response has largely focused on establishing coordination mechanisms and shared capacity building activities, as follows:

- Establishment of the International Coordination Committee (ICC) and its Secretariat (the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe through its Antenna in Sarajevo is an observer to the ICC, and regularly participates in the meetings);
- Establishment of the needed organizational arrangements in each of the four States Parties, including: the appointment of site managers and municipal focal points; training and monitoring procedures for the site managers; coordination between relevant State Party institutions; and strengthening of cooperation with tourism organisations;
- Development of a Communication Strategy and associated promotional and awareness raising activities (such as media, website content, filming, harmonisation of the appearance of signs);
- Planning for the system of mapping and cataloguing of the stećci;
- Workshop on stone conservation attended by representatives of the four States Parties;
- Workshop on Managing Disaster Risks attended by representatives of the four States Parties;
- Development of monitoring indicators associated with the impacts of development and tourism initiated by some States Parties, but not all of them.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was coordinated between the four States Parties, and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) (Decision **41 COM 8B.49**).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The ICC has been established, and regular meetings have taken place since the property was inscribed. Meetings have focused on the functions of the coordination mechanism, including communications and promotion of the property.

The report noted that the approaches towards improving the consistency of mapping and cataloguing of elements found within the 28 components differ between the four States Parties. Documentation is reported to be well-advanced for the components located in Serbia and Croatia, but is still in the planning and financing stages for Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is a need to ensure the consistency of the methods being employed across the four States Parties.

The state of conservation of the stećci varies across the 28 components, and different priorities are expected. Some of the components had been the subject of active conservation programmes prior to inscription in the World Heritage List; while in others, there have been 'trial' activities to establish active programmes. However, for many other components, no programmes are yet in place. Active monitoring and conservation programmes are required, the workshop held in Montenegro in November 2017 on stone conservation contributes to this goal, but continued capacity building support to site managers and local authorities is needed.

The report states that regular monitoring is occurring and that no new issues that could impact the OUV of the property are identified. However, there has been modest progress in relation to the elaboration of monitoring indicators related to sustainable development and tourism. The components of the serial property vary in terms of their current visitor levels, and many are in remote locations. Nevertheless, it is of some concern that the development of monitoring indicators is apparently occurring without a coordinated process between the four States Parties and that it is considered unnecessary to develop indicators associated with visitor pressure for the components located in Croatia on the basis of low current visitor levels. It is recommended that the Committee recall the need to develop these indicators due to the proximity of these sites to well-developed tourism areas in Croatia and the possibility of increased future visitor pressure.

Several Disaster Risk Management workshops/discussions have been organised, involving all four States Parties, and further capacity building in this area is planned. Disaster Risk Management and Heritage Impact Assessment tools are therefore in an early stage of development.

As a number of the measures described by the States Parties in response to the Committee's Decision at the time of inscription, are still in the process of elaboration, the States Parties are strongly encouraged to continue with the actions focused on their completion and implementation as soon as possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies informed of their progress.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.24**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the information provided by the States Parties concerning the establishment of the International Coordination Committee (ICC) and associated coordination mechanisms ;*
4. *Requests the States Parties to continue to progress on the issues identified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the property, including:*
 - a) *Continue implementing a consistent mapping and cataloguing system for the components of the serial property,*
 - b) *Developing active conservation programmes for the stećci, based on monitoring outcomes, and utilising the advice of skilled conservators,*
 - c) *Developing and implementing monitoring indicators that include the impacts of development and tourism,*
 - d) *Developing and implementing consistent Heritage Impact Assessment and Disaster Risk Management approaches within the transnational management system,*
 - e) *Continuing to organize and provide capacity development activities for site managers in relation to these objectives;*
5. *Also requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, a consolidated progress report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and by **1 December 2020**, a consolidated report on the completed measures, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

20. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1991-1998

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1985-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 142,053

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount of the post-war major restoration programme coordinated by UNESCO: USD 80,000,000

Previous monitoring missions

November 1996: fact-finding mission; November 2015: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Earthquake in September 1996 (issue resolved)
- Need to extend the buffer zone
- Large project in the vicinity of the property
- Cruise ship tourism
- Carrying capacity of the property
- Planned Sport and recreation centre with golf course and tourist settlement (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/> and reports the following:

- The Ministry of Culture and Society of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities will prepare an Action Plan, including detailed directives for preservation and conservation practices to ensure structural stability of the city walls and the removal of previous inappropriate interventions;
- Following a participatory process and workshops, the first phase initial concept for the Management Plan was completed and adopted by the City Council in August 2017. A draft version of the Management Plan is expected to be ready by the end of 2018;
- The University of Dubrovnik has completed the first phase of the strategy for tourism development and regulations on cruise tourism, consisting of situational analysis of tourism in Dubrovnik and a review of the strategy's compatibility with the Management Plan. An Action Plan will be developed and provided to the World Heritage Centre;
- A national workshop was held in September 2017 in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office, with the participation of the Ministry of Culture and other authorities responsible for risk management. A working group will prepare a detailed Risk Preparedness Action Plan for submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- As requested by the Committee, the City has suspended the Bosaka 2, Lazeretto and Komarda Landing Stage projects and has commissioned Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
- As requested by the Committee, the City of Dubrovnik has confirmed that it will ensure that the construction zones for the Sports and recreation centre and tourist resort are at least 50m from the Mount Srđ ridgeline and that the project zone is not visible from the core of the old city. The HIA is yet to be approved by the Ministry of Culture but once finalised it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

- After careful analysis, the Ministry of Culture has decided to replace the Orlando Column with a replica; the original will be restored and exhibited in the museum. Solutions are being developed to address the impact of cooling systems on the historic facades, while the restoration of the historic sewage system will commence in 2018. Projects for the tunnel from Port of Gruž and for the pedestrian zone around the historic core have been temporarily suspended to allow the new city administration to familiarise itself with the project documentation.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was transmitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2017.

A revised minor boundary modification proposal was transmitted to the World Heritage Centre in response to Decision **41 COM 8B.41**, which referred the proposal back to the State Party, seeking clarification regarding the management of the buffer zone, and how this will be addressed in the Management Plan in order to provide effective protection of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The efforts of the State Party to address conservation needs at the property are noted, although there has been only limited tangible progress. Positive steps have been taken to develop an action plan for conservation and repair of inappropriate interventions, while the workshop on risk preparedness has led to the creation of a working group for the development of an action plan. The need to develop guidelines on conservation, providing strict rules for conservation, restoration and maintenance, is a matter of urgency in order to prevent the structural instability of the city walls; a matter which the Committee has previously raised with the State Party and which was particularly emphasized in the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission report.

Regrettably, only minor progress has been made with the development of the Management Plan, which has, to date, not progressed beyond the scoping stage, with completion expected at the earliest by the end of 2018. In view of the pressures on the property through increasing cruise tourism, development projects and conservation needs, the Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone, the tourism strategy, and regulations on cruising tourism are a priority and should be expedited. No information was provided on the preparation of an interpretation strategy, which therefore remains to be addressed.

The suspension of the projects Bosanka 2, the Lazaretto and the Komarda Landing Stage are welcomed. Full HIAs should be undertaken in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and comprehensive project details should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Although the State Party has reported precautions to ensure that the “Sports and recreation centre with golf course and tourism settlement Bosanka North and Bosanka South” project does not affect the OUV of the property, further project information, such as amended plans for the golf course, relevant documentation, and the HIAs, have not been provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. This lack of information is cause for concern and the State Party should not commence project activities before the details have been reviewed.

The replacement of the Orlando Column with a replica and the display of the original in a museum is accepted as a necessary and appropriate intervention, which was foreshadowed by the 2015 mission report. The proposed restoration of the historic sewage system has the potential to affect significant engineering structures and archaeological features, and further information on this project should be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before works commence.

The minor boundary modification will be examined by the World Heritage Committee under item 8 of the Agenda (Document WHC/18/42.COM/8B.Add).

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.50, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*

3. *Notes the positive steps taken to develop an action plan for conservation and repair of inappropriate interventions to the city walls, as well as the creation of a working group to develop a Risk Preparedness Action Plan for the property, and encourages the State Party to develop, as a matter of priority, guidelines on conservation, providing strict rules for conservation, restoration, and maintenance to prevent the structural instability of the city walls;*
4. *Regrets that only minor progress has been achieved with the development of the Management Plan, which, to date, has not progressed beyond the scoping stage, and requests the State Party to increase efforts to:*
 - a) *Prepare the Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone, incorporating the tourism strategy and regulations on cruise tourism,*
 - b) *Ensure that the Management Plan incorporates the necessary regulatory and management measures to allow the proposed buffer zone to act effectively as an added layer of protection for the inscribed property,*
 - c) *Prepare an interpretation strategy;*
5. *Welcomes the suspension of the projects Bosanka 2, the Lazaretto and the Komarda Landing Stage, and recalls the need for full Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) to be undertaken in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and also requests the State Party to submit comprehensive project details to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Also notes the information provided on the “Sports and recreation centre with golf course and tourism settlement Bosanka North and Bosanka South” project with regard to the minimum distance of 50m, and recalls its request for further project information, such as the amended plans for the golf course, relevant documentation, and the HIAs, to be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencement of project works;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit project information, including an HIA, undertaken in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs, regarding the proposed restoration of the historic sewage system for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencement of project works;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

21. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia) (C 616bis)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

22. Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars (France) (C 1465)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iii)(iv) (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1465/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription in 2015:

- Lack of updated calendar for the finalisation of the protection designations currently being established
- Lack of an Heritage Impact Assessment for the wind farm projects of Pocancy-Champigneul
- Need for a comprehensive study on the structural behaviour of the quarries in the Saint-Nicaise Hill
- Need to identify relevant indicators for the assessment of the state of conservation of the property, and to define an appropriate periodicity of measurement for each of them
- Lack of measures to protect or to restore the biodiversity of the landscape
- Potential projects located within the Mercier House estate at the south of the Place de la République

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1465/documents/>

Current conservation issues

Following a progress report (requested at the time of inscription of the property in 2015) submitted on 30 November 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 29 November 2017, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1465/documents/>, and reports the following:

- Several protection instruments underway at the time of inscription have either been introduced or are undergoing finalization, namely the *site classé* of the Champagne hillsides of the municipalities of Aÿ, Champillon, Cumières, Damery, Dizy, Hautvillers, Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, Mutigny and Saint Imoges, enacted by ministerial decree on 2 June 2016;
- Law n°2016-925 of 7 July 2016 on creativity, architecture and heritage modifies previous protection instruments – including *Secteurs sauvegardés*, areas for enhancement of architecture and heritage (AVAP), and zones for the protection of architectural, urban and landscape heritage (ZPPAUP) – creating remarkable heritage sites (SPRs). SPRs shall be managed through safeguarding and enhancement plans (PSMV), plans for the enhancement of architecture and heritage (PVAP) or through AVAP regulations;
- The Aÿ, Hautvillers and Mareuil-sur-Aÿ AVAP received final validation by relevant municipal councils on 30 March 2016. Reims Municipal Council adopted the Saint-Nicaise Hill AVAP on 14 November 2016, and launched the creation of a *Secteur sauvegardé* for Reims on 1 February 2016. The site's historic study ended in October 2017, while the delineation of its perimeters is expected by July 2018 and the finalisation of its PSMV in 2020. Feedback from the Regional Commission for Architecture and Heritage on transforming the ZPPAUP for Avenue de Champagne à Epernay into an SPR is expected in the first half of 2018;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the windfarm located near Pocancy and Champigneul, and its cumulative impact with the Thibie windfarm on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

(OUV), was completed by state services in March 2016. It concluded that protection of OUV could not be guaranteed; consequently, the Marne Prefecture refused the project's building permit. The proponents have appealed against this decision and the case will be decided in 2018. Study of a forthcoming Landscape Influence Area will guide future decisions on the location of windfarms;

- Monitoring campaigns were realised concerning underground cellars in Reims, giving positive conclusions. Nevertheless, the municipality has requested the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) to implement further studies, with the first results expected in 2020;
- Efforts are ongoing to align monitoring indicators, including those recently introduced that relate to state of conservation activities, management efficacy, and the planning system, with those developed by the World Heritage Centre;
- Recovery of the vineyards' biodiversity is ensured through sustainable agro-practices, preserving agro-ecological infrastructure, and tending to the hillsides' landscape;
- No projects or building permits have ultimately been implemented in the Mercier House estate, which is regulated by AVAP so as to ensure control over any future transformation.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made significant advancements in addressing all the Committee's recommendations. The enactment of the *site classé* and the final validation of the AVAP for Aÿ, Hautvillers and Mareuil-sur-Aÿ are worth mentioning, as well as the ongoing preparation of the AVAP for Saint-Nicaise and new *Secteur sauvegardé* in Reims.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the dedication and the rigorous methodology of its state services in assessing and explaining the potential negative impacts of the proposed windfarm of Pocancy and Champigneul on the property's OUV, and the consequent decision by the Marne Prefecture to refuse the project's building permit. The methodology appears robust and the assessment valid. It is important to note that the methodology developed is considered useful for impact assessments concerning other World Heritage properties in France. The initiation of the study on the underground system of cavities is welcomed as a necessary preliminary step for the Risk Management Plan. Consolidating the indicators already in use within the property and those envisaged in the nomination dossier represents a useful first step to link these indicators with management objectives.

Information on the activities for the safeguarding of biodiversity is welcome: these should be integrated into everyday farming activities in order to produce their expected results.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 39 COM 8B.24, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the ongoing progress made by the State Party in strengthening the legal, planning and management framework of the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in addressing the Committee recommendations, paying special attention to the following:
 - a) Finalize the "Aires de valeur de l'architecture et du patrimoine" (AVAP) for Saint-Nicaise Hill and the Secteur sauvegardé for Reims with the plans and regulations currently under elaboration,
 - b) Finalize the revision of the planning instruments so that their planning provisions are coherent with the regulations and plans for the newly-created protected zones,
 - c) Finalize the study on the underground system of caves in Reims and develop the envisaged Risk Management Plan according to the guide presented in

annexe 11 of the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party in Novembre 2017,

- d) *Continue the study on the landscape influence area undertaken in the framework of the impact assessments of the windfarm of Pocancy and Champigneul;*
5. *Commending the State Party for the rigorous analysis of the negative impacts of the planned windfarm in Pocancy and Champigneul and its consistent decision-making, concurs with the conclusions of the assessment carried out by the French authorities regarding the negative impacts of this infrastructure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the outcome of the appeal against the decision;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

23. The Climats, terroirs of Burgundy (France) (C 1425)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1425/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1979-1982)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Quarrying
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Legal Framework
- Governance

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1425>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1425/documents/> and addresses the following:

- Legal protection has been improved, namely through two new “sites classés” (Côte de Nuits and Côte Nord de Beaune), new areas for the enhancement of architecture and heritage (AVAP) for 15 municipalities (14 established in 2014; 1 in 2015), and specific protection measures presented in Local Urban Plans (PLU). Eventually, some 66% of the property’s territory will enjoy strong legal protection, the extant part being protected through Natura 2000 declarations, Controlled

Denomination of Origin appellations (AOC), and planning tools. Awareness-raising has taken place in 25 municipalities lacking protection mechanisms;

- The landscape study for the Comblanchien Quarry District's Landscape Plan was completed, actions, priorities and sources of funding were identified, and specific degraded situations were improved;
- Regarding circulation and visitor management, a mobility study was carried out (May – December 2015), resulting in proposals for strengthening public and intermodal transportation, promoting soft mobility;
- The Department of Saone-et-Loire has been a member of the Association of the Climats de Bourgogne since 2016, participating in all the property's management bodies. The State Party encourages municipalities to consider the property's status when elaborating/revising their (PLUs, while an ad-hoc body verifies the PLUs' coherence with regional territorial plans (SCOTs);
- The Framework Convention 2017 – 2019, signed in July 2017 by political and wine producers' representatives with the objective of implementing 30 various projects, also addresses biocultural diversity issues through knowledge, safeguarding and enhancement activities;
- The site's management as a cultural landscape is guaranteed by the overall management framework, and particularly by the Commission for Urbanism and Landscape, which meets as needed under the authority of the sub-prefect of Beaune. An inventory of vineyard landscape features and boundaries of Climats, and Light detection and ranging (LIDAR) cartography, complement the tools for landscape management;
- The current Quarry Scheme "Côte d'Or" has not been updated. However, a regional Quarry Scheme should enter into force in 2020. It is envisaged that the scheme will prohibit quarrying if negative impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are identified. Since inscription, only one request for the renewal of quarrying activities has been received (Ladoix-Serrigny), for which additional information was requested.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has acted upon and made progress in implementing all the World Heritage Committee recommendations that complemented the decision to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List in 2015.

The State Party's commitment to strengthen legal and planning protection instruments and improve the management framework and its mechanisms is welcomed. Many interrelated actions have been initiated, and some key ones have been achieved, namely the signature of the Framework Convention 2017 – 2019 and the inclusion of the Department of Saône-et-Loire in the management system and related bodies. However, it should be noted that the majority of procedures for reinforcing legal protection through "sites classés" and AVAPs, although having progressed, are still underway and the State Party has not provided a definitive timeframe for their conclusion. Additionally, the State Party reports that 25 municipalities are not equipped with protection instruments like AVAPs. The new Law n° 2016-925 of 7 July 2016 on creativity, architecture and heritage replaces AVAPs with a new easement established by the State Party, (Remarkable Heritage Sites - SPR) for which local actors prepare a regulatory and management document under State control. This new instrument will offer opportunities to further strengthen and expand the legal and regulatory protection of the property.

Advancements have been achieved in developing the Landscape Plan for the Comblanchien Quarry District; however, there is still much to be done to achieve its implementation. It is important that all proposed projects (e.g. by enterprise SEPT) have no negative impacts on the property.

Many municipalities' planning instruments are currently under revision, due to administrative and legal reforms: this offers an opportunity to make them coherent with the aim of safeguarding the OUV of the property, and therefore the process should be sustained and finalized.

The State Party explains that the Framework Convention 2017 – 2019 has been signed with the aim of implementing 30 selected projects: information should be provided, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Additionally, the potential impacts of these projects on the attributes of OUV of the property must be properly assessed, possibly by integrating the methodological approach suggested by the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties into the specific Impact Assessments elaborated according to the law in place.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.23**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the ongoing progress made by the State Party in strengthening the legal, planning and management framework of the property;
4. Recommends the State Party to continue its efforts, giving particular attention to the following:
 - a) Finalize the approval procedure of the “sites classés” and of the Aires de Valeur de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine (AVAP) currently under elaboration,
 - b) Finalize the revision of the planning instruments so that their planning provisions are coherent with the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its supporting attributes,
 - c) Initiate the process of designating Remarkable Heritage Sites according to the 7 July 2016 Law, particularly in those municipalities lacking adequate protection mechanisms for the attributes supporting the OUV of the property,
 - d) Continue and expedite the implementation of the Landscape Plan for the Quarry District of Comblanchien and ensure that the projects proposed in the Plan have no negative impacts on the property’s OUV,
 - e) Integrate the methodological approach suggested by the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties into the Impact Assessments developed for planned projects, and also use this approach for projects that may not be subject to Environmental Impact Assessments according to national law;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

24. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708bis)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late finalization of the mission report)

25. Curonian Spit (Lithuania, Russian Federation) (C 994)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 85,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2001: ICOMOS monitoring mission; November 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; July 2009: ICOMOS/IUCN Technical Advisory mission (invited by Lithuania); December 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory Mission; January 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential pollution from the oil exploitation of the D-6 oil field in the Baltic Sea by the Russian Federation
- Lack of bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and the Russian Federation, including joint assessment of environmental impact of the D-6 project
- Impacts of sewage spill accident which took place at Klaipėda Water Treatment Station (Lithuania)
- New constructions and possibly illegal constructions
- Sand dunes erosion
- Possible tourism economic zone in Kaliningrad
- Construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal outside Klaipėda and proposed construction of a deep sea port at Klaipėda
- Reported plans to construct a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the Lagoon to the Spit
- Absence of a Management Plan and associated cooperative management system between the States Parties

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 November 2017, the State Party of Lithuania submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property; followed on 1 December 2017 by a report from the Russian Federation, which are both available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/documents/>. These reports outline progress made in relation to the requests of the Committee:

Lithuania:

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed by the end of 2018 for the proposed deepening of the inner navigation canal of Klaipėda Port up to a depth of 17.0 m, the deepening of the external navigation canal up to a depth of 17.5 m and the reconstruction of the hydraulic structures for the Port entry gate;
- The General Plan of Klaipėda Port territory is due to be approved in early 2018. It is intended to establish regulations for Klaipėda Port area activities and the main trends of Klaipėda Port development for 15 years;
- There has been no final decision concerning a deep sea outer port at Klaipėda;

- A new construction of the Sea Therapy Centre is planned within the property, but has not yet been examined at national level;
- The State Party plans to start designing works for the small boats and yacht harbor in Juodkrantė, as well as a high-voltage line-cabling project;
- The two States Parties wish to prepare two separate Management Plans for the property. The Lithuanian authorities have already drafted a Management Plan, taking into account the concerns of the local people and the visions of the local institutions;
- The State Party strongly reaffirms that there is no formal proposal for construction of a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the Lagoon to the Spit;
- Lithuanian authorities have implemented national and international projects for the conservation and protection of the property.

Russian Federation:

- The Draft Program for Social and Economic Development of Curonian Spit Rural Settlement Municipality (2014-2021) was prepared but is not yet approved by the Administration of Curonian Spit National Park (CSNP), nor by the Government of the Kaliningrad Region;
- The Project of the CSNP Preservation Area is being considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
- The Project of the preservation of protective dune ridge was validated by the State Environmental Review and is currently under the State Technical Expertise;
- The CSNP took necessary actions for the conservation of the stretches of the protective coastal dune ridge (total 3.1 ha).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The reports indicate that the States Parties have continued efforts to address the property's current conservation issues.

The State Party of Lithuania will complete the EIA regarding the deepening of the navigation canal and a reconstruction of Klaipėda Port by the end of 2018 and has confirmed that there is no formal proposal for construction of a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the Lagoon to the Spit. The State Party of Lithuania should submit the General Plan of Klaipėda Port to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to its formal adoption.

The Reactive Monitoring mission of January 2015 concluded that the proposed construction of a deep sea port has potential to impact upon the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. However, if the enlargement of the existing channel area does not exceed the current port borders, the project may be consistent with the OUV of the property. Therefore, potential impacts should be thoroughly addressed through EIAs and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties and with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. They should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made.

The State Party of Lithuania reports briefly on a planned new construction of the Sea Therapy Centre within the property, plans to start designing works for the small boats and yacht harbor in Juodkrantė, as well as a high-voltage line-cabling project. An independent HIA is necessary before any planning provision is finalized and building permit issued for these projects.

In response to their different legal systems and institutions, the States Parties of Lithuania and the Russian Federation are considering developing two separate interrelated Management Plans (with similar content and measures) in which the management of the Curonian Spit, the actions for the preservation of the OUV of the property and responsible institutions are defined, and means of information exchange are provided. While it is understood that the management systems in the two countries are different, as this is a trans-boundary property with shared attributes, an agreed formal over-arching management approach is necessary. It is recommended that the States Parties agree on a suite of shared strategies to guide both separate Management Plans, agree to undertake HIAs on the OUV of the whole property, not just national components, and agree to the formation of a system of inter-institutional and international (transboundary) cooperation in order to oversee the coordinated implementation of shared strategies. There are a number of matters raised in the conclusions of the

2015 Reactive Monitoring mission report which are yet to be addressed. These include, for example, preparation of a capacity development strategy for the national parks administrations and municipalities' staff, a construction policy for the shores and fore dunes, improved processes for resolving conflicts between the national parks and the municipalities, identification and regulation of appropriate buffer zones and development of an education and information strategy. These matters should appropriately be addressed through the integrated trans-boundary Management Plan.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the two States Parties' efforts in addressing the property's current conservation issues;*
4. *Taking note of the commitment of the State Party of Lithuania concerning the completion the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the deepening of the navigation canal and a reconstruction of Klaipėda Port by the end of 2018;*
5. *Reminding the State Party of Lithuania that the Reactive Monitoring mission of January 2015 concluded that the proposed construction of a deep sea port has the potential to impact upon the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, considers that if the enlargement of the existing channel area does not exceed the current port borders, the project may be consistent with the OUV of the property; and requests the State Party to address all potential impacts through EIAs and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties and with IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property, which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made;*
6. *Also requests the State Party of Lithuania to submit the General Plan of Klaipėda Port territory to the World Heritage Centre before it is adopted and any irreversible decisions are made regarding its implementation, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Further requests that HIAs are undertaken for a new construction of the Sea Therapy Centre, designing works for the small boats and yacht harbor in Juodkrantė, as well as a high-voltage line-cabling project before any decisions are taken, in order to clearly define potential impacts on the attributes of OUV;*
8. *Requests furthermore the two States Parties to address any remaining recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, particularly, preparation of a capacity development strategy, a construction policy for the shores and fore dunes, improved processes for conflict resolution, consideration of appropriate buffer zones and development of an education and information strategy;*
9. *Notes with satisfaction that there is currently no proposal for the construction of a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the lagoon to the Spit;*

10. Although noting the two States Parties wish to prepare two separate Management Plans to reflect different management systems, nevertheless urges the States Parties to integrate these plans with agreed over-arching strategies, to undertake HIAs on the OUV of the whole property, not just national components, and to establish a system of inter-institutional and international (transboundary) cooperation in order to oversee the coordinated implementation of shared strategies;
11. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

26. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125ter)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

27. Auschwitz Birkenau

German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C 31)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 10,000 from Israel

Previous monitoring missions

July 2001: joint Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee/World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS site visit during the management seminar; May 2007: site management meeting; May 2008 and October 2013: Expert Consultation Group Meetings

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management Plan
- Slow process of consultation with local communities
- Ground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/documents> concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee at its 40th session, as follows:

- Following receipt of the ICOMOS technical analysis, the State Party confirms that the Conservation Strategy submitted in 2015 presents “protection and conservation approaches of the property and its setting in the documentation of the historical and memorial contexts of the property” and that it constitutes the basis for the future management plan of the property and its surroundings. Inventory work documenting the historical context has been conducted. The elements and structures identified have been inscribed on the national register or municipal inventory. Some of these significant historical elements located outside the property, such as the *SS kitchen* have been the subject of urgent conservation measures, while others, such as the ancient potato warehouse, housing the *Memorial Museum of the Inhabitants of the Oświęcim Region*, have been designated new functions linked to the interpretation of the property. The Conservation Strategy relating to the property and implemented by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum concentrates on the maintenance of the historical, physical and aesthetic aspects, at the time of activity of the camp. With regard to the restoration of the two sheds (prisons), the State Party confirms their conservation and their restoration in accordance with international standards and regulations for this type of property;
- Concerning the expressway S-1 and the south ring road of Oświęcim, an investment programme was adopted to continue these studies, including the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The State Party has made a decision, immediately applicable, on environmental conditions to be observed, for the construction of the infrastructures. For the south ring road of Oświęcim, adjacent to the property, the environmental conditions include the principles and directives for the mitigation of impacts on the important historical and cultural sites (visual impact, protection of the zone of silence and coherent landscape integration with local areas, archaeological surveillance relating to possible human remains). The HIA will be conducted 11 months after the identification of a contractor;
- As regard visitor management, a *numerus clausus* of 1,000 persons/hour was established by a computerized pre-registration system. The *Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau* has as objective to organize thematic exhibitions on the satellite camps;
- As concerns governance, the State Party recalls the complexity of the memorial context and the property and confirms the representativity of the different structures already existing responsible for the protection and the management of the property (Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Inspection of Monuments of the Malopolska region, International Council of Auschwitz) and recalls the creation at the local level, in 2013, of the *Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau* and, in August 2017, by the District Council, the *Memorial Museum of the Inhabitants of the Oświęcim*, an independent cultural institution. The Advisory Mission foreseen for 2018 could play a catalyst role in this respect.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Communication problems with the Secretariat identified by the State Party between 2013 and 2016 have been fully resolved and it is appropriate to congratulate the State Party for its considerable efforts deployed to implement the recommendations of the Committee as well as those of the 2013 expert group.

With regard to the Conservation Strategy, the ICOMOS technical analysis indicates that it mainly concerns the surroundings of the property, namely the zones of silence and protection identified in 1979. The State Party has carried out important inventory work on the historical elements bearing witness to history, and supporting the value of the property beyond its boundaries. The memorandum of conservation principles and restoration of the memorial sites is of high quality, both for its objectives as for its ethics. However, the issue of the conservation of historical elements, notably the buildings, must take into consideration a policy of reallocating new functions, enabling their sustainability and integrating them into the social life of the local communities, as recommended by the 2013 expert group.

The adoption of the investment programme and the environmental commitments of the State Party relating to the expressway S-1 and the south ring road of Oświęcim are satisfactory; notably the

commitments undertaken to limit the impacts integrated into the conception phase of the programme («study of the conservation approaches in the zone of the ancient Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp of Oświęcim »). The conception and planning of the studies are well and truly articulated. Flexibility is envisaged to maximise the limitation measures of the impacts, and the planning of formal solutions.

In comparison to 2016, the number of visitors has increased from 1.72 to 2.00 million. Concerning visitor management, the establishment of a computerised registration system is commendable but it remains important to distinguish the management of the numbers from the objectives of the visit to the property. Consequently, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party looks more closely at the experience of the visit to the property and its surroundings in relation to the significant universal message of the property and its outstanding universal value (OUV).

With regard to governance, the major challenge remains the adhesion of the local populations to the value of the property and the intention to legally extend the protection of the elements having a historical significance, through the conversion of the protection zone to a buffer zone. In this respect, the State Party has initiated a positive dialogue with the local authorities, embodied, among others, by the use of the potato warehouses for an exhibition on the *Judenrampe* and by the necessary mechanisms for a collegial governance regrouping all the local, national and international stakeholders; this governance must, however, be extended to cover the management of the property, namely the protection and silence zone. In this respect, the appropriate dissemination of the Retrospective Statement of the OUV already carried out by the State Party is to be noted. However, it would be useful to establish mediation tools of this value and its attributes to facilitate relationships with the local populations.

In conclusion, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 expert group and, in particular, efforts in the preparation of the management plan, based on that of 2007, paying particular attention to the complementarity between the management of the property and its surroundings, the historical context as well as the possible over-visitation of the site.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.115** and **40 COM 7B.55**, adopted respectively during its 33rd (Seville, 2009) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions,*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the provision of the Conservation Strategy and implementation following the international standards and regulations for urgent conservation projects as requested by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7B.55**);*
4. *Also congratulates the State Party for the decision taken regarding the environmental conditions limiting the visual, accoustic disturbance and archaeological impacts of the expressway S-1 and the south ring road of Oświęcim and the quality of the measures proposed, in particular concerning the possible human remains, and the general project planning integrating the HIA as requested by the Committee;*
5. *Recommends the State Party to continue the dialogue initiated with the authorities and the local communitiues to explain the historical value of the cultural context surrounding the inscribed property, notably through mediation methods and appropriate educative material to enable the establishment of a buffer zone for the property, guaranteeing the appropriate use of the property and its surroundings;*
6. *Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to complete the management plan and its adoption by all the stakeholders and also recommends in this respect to evoke the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value recently adopted, and to*

reinforce and extend the governance mechanism to all the stakeholders, notably the authorities and local communities;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property and further recommends the State Party to coincide the mission with an expert group meeting, notably to enable the development of an educative and social awareness-raising, explanatory and reconversion programme, on the historical structures of the protection zone;
8. Recommends furthermore the State Party to continue the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 expert group;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

28. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

29. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

30. Archaeological Site of Ani (Turkey) (C 1518)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1518/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1518/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A



Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Inadequate Strategic Conservation Master Plan
- Inappropriate use of pasture areas and of the rock-cut caves in Bostanlar Creek and Arpaçay Creek within the 1st Degree Archaeological Conservation site
- Lack of a monitoring plan for the seismic activity of the micro-zone of the property
- Need to integrate a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system, so as to ensure that any project regarding the property be assessed in relation to its impacts on the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1518/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1518/documents/>, and addresses recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2016 (Decision **40 COM 8B.28**). Updated information and planning timeframes have been provided for archaeological investigations and conservation projects for a number of listed structures, and progress has included a range of activities, as follows:

- A database has been established to collect information gained from archaeological excavations;
- Signboards have been reviewed and revised to improve information for visitors and to present a balanced representation of the complex history and development of the property;
- Implementation of the Landscape Project is continuing and is due for completion in November 2018;
- Planned timing of works for the key structures for the period from 2016-2040, including urgent interventions, has been developed. The need for urgent interventions has not yet been decided for all structures;
- Monitoring for seismic activity has been undertaken during conservation interventions, although the recommended monitoring plan for seismic activity is planned to be included into the scope of the Management Plan when it is next revised in 2020;
- Awareness raising and monitoring to restrict grazing in the property has been implemented, although sustainable long-term solutions have not yet been found;
- Compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes have been established for all World Heritage properties and Tentative List sites in Turkey.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) (Decision **41 COM 8B.49**).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Progress has occurred in relation to a number of recommendations made at the time of the property's inscription in 2016. The completion of the Landscape Project will improve site presentation, while the State Party has revised information boards to provide a more comprehensive overview, including information about the Armenian cultural history of Ani in the post-1918 period. Details of the changes made have not been provided, but this should be continued in future site presentation activities.

A database for collating information from archaeological excavations has been established to improve the documentation of the property. The State Party's approach, in relation to the natural landscape and underground spaces, has been to clarify the provisions for the use of the area within the 3rd Degree Archaeological Conservation site. New developments and building activities are allowed under certain conditions, but quarrying is not permitted. While these clarifications are welcome, there is also a continuing need to improve the documentation of the property and its buffer zone.

The integrity of this property is highly vulnerable due to the widespread and serious structural problems of stability, missing fabric due to seismic action or vandalism, and lack of sustainable restoration strategy. The State Party's approach is to consolidate the elements and prevent further deterioration, before making further conservation plans. A table outlining the implementation of short-term actions has been provided, including: the conservation projects for the Prikitch Church, Cathedral, City Walls and Seljukian Palace; urgent repairs and protective measures to Surp Arekelot's Church; building of a visitor centre, parking and transportation infrastructure; and landscape works and measures for public safety and access.

The tables that have been provided and which outline the implementation process of the Master Plan (2016-2021) and the archaeological and conservation works planning (2016-2040) are welcomed. However, it is recommended that the State Party prioritise among urgent interventions by undertaking a comprehensive needs assessment and incorporating it into the site management and monitoring systems. The details about these plans need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, especially for the planned conservation works, which have to be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

While grazing is prohibited within the 1st Degree Archaeological Conservation site, there is inappropriate use of pasture areas and the rock-cut caves in Bostanlar Creek and Arpaçay Creek. The State Party attributes the identified problems to a lack of local awareness. Some awareness raising and monitoring measures have been implemented to prevent animals entering the property. Efforts to find longer-term sustainable solutions should continue.

The action taken by the State Party to establish compulsory HIA processes for all World Heritage properties and Tentative List sites in Turkey is welcomed, although further efforts could be required to ensure the effectiveness of this requirement, and the systematic incorporation of HIA within the management system. Monitoring for seismic activity has been undertaken during conservation interventions, however the continued work is needed given that the recommended monitoring plan for seismic activity will only be included in revisions to the Management Plan in 2020.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 8B.28, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Takes note of the progress undertaken by the State Party and requests it to continue to progress on the issues identified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the property, including:*
 - a) *Documenting the natural landscape, urban development, architectural structures and underground spaces within the property and its buffer zone and ensuring their inclusion in the management system,*
 - b) *Submitting details about the implementation process of the Master Plan (2016-2021) and the archaeological and conservation works planning (2016-2040), including for the conservation works in particular the project documents and visualizations, to the World Heritage Centre, for analysis by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - c) *Completing a comprehensive needs assessment of each listed monument and identifying the required interventions and priorities, and incorporating these into the Strategic Conservation Master Plan as a basis for the short and long-term conservation and monitoring of the property,*
 - d) *Developing longer-term monitoring of seismic activity,*
 - e) *Finding longer-term and sustainable solutions for the current inappropriate grazing within the 1st Degree Archaeological Conservation site;*
4. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies.*

31. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information and late mission)

32. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

33. Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) (C 1459)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2005-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 60,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 450,000 for the project "Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System" (UNESCO/Japans Funds-in-Trust-for World Heritage) (approved by the Donor in June 2016 and currently under implementation)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Management systems/management plan (management and conservation plans under development should integrate adequate risk preparedness and disaster management plans, as well as visitor management strategies)
- Earthquake vulnerability
- Management activities (Geographic Information System to be developed)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 November 2017, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The States Parties continue to work on the development of participatory management and conservation plans in their respective countries, and submitted the following completed and approved plans: the Management-Conservation Plan of Qhapaq Ñan Colombia, the executive summary of the Five-Year Plan of Qhapaq Ñan in Peru, the Management Plan of the Xauxa-Pachacamac segment (Peru), and the Management Plan of the Huanuco Pampa-Huamachuco segment (Peru). The complete Master Plan for the Management and Conservation of Qhapaq Ñan in Chile, version for consultation, was also provided;
- A methodological approach to identify risk preparedness and disaster management strategies was developed, taking into consideration the different risk factors present throughout the property. It is reported that the advances of each State Party on risk management will be presented at the workshop in Cuzco, Peru planned for October 2018, organized within the framework of the project "Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System", financed by the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFiT) for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage;
- The first stage of the integrated and navigable map (Master Plan) created using the GeoNode portal was presented as the basis for further development and use by management authorities

and the general public, and is available at the following link: <http://geocultura.cultura.gob.pe/mapaqn/>;

- The States Parties continue applying a more comprehensive concept of buffer zone in the property, including a landscape approach for sensitive areas. Information on three additional buffer zone expansions in Peru was presented;
- A workshop with the participation of international experts on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) was held in Santiago, Chile in August 2017 as part of the JFiT project, where a framework of components and requirements for HIAs was agreed upon among the National Technical Secretariats. Each State Party committed to prepare a table of key Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) attributes and of potential infrastructure projects or significant developments for their country's components that may have an impact on the property;
- It has been recently noted that at the workshop held in Pasto, Colombia (January 2018), also within the framework of the JFiT project, the States Parties advanced in the design and implementation of a data base to monitor the property's state of conservation;
- The approach to monitoring the property's intangible heritage elements was discussed at the workshops in La Paz, Bolivia (May 2017) and Pasto (January 2018) as part of the JFiT project, where some preliminary actions and indicators were agreed upon to establish an appropriate monitoring system;
- The States Parties highlight several examples of events, workshops, projects, and other activities undertaken in 2017, including the first of four scheduled workshops on the conservation of stone and earthen structures in the property, held in Alausí, Ecuador in June 2017 as part of the JFiT project;
- Acknowledgement was made by all six States Parties to the valuable contribution of the JFiT project which is focused on addressing the recommendations approved by the Committee (**38 COM 8B.43**) at the time of inscription. The project is currently in the implementation phase, with three workshops held in 2017 and one in 2018. The Secretariat Pro Tempore leadership was successfully transferred from Peru to Argentina in April 2017.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The significant advances of the six States Parties in addressing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription, as well as their demonstrated cooperation and commitment to the property's effective conservation and management, should be commended. It is recommended that the Committee recognize their significant advances in the first phase of implementation of the JFiT project in support of the property's participative management system. In this regard, all six State Parties should be strongly encouraged to continue working in a coordinated manner to strengthen the property's overall management framework, as proposed in the nomination file, which is imperative to the long-term sustainability of the property.

The strong participatory nature and the involvement of local communities in the development of the management and conservation plans for the property is appreciated. Understanding that the development of these plans to cover all components of the property is a complex and lengthy process, the advancements in the plans presented by the States Parties of Chile, Colombia, and Peru represent important progress. The submitted plans will be evaluated in due course by the Advisory Bodies. It is recommended that the Committee request that the Master Plan for the Management and Conservation of Qhapaq Ñan in Chile, as well as the remaining national and local level plans under development in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies upon their finalization and approval. The submission of further information on the articulation of these individual plans within the broader management framework for the entire property would provide useful context in assessing the coherence and coordination of management structures across this vast and complex property.

The guiding documents and methodology presented regarding risk preparedness and disaster management strategies, as well as the comprehensive approach to addressing the diverse risk factors throughout the property, are noted with appreciation. However, detailed information on the States Parties' progress on this topic, according to the identified methodology and tools, is not provided. The potential for negative impacts on the property's integrity due to risk factors, as illustrated by the example presented on flooding in Chile, should be recalled as of utmost importance. Acknowledging the upcoming workshop in Cuzco (October 2018) on this topic, and the ongoing development of the property's monitoring system, it is recommended that the Committee also request the States Parties to develop, adopt, and implement risk preparedness and disaster risk management plans as a matter of priority.

The redefinition of select buffer zones in the property according to a more comprehensive and landscape approach is appreciated. The States Parties may wish to continue this process as they deem appropriate.

While the advances towards identifying a framework for HIAs are noted, appropriate follow up to the next steps agreed to at the workshop in Santiago (August 2017) is critical to identifying and preventing any future developments that may impact the OUV of the property.

The advances in the elaboration of the database for monitoring the property's state of conservation and intangible heritage elements are noted as important progress in this challenging endeavor. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the States Parties to continue the development of the monitoring system, as supported by the JFiT project, to ensure that an effective and sustainable approach is implemented.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the six States Parties on their cooperation and commitment in addressing the recommendations noted at the time of inscription, and for the important advances in the implementation of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage (JFiT) project "Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System";*
4. *Strongly encourages the six State Parties to continue working in a coordinated and global manner to address the long-term conservation and management challenges of the property as a whole;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the progress made by the States Parties in the development of participatory management and conservation plans, including the participation of local communities in their design and eventual implementation, which will be evaluated in due time by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Requests the remaining national and local management and conservation plans be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies once finalized and approved;*
7. *Takes note of the methodology and guiding documents developed to address risk preparedness and disaster management throughout the property, as well as the upcoming workshop in Cuzco in October 2018 on this topic, and also requests the States Parties to develop, adopt, and implement appropriate strategies for their respective risk factors identified as a matter of priority;*
8. *Also commends the States Parties for the development of a framework for the elaboration of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and also encourages them to complete the important follow-up measures identified during the workshop held in Chile (August 2017) to implement a proper mechanism with the aim of preventing any negative impact to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) caused by potential developments in and around the property;*

9. *Further encourages* the States Parties to continue their work towards developing and implementing the monitoring system for the property's state of conservation and intangible heritage elements;
10. *Further requests* the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

34. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 567rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1995-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 4,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 870,000 for the project "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" (UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

August 2002: Experts Mission; November 2007: World Heritage Centre Preparatory mission; February-March 2009: World Heritage Centre Technical mission for the implementation of the JFIT project; November 2009: World Heritage Centre/UNESCO Quito Office Monitoring mission; November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2012: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a management plan (issue resolved)
- Governance
- Lack of coordinated conservation policies and interventions between the national government and local stakeholders
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan
- Urban high rise/ urban sprawl
- Lack of conservation policy

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>. Moreover, the complete version of the Management Plan in Spanish was received on 13 February 2018. In the report, the State Party addresses the following:

- The Management Plan is the result of coordinated efforts between the Archaeological, Anthropological and Administrative Research Centre of Tiwanaku (CIAAAT) and the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) project “Preservation and conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid”. The Plan comprises eight chapters: Management and Administration, Conservation, Investigation, Tourism, Education and Cultural Action, Museology and Museography, Risks and Forecast of Disasters, and Communication;
- Due to its complexity, the Integral Conservation Plan (ICP) is still under development and is expected to be finalized by end of 2018;
- The property as inscribed on the World Heritage List consists of three components surrounded by a 100 meter wide buffer zone. The Management Plan now proposes the definition of five protection areas: the Intensive Area (the central area of the town of Tiwanaku with the church and two blocks around it), the Extensive Area (the remaining part of the urban zone of the town), the Protection Area (areas that deserve special conservation treatment such as the Green Lagoon), the Archaeological Area (the actual World Heritage property) and the Buffer Zone or the 100-metre zone. It is specified that the buffer zone is managed by the CIAAAT and the Municipality of Tiwanaku for the urban zones, whilst the rural zone is regulated by the Council of Ayllus and Originating Communities of Tiwanaku (CACOT), a social entity representative of the local inhabitants, also in coordination with the Municipality. The above implies an extension of the buffer zone to include the urban areas of the town. The State Party emphasizes that, in order to respond to the urban growth towards the property, the overall protection of the property requires the adoption of specific regulations for the urban areas and buffer zone by the Municipality of Tiwanaku. A small area adjacent to Puma Punku is part of the urban zone, but under the authority of the local communities and cannot be used for agriculture or housing;
- Finally, the State Party reports that CIAAAT has established a conservation laboratory at the site with a focus on the movable objects in the museum collection and storage spaces. Preventive and conservation interventions in the archaeological zones are being prepared with other institutions.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The elaboration and submission of a comprehensive Management Plan for the property should be commended. ICOMOS’ comments on the Management Plan are as follows:

- The planning process was, for the first time, based on the participation of 23 communities and three villages that belong to the Tiwanaku municipality. This sustains significantly the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site. In addition, municipal authorities, artisan groups, hotel managers, tourism guides, and neighbourhood councils, amongst others, participated in the process;
- The document compiles all past archaeological diagnoses and research. Several “Memory Workshops” were held with the communities that worked on earlier excavations;
- The Management Plan extends beyond the property limits, including the urban area of Tiwanaku, signifying an important advancement in regulating developments adjacent to the archaeological zone;
- The results of specific studies on Conservation, Education, Museums and Collections, Tourism, and Risk Management and Disaster Prevention, amongst others, are incorporated as programmes of the Management Plan;
- The document has project charts for each programme, outlining deadlines and the entities responsible.

In order to complement and complete the Management Plan it is recommended to:

- Complete the conservation programme;
- Establish tourism and risk management committees;
- Develop a Museums and Collections programme taking into account the plan of the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism to construct a new site museum, which is not sufficiently addressed in the document;
- Recruit a professional preservationist within the CIAAAT’s organic structure as a permanent staff.

Considering the additional factors that influence the proper management and conservation of the property, it is also recommended that the State Party:

- Establishes its actions and priorities for research and excavations towards the optimal maintenance of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). These should be clearly defined in the Integral Conservation Plan;
- Finalize the Integral Conservation Plan which should be of the highest priority and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- Ensure a close coordination of the actions at the local level through a reinforced involvement of the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism. This coordination should enable the CIAAAT to implement the required actions for the effective management of the property;
- Continue and strengthen the participation of and communication with local communities and authorities; encourage further efforts to improve awareness-raising campaigns among the inhabitants of the surrounding rural zones to guarantee that land uses are aligned with the maintenance of the property's OUV;
- Initiate a process to review the boundaries of the property and buffer zones on the basis of the detailed cartography of more than 400 hectares that is now available;
- Work with the local authorities of Tiwanaku to draw up the regulations for the urban buffer zone and formalise the buffer zone extension proposal, according to the required national and local processes. Following the formal approval, the proposal should be presented to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines* concerning Minor Boundary Modification, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to maintain the key attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
4. *Recognizes the contribution of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) for the project "Preservation and conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" to improve the level of conservation and management of the property;*
5. *Acknowledging the submission of the Management Plan for the property, requests the State Party to incorporate ICOMOS' comments and to provide an electronic copy of the revised and officially approved Management Plan;*
6. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit the Integral Conservation Plan (ICP) requested in past Decisions and urges it to submit the finalized version by **1 December 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to give priority to efforts to guarantee the optimal state of conservation of the identified attributes that convey the property's OUV prior to pursuing any new archaeological projects, and to ensure that this priority is clearly defined in the ICP;*
8. *Reiterates its request to formalize the buffer zone extension and regulations for the urban and rural zones, involving the relevant local and national authorities, to enable the integral protection of the entire property, and further requests that, following this approval, the State Party submits a formal Minor Boundary Modification request, as per Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. *Recommends that the State Party continue and improve the awareness-raising campaigns, and its communication with and the participation of the local communities in the region in regard to the property's conservation and management objectives, especially with the communities in the buffer zone;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.*

35. Pampulha Modern Ensemble (Brazil) (C 1493)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property in 2016:

- Lack of implementation of the work set out in the Intervention Plan
- Need to augment the Management Plan
- Need to strengthen the protection and planning controls of the 1st block of houses and the protection of the buffer zone

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/documents/>, and responds to some of the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (**40 COM 8B.33**), as follows:

- Works set out in the Intervention Plan for the restoration of the Yacht Club building and its designed landscape are underway, as are works to restore the original entrance to the Ballroom;
- New designs for the restoration of Dino Barbieri Square to reflect Burle Marx's designs have been submitted for review; these are based on analyses of the original design by Burle Marx, the way it was implemented in the 1940s and its subsequent alterations. The proposal is to restructure the whole area to reflect the Burle Marx design, including the removal of public services such as the cafeteria and restrooms, and the reconstruction of green areas, trees, flower beds and a rose garden;

- A first stage of the recovery process to improve the water quality of Lake Pampulha has been implemented; the water quality has now reached class 3 of the national standards. A second stage of the recovery process has been initiated;
- The property's Management Plan is being improved with the development of a tourism strategy led by the municipal tourism company of Belo Horizonte, BELOTUR, and further involvement of local communities in the management process;
- A specialized consultancy has been commissioned with the aim of producing a Strategic Management Plan for the property, which should be completed by July 2018, ensuring compatibility between touristic and cultural economic activities and the conservation of the property;
- Several actions, including the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the tourism development of the municipality of Belo Horizonte and institutional strengthening, among others, are being implemented in the framework of an Integrated Sustainable Tourism Development Plan;
- The Management Committee is being restructured in order to strengthen participation of local communities, including the municipality of Contagem (to which 55% of the lake belongs);
- Strengthening protection and planning controls for the Ensemble and its Buffer Area will be addressed in the framework of the Strategic Management Plan.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The progress reported on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee is welcomed.

Details of the agreed Intervention Plan's scope to restore the interior of the Yacht Club and its designed landscape, as well as the entrance to the Ballroom, were discussed at the time of inscription. Once completed, documentation of these restoration works needs to be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The proposal for restoration of the gardens at the Dino Barbieri Square and around the Church based on detailed research of its original layout and landscaping is welcomed. A Technical Review of this project was conducted by ICOMOS and provided to the State Party, which recommends recovery, to the extent possible, of some of the features that were part of the original design, such as the sinuous walking roads, but that were modified during the execution phase. It also suggests that public awareness activities should be implemented on the relationship between the Pampulha architecture and the landscape, as well as a communications strategy that explains the reasons for restructuring the square, now that it has been declared a World Heritage property.

The improvement to the water quality of Lake Pampulha as a result of phase 1 of the remediation project is noted. However, further details should be provided regarding how the water quality will be maintained beyond the second phase of the project, as well as a revised timetable for connecting 98% of outlets to sewers, as it is assumed that the original end date of the end of December 2016 has been extended.

Progress with developing a Strategic Management Plan for the property and an Integrated Sustainable Tourism Development Plan is noted, which aim to strengthen protection and planning controls for the Ensemble and its Buffer Zone. Attention should be given to the complete set of recommendations of the Committee in this regard during the Management Plan's elaboration. The approach being used in the development of the above-mentioned Tourism Development Plan consists, *inter alia*, in recognizing the importance of local citizens' sense of belonging and the appropriate adaptation of the property's uses accordingly, which should be encouraged as an essential condition for the sustainable conservation of the property. The completion and adoption of these revised plans, as well as the development of monitoring indicators that relate to the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, are urgently needed in order to ensure that the property is adequately managed and protected.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.33**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);
3. Welcomes the response of the State Party to the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;
4. Notes that work is underway to restore the interior of the Yacht Club and its designed landscape and the entrance to the Ballroom, as detailed in the Intervention Plan, and requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed documentation on these projects as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also welcomes the detailed research that has been undertaken on the Dino Barbieri Square to promote a restoration that reflects Burle Marx's original designs, and recommends the State Party to finalize the project taking into account the recommendations made by ICOMOS in its Technical Review to that effect;
6. Also notes the improvements to the water quality of the Lake Pampulha as a result of phase 1 of the remediation project and also requests the State Party to provide details regarding how the water quality will be maintained beyond the second phase of the project and a revised timetable for connecting 98% of outlets to sewers;
7. Further notes progress with developing a Strategic Management Plan, including an Integrated Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, that will include measures to strengthen protection and planning controls in the Ensemble and its Buffer Zone, and encourages the State Party to consider the entire set of recommendations regarding the Management Plan adopted at the time of inscription;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, these finalized above-mentioned plans as soon as they become available;
9. Also encourages the State Party to continue the approach adopted for the development of the tourism strategy that recognizes the importance of local citizens' sense of belonging and the appropriate adaptation of the property's uses accordingly, as an essential condition for the sustainable conservation of the property;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

36. Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís (Costa Rica) (C 1453)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 17,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Interpretative and visitation facilities (provide visitor interpretation and future accessibility to components not yet open to the public)
- Human resources (guardians and managers)
- Housing (future urban development)
- Water infrastructure (discussion on the construction of a hydropower dam)
- Air transport infrastructure
- Financial resources
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, including an extensive technical conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/> and addresses the Committee's previous recommendations.

On 22 March 2018, the State Party provided additional information consisting of the updated Management Plan (2017-2020) for the property, and its approval note by the National Museum of Costa Rica (MNCR) from March 2018.

The State Party reports the following:

- The project for the Southern International Airport is in its feasibility stage and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted. The airport would cover 500 hectares, having a 2.2 kilometres long and 45 metres wide runway, and would be located at Fincas 9 and 10, adjacent to Finca 6 archaeological site. An Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is underway;
- A HIA of the hydroelectric project in the Diquís delta has been undertaken and is included as an annex to the report;
- Despite ongoing efforts, little progress has been made in the preparation of the Osa Canton Regulatory Plan, intended to integrate the revised buffer zones. In order to advance these issues, the possibility of a specific regulation for the buffer zones is now being explored with the Municipal Council;
- The acquisition of 5.6 ha of land at El Silencio site was formalized in September 2016, while that of a second farm, corresponding to the access zone, is in process;

- A team of four people is located at Finca 6: an administrator, an educator, a ticket clerk and a maintenance manager. These posts will be institutionalized in the first half of 2018, while the appointment of another staff member at the box office has been requested. Additionally, five temporary maintenance workers have been hired, while contracts with two private companies provide 24-hour surveillance and cleaning services at Finca 6, respectively;
- The Disaster Management Plan for Finca 6 is expected to be approved in the first quarter of 2018. In order to mitigate the risk of flooding, the State Party has taken action to monitor ground water levels and has proposed the establishment of drainage channels;
- Preliminary actions undertaken and planned for a Risk Preparedness Plan are presented for each of the four component sites;
- Regarding the establishment of cooperation mechanisms with local communities and indigenous groups and associations for management purposes, options that would allow joint management activities are still being explored. These initiatives require a lengthier consideration since there are legal and administrative issues to be solved;
- Diverse educational and cultural activities are being promoted, such as the annual Spheres Festival and a participatory project with members of the Boruca indigenous community;
- Important archaeological research and conservation actions have been carried out in line with the objectives and strategies presented in the updated Management Plan;
- An extension of the Finca 6 Visitor Centre is in progress and is expected to be finished by May 2018;
- In 2016, the National World Heritage Commission, which works under the auspices of the Costa Rican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (CCCU), was created.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party should be commended for its progress made in the implementation of a number of the Committee's recommendations, and particularly for the promotion of diverse educational and cultural activities and projects related to the property. Further efforts to finalize cooperation agreements with local communities and to develop educational initiatives that highlight the property as a reference for cultural heritage potential in Costa Rica, should be encouraged.

However, delays are noted in the implementation of actions that are essential for the proper management and conservation of the property, particularly the preparation of the Osa Canton Regulatory Plan, the Risk Preparedness and Disaster Management Plans, and management arrangements with the local and indigenous communities. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a work plan and timetable for the further implementation of these and other recommended activities, along with the commitment to increase the human and financial resources required for ensuring their implementation and the broader conservation and management objectives for the property.

It is noted with concern that certain key threats to the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, have not been resolved. The HIA of the international airport immediately adjacent to Finca 6 has not been finalized, although it may be expected that the airport, with its runway and auxiliary structures, would have a major impact on the property as a whole and in particular the Finca 6 component.

In March 2018, ICOMOS submitted a Technical Review to the State Party of the HIA for the El Diquís Hydroelectric Plant project. Further technical details were subsequently provided by the State Party, including visualisations, and the review was augmented accordingly, noting the following:

- Although the dam will be located outside of the Diquís delta, the ancillary constructions (power generators, 2-km long channel, camps and other facilities) will be located less than 1 km from the Batambal site;
- The surroundings of the Batambal site to the north, west and south will be altered considerably and, at some points, at less than 500 m from the border of the buffer zone;
- The State Party indicates that "an analysis of the wider environment would require a new study, which could not be done in the immediate term" in order to better understand the potential impacts of the project on the landscape setting;

- While the State Party highlights the possibility to cover or mitigate the visual impacts, the scope and the geographic proximity of the constructions are significant.

It should be noted that the Management Plan 2017-2020 highlights the “excellent view of the delta and its surroundings” from the Batambal site, and the need to “better understand the delta’s dynamics of occupation [and to] reinforce the values and significance of the asset”, while one of its objectives includes the assessment of the “eventual expansion” of the declared sites’ buffer zones. The narrow focus of the HIA appears to be at odds with the aims and objectives of the Management Plan.

It is suggested that the Committee express its concern at the potential negative impact of the proposed hydroelectric dam project on the landscape context of the chiefdom settlements, and thus on the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party on the progress made in the implementation of its recommendations with regard to the acquisition of land, staffing and educational activities;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to finalize cooperation agreements with local communities for management purposes, and to develop educational initiatives that highlight the property as a reference for cultural heritage potential in Costa Rica;*
5. *Notes with concern, however, delays in the implementation of actions that are essential for the proper management and conservation of the property, in particular the preparation of the Osa Canton Regulatory Plan, the Risk Preparedness and Disaster Management Plans, and management arrangements with the local and indigenous communities;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a work plan and timetable for the implementation of its recommendations and to increase the human and financial resources necessary for these actions, and for the broader conservation and management objectives for the property;*
7. *Urges the State Party to conclude the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the international airport project and to provide it, including a section in the impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as it becomes available;*
8. *Notes with concern that the HIA for the El Diquis Hydroelectric Plant has taken a narrow focus and that technical details and visualisations show that, although the dam will be located outside of the Diquis delta, ancillary constructions in the wider setting of the Batambal site would have potentially negative impacts on the landscape context of the chiefdom settlements, and thus on the OUV of the property, and are at odds with the aims of the Management Plan, and therefore also urges the State Party to reconsider the project;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

37. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 82,207

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998: Monitoring missions; August 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; 2002: World Heritage Centre mission; December 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (undefined and unregulated buffer zone leading to urban development pressure and inadequate control of land use)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Vulnerability to earthquakes and hurricanes
- Deterioration of historic structures derived from natural and social factors (including environmental pollution and lack of sensitization of local residents)
- Housing - Urban development project (Sansouci)
- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan
- Society's valuing of heritage
- Underground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>, which addresses the following:

- All activities within the Programme for Tourism Development in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (PFTCCSD), financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loan, are to be carried out under the supervision of the *Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Monumental* (DNPM);
- A second loan approved by the IDB, for an amount of USD 90 million for the Integral Programme for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo is awaiting the approval by the national Congress. This programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Tourism and foresees participation and institutional strengthening of the DNPM and the municipality of Santo Domingo (ADN). The project will have several levels of administration including a Cooperation Unit, a Strategic Commission, a Technical Committee, and a Consultative Committee to incorporate non-governmental stakeholders;
- New posts were created to reinforce the DNPM, with competitive salaries and technical training for the staff;
- The causes of the collapse of a part of the Hotel Francés have been studied, and the restoration of the building is expected to be completed in early 2018 for its new use as a hotel. Due to the

collapse and as requested by the DNPM, the PFTCCSD's preventions to avoid similar situations within the property are:

1. Elaboration of an action protocol for interventions in the historic fabric of the Colonial City,
 2. Request to the Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MOPC) the development of regulations to control the interventions in the buildings,
 3. Elaboration of geotechnical and topographical vulnerability studies;
- The first phase of the PFTCCSD is finishing without the implementation of work on the Convent of San Francisco. The PFTCCSD instead is proposing work on the Plaza España;
 - A system to improve the visitors monitoring and carrying capacity was developed. This shows a visitor's increase in the Colonial City of 12% compared to 2016. The requests from the private sector for interventions to ancient buildings received by the DNPM, especially hotel companies, have also increased. In addition, a parking structure with capacity for 200 vehicles is being built with the proceeds to go to conservation efforts;
 - A buffer zone at the municipal level was already created in 2015, however, its regulations are still unfinished. The State Party is also evaluating the possibility of enlarging the property to include the area, east of the river Ozama, where the Colonial City was founded;
 - With regard to the Sansouci project, no work has been carried out as part of the original Master Plan, and there are no plans to move forward at this time. The project for the Subway Line 6 is not foreseen for the time being, since the funding is not yet available. However, the recommendation reiterated by the DNPM is to reduce the number of stations to one and the final approval for this project remains in the hands of the Ministry of Culture and ADN.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The progress made at the property is welcomed. The reinforcement of the DNPM is considered an important step to allow for the necessary oversight of all of the projects implemented as part of the PFTCCSD although it is still not clear at what level the DNPM is involved within the complex administrative structure of the programme and its decision making influence. Thus, the concern remains that decisions will be taken primarily from a tourism perspective without proper consideration of conservation issues. Therefore, more information about the content of the projects within this programme should be requested from the State Party, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The actions proposed after the partial collapse of the Hotel Francés seem adequate and the restoration work seems to be nearing completion. It is recommended that the Committee request to the State Party to submit the action protocol, structural regulations, and geotechnical and topographical vulnerability studies to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as well as their implementation effectiveness.

The increasing number of visitors should continue to be monitored and carrying capacity margins should be respected. However, the State Party must define and implement clear actions to control interventions in historic buildings and to develop a clear sustainable tourism strategy prioritizing the safeguarding of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

It is further noted that the proposed project at the Convent of San Francisco has not been implemented and that in the immediate term, the Subway Line 6 is not foreseen to be funded. Furthermore, there is confirmation that no work has been carried out on the Sansouci project affecting the property or its buffer zone. Nevertheless, in the case that any of these projects move forward, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to comply with its responsibility to provide information and plans to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies at an early date before final decisions are taken.

Work on the regulations for the buffer zone should be finalized as soon as possible, followed by the submission of the Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre. It should be noted, that the potential extension of the property to the east of the river Ozama may be considered a Significant Boundary Modification. Early consultations with the Advisory Bodies would be useful if the State Party continues with this potential modification.

Regardless of the current investment in upgrading the property, the majority of the threats identified during the 2014 Advisory mission and addressed in Decision **38 COM 7B.42**, continue to be unresolved.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to submit a detailed strategic plan to address the following as a matter of priority:

- To finalize the process for approval of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage;
- The management structure and efficiency must be revised and corrected;
- The authority and responsibilities of all actors involved have to be clearly defined and better applied;
- To adopt a rehabilitation program with detailed timelines for implementation and secured funding;
- To guarantee that all projects within the property undertaken by any governmental, non-governmental and private entities must be consulted and approved by the DNPM;
- To develop a capacity-building programme on heritage conservation and management for the involved entities and actors.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Takes note of the progress at the property to date, and in particular the reinforcement of the Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Monumental (DNPM), reiterates its request to ensure that the DNPM is fully involved in decision-making and oversight in regard to the projects being planned and implemented as part of the Programme for Tourism Development in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (PFTCCSD) and in a second Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-financed programme that is awaiting approval by Congress, and requests the State Party to provide more detailed information about this second programme to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, by **1 December 2018**;*
4. *Notes the proposed action protocol, structural regulations, and geotechnical and topographical vulnerability studies being proposed in the aftermath of the collapse of the Hotel Francés, and also requests these documents be forwarded to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;*
5. *Acknowledges that the visitor's carrying capacity system is being implemented within the property and urges the State Party to define and implement actions to control interventions in historic buildings and to develop a sustainable tourism strategy that prioritizes heritage conservation;*
6. *Welcomes the indications by the State Party that the proposed project at the Convent of San Francisco has not moved forward, that no work has been carried out on the Sansouci project that impact the property or its buffer zone, and that the Subway Line 6 is not foreseen to be funded in the immediate term, and also reiterates its request to the State Party, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform and submit the necessary technical information to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner so that they can be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies before final decisions are taken;*
7. *Expresses its concern for the number of threats identified during the 2014 Advisory mission and addressed in Decision **38 COM 7B.42**, many of which remain unresolved, and further requests it to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a strategic plan with the responsible authorities and timelines to address the following:*

- a) *Finalize the work on the extension of the buffer zone and its regulations followed by a Minor Boundary Modification request, as per Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - b) *Finalize the process for approval of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage,*
 - c) *Review and improve the management structures with clearly defined responsibilities and authorities to allow adequate conservation, protection and management actions,*
 - d) *Finalize Strategic Plan for the Integral Revitalization of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo including detailed implementation timelines and funding,*
 - e) *To reassure that all projects within the property undertaken by any governmental, non-governmental and private entities must be consulted and approved by the DNPM;*
8. ***Finally requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

38. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1981-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 391,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 1988: expert mission; March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban development pressures affecting the authenticity of the property
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (works in the Tower of the Complex of the *Compañía de Jesús*) (issue resolved)
- Management systems (weaknesses in the decision-making mechanisms regarding conservation)
- Transportation infrastructure (construction of metro, including underground station)
- Housing
- Management systems/ management plan
- Underground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, as well as additional reports on 14 and 20 February 2018. The complete report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>, and presents the following:

- The Metropolitan Development and Land Management Plan 2015-2025 (PMDOT) includes cultural heritage as one of its strategic lines of action with seven policies linked to the historical centre. In this framework, the Metropolitan Heritage Institute (IMP), in collaboration with the Zonal Administration Centre and the Metropolitan Institute of Urban Planning, is developing an Integral Plan for the Historical Centre of Quito (legally entitled the *Complementary Urban Plan or Partial Plan* and previously referred to as the *Comprehensive Plan of Action and Management*). In 2017, work continued on the elaboration of the methodology and generation of technical information;
- Since 2010, the Metropolitan District of Quito has acted as a Decentralized Autonomous Government (DAG) with full responsibility for the preservation, maintenance and dissemination of cultural and natural heritage. The Organic Law of Culture, issued in December 2016, defines the responsibilities of different agencies and levels of government. It delegates the responsibility for the cultural heritage of the property to the DAG, while the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (INPC) focusses on research, technical supervision and advice. At the local level, the Commission of Historical Areas and Heritage is responsible for the review and approval of interventions on the site, while the City Council of the Metropolitan District of Quito, through the IMP, is the entity responsible for the implementation of public policy on cultural heritage;
- In order to reverse the depopulation of the historical centre, an investment programme was launched to recover historic buildings used for housing purposes was launched. In 2017, 59 historic buildings (comprising 236 housing units) benefitted from this initiative; monitoring and risk management activities implemented included the identification of buildings subject to seismic movements and vibrations, as well as the preparation of a Risk Management Plan for the Historical Centre of Quito that will be concluded and put into effect in May 2018;
- The construction of the metro station at San Francisco Square was concluded in December 2017, while the pavement of the square is being reinstated in accordance with its original configuration. The report includes extensive information on the archaeological research carried out at San Francisco Square, Santa Clara and 24 de Mayo, monitoring activities, conservation measures, and the interpretation programme that will be exhibited in metro tunnels and platforms. A report on institutional and administrative arrangements related to the planning and construction of the station, including the excavations and interpretation programme, is also provided;
- The Metropolitan Public Company Metro de Quito (EPMMQ) is responsible for the design, construction and administration of the Quito Metro. The technical recommendations of the 2016 ICOMOS Advisory mission have been taken into account, as the design of the Impact Control Plan, which addresses preventions and mitigation issues and the submission of monthly archaeological monitoring reports by a specialized consultancy;
- Actions that are planned for 2018 include progress with the Integral Plan, strengthening of both citizen participation in management and planning and investment programmes for owners of heritage buildings, and the implementation of complementary projects to the construction of the Quito Metro.

On 25 April 2018, the State Party submitted a request to the World Heritage Centre for a technical review of the documentation and processes proposed to protect the OUV and monitor the property and its components during the metro works, particularly including tunnelling beneath the Historic Centre of Quito, which is scheduled for late 2018.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The complete and systematic state of conservation report provided by the State Party is welcomed. It provides relevant information on the management of the cultural heritage of the city, as well as the related roles and responsibilities of different levels of government. The overall objectives for the historical centre of Quito recognize its World Heritage status explicitly and pay particular attention to public spaces, housing, community participation, and sustainable development, amongst others.

The progress in the implementation of the Integral Plan of Quito is noted and it is encouraging that the methodology for its preparation incorporates concepts of the UNESCO recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. However, this Integral Plan must meet the parameters of a Management Plan as understood in the context of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. Once complete, the Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The city will generally benefit from the metro project, but it is disappointing that the State Party did not respond to the observations of the World Heritage Committee and its recommendation to carefully examine alternative locations for the San Francisco Square metro station, and has instead proceeded with its construction. The technical recommendations of the 2016 ICOMOS Advisory mission were partially taken into account and it is positive that the pavement of the square is being reinstated in the original configuration. The entrance to the station will be in the Pichincha building and no new constructions will be visible on the square. However, it is unclear from the documentation provided by the State Party to what extent the ground moved during excavation, or if there were any adverse impacts on the historical assets. Fortunately, the excavation of the station site took place without incurring any accidents or earthquakes. While the excavator of the tunnel mines towards the site, ongoing monitoring of surface and subsurface ground movement should inform the performance of the mining. The request from the State Party for a technical review of the documentation and processes proposed to protect the OUV and monitor the property and its components during the metro works is welcomed, but it is important that sufficient time be available between receipt of this information and the commencement of tunneling beneath the Historic Centre to allow for the completion and communication of the technical review. At a later stage, it is recommended that the State Party should also monitor the impact of the station at this location on the flow of pedestrians and the use and functions of the square so that any required corrective measures may be undertaken.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Notes the legal and institutional arrangements for the conservation and management of cultural heritage provided by the State Party in its state of conservation report;*
4. *Acknowledges the progress made in the preparation of the Integral Plan and encourages the State Party to complete it in accordance with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and other management recommendations and, once available, to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Also notes the actions implemented by the State Party in areas of monitoring and risk management, as well as the promotion of housing in historic buildings and requests the State Party to submit the Risk Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, once available, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Further notes that the construction of the metro station at the San Francisco Square has been concluded, but regrets that the requested consultation process with the Committee was not concluded, and that alternative locations were not sufficiently explored as repeatedly requested by the Committee;*
7. *Notes furthermore that the State Party submitted documentation regarding the protection of the OUV and monitoring of the property and its components during the metro works, for technical review by the Advisory Bodies, and also requests the State Party to ensure that there is adequate time for such a review before commencement of tunnelling*

beneath the Historic Centre of Quito and that any matters raised in the technical review are addressed before these works proceed;

8. Urges the State Party to:

- a) *continue the programmes for the monitoring of vibrations and surface settlements of the construction of the tunnel proceeds as recommended by the 2016 ICOMOS Advisory mission,*
- b) *submit the results of this monitoring to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
- c) *develop a programme to assess, once the metro line is in operation, the station's impact on pedestrian flows and the uses and functions of the square and its surrounding buildings;*

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.



39. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti) (C 180)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1982-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 246,110

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,780 for the July 2010 Technical Mission partially funded by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: Technical Visit; July 2010: Emergency Technical mission; March 2011: UNESCO Preparatory mission Donors' Conference; January 2012: World Heritage Centre Technical mission; March 2012: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; May 2013: ICOMOS mission; May 2013: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; July 2013: Technical Assistance mission World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS; February 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical Assistance mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (lack of conservation, management and risk preparedness plans)
- Water damage (issue resolved)
- Vandalism (issue resolved)
- Earthquake vulnerability
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/>, which reported on the following developments:

- The consultant's terms of reference to provide guidance for the development of the buffer zone of the property were defined, while clarification of the boundaries of the property was carried out in the context of the retrospective inventory exercise;
- Extensive consultation was conducted for the development of the property's Management Plan with all institutional partners and the communities residing within and close to the park. A provisional management authority for the Park has been set up, while a proposal for the management structure of the National History Park, Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (HNP-CSSR), was finalized in October 2017 for approval by the Government;
- A draft conservation plan ("Management, Conservation and Safeguarding Plan of the HNP-CSSR") carried out within the framework of the World Bank project, also contains the terms of reference of the studies for conservation, consolidation, rehabilitation, enhancement and interpretation of the property. As this document focuses exclusively on the monumental component of the property, the State Party has expressed its intention to complete the Plan as regards to the section for the natural component part of the Park;
- A Sustainable Tourism Plan for the period 2017-2020 was finalized in June 2017 through close collaboration between the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, with the assistance of the technical institutions concerned. The Plan contains objectives aimed at institutional and judicial strengthening for the management, promotion and awareness-raising, and the strengthening of the tourism offer – sustainable tourism, promotion of research and training for institutions and the resources of the Great North, and the promotion of the partnership for sustainable tourism;
- Concerning the National Road No. 3 (RN003) project, the State Party was able to identify a source of funding for the impact study required by the World Heritage Committee, thanks to the financial support of the European Union, through the Office of the Authorizing Officer of the European Development Fund in Haiti (BONFED). The terms of reference of the study have been established and include analysis of possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. In anticipation of the results, no work has been undertaken on the Park road;
- The implementation of the World Bank-funded Cultural Heritage Preservation and Tourism Support Project (PAST) continued throughout the period 2016-2017. This project includes support for ISPAN in the development of capacities and management of the property, as well as for concrete conservation and presentation interventions.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Certain results indicated in the report submitted by the State Party should be noted. In particular, the finalization of the Sustainable Tourism Plan for the period 2017-2020 is a positive result, which also highlights the necessary collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and the Haitian Ministry of Tourism.

The implementation of the "Development, Conservation and Safeguarding of the HNP-CSSR" also deserves to be noted, although it is still necessary, as indicated in the report provided by the State Party, to complete this plan with a section relating to the natural component of the property.

Finally, it is also noted that the terms of reference relating to the construction studies of the RN003 have been completed, including an environmental and heritage impact study based on the OUV of the property.

However, many delays are still to be regretted in terms of the essential tools for good management of the property, and this despite the partnership established by the State Party with major funders such as the World Bank and the European Union.

It is also regrettable that, to date, the buffer zone has not been established, and that the Management Plan could not be implemented despite numerous consultations, including with the communities. Moreover, it is worrying that the structure in charge of managing the property still remains at the stage of provisional authority. This is all the more worrying as these points have already been addressed in previous decisions of the Committee.

Examination of the terms of reference of the study of the RN003 by ICOMOS shows that this is the third version of the terms of reference proposed in response to the request of the Committee in 2010 to "halt the construction of the RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated" (**34 COM 7B.110**). However, contrary to previous versions, the new terms of reference, and without this being clarified, retain only one option, the rehabilitation of the RN003 in the crossing of the National History Park, to the standards of a national road.

Thus, these new terms of reference strictly recall the situation observed in 2010 and the concerns that motivated the Committee's initial decision. However, they introduce a new element. This is the construction of a new road within the Park, following the route of an existing road and destined to connect the RN003, in its western section, to the parking area providing access to the Citadel in Choiseul. While it is interesting to exploit other accesses to the Park's monuments, the issue posed by these terms of reference is that of a necessarily motorized access, to the detriment of an action aimed at promoting "soft" modes of discovery of the Park, not only of its monuments, but also of its landscapes, the vernacular built heritage, and the cultural and artisanal practices of the inhabitants.

In conclusion, the new terms of reference do not in any way make it possible to alleviate the concerns already expressed as to the risk that this road infrastructure poses to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. No progress appears to have been made in the search for alternative solutions, and the new terms of reference provide no appeasement to fears of major damage caused by this infrastructure to the integrity of the property.

Although some delays may be explained in the context of the State Party's heightened vulnerability, it is recommended that the Committee should stress that the lack of sustainable progress in these areas may jeopardize the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently finalize a proposal for the buffer zone, the management plan, the conservation plan for the entire property, the impact studies of the various technical projects related to the improvement of the road crossing the Park and the deviation of the RN003. It is also recommended that the State Party establishes a permanent structure in charge of the management of the property and submit the above-mentioned relevant documents by 1 December 2019 to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.110**, **35 COM 7B.125**, **36 COM 99**, **37 COM 98**, **38 COM 7B.44** and **40 COM 7B.6** adopted respectively at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions,*
3. *Recalling also the numerous reports of the Advisory and Reactive Monitoring missions and their recommendations to the State Party on the conservation and management of the property;*
4. *Takes note of the realization of a sustainable tourism plan and the Development, Conservation and Safeguarding Plan of the National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci (HNP-CSSR) for the monumental part of the property;*
5. *Expresses, however, its deepest concern about the lack of significant progress in the implementation of the essential tools for good management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone, the finalization of the conservation and management plan and the establishment of a permanent management structure;*

6. Notes with deep concern that the question of the deviation of Road RN003 is still not satisfactorily resolved and that the terms of reference for the study of Road RN003 seem to retain exclusively a crossing of the Park and not a bypass and;
 - a) Reiterates Decision **34 COM 7B.110**, that requested the State Party to "halt the construction of the RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines";
 - b) Requests the State Party to confirm that the future route of the RN003 will not pass through the property because it would seriously affect its integrity, and to inform the Committee as soon as possible if and when the necessary studies for a deviation will be made;
 - c) Recalls Decision **40 COM 7B.6**, that requests the State Party "to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the technical project for the improvement of the existing road within the Park, including its route, the engineering work for the canalization of the river, the type of asphalt and the width of the road, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any works are undertaken";
 - d) Notes that the terms of reference indicate the possibility of transforming the road located in the property, from the RN003 road to the Choiseul parking area, and requests the State Party to ensure that this route will not affect the OUV of the property;
7. Notes with concern that the delays in the finalization of these actions and tools could ultimately constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Urges the State Party to provide by **1 February 2019** an electronic version of the management and conservation plan, as well as a proposal for the establishment of a buffer zone for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

40. Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico) (C 416)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/416/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1994-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 158,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/416/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2002: ICOMOS mission; May 1996: mission within the framework of the International Assistance

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban pressure (issue resolved)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Lack of monitoring system (issue resolved)
- Earthquake in 1999 (issue resolved)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Management systems/management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/416/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/416/documents/>. Complementary information concerning the seismic event of September 2017 was received on 7 March 2018. In these documents the State Party addresses the following:

- The cable car has been constructed and is in operation. The State Party submitted extensive documentation to the World Heritage Centre in September 2016, which confirmed the project's modifications and approval by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). The modifications introduced include the reduction of the towers' number and location with very limited visual impact from the World Heritage property. The amended project's structures could be disassembled, ensuring its reversibility. The 2017 state of conservation report confirms that two towers have been constructed in the historical zone of Los Fuertes and none in the historical centre. Casa del Torno is however one of the historic buildings damaged by the initial cable car proposal and for which the Community Participation Council requested its reconstruction. This reconstruction project was conducted within the INAH interventions' criteria and consent. Today, the building has been integrated into the city as a public space for cultural events;
- It is noted that in 2016, from the 5,115 public transportation vehicles within 273 routes, 84% of these crossed the historic centre. To improve the efficiency and reduce the transit within the property, the State Party is introducing alternative rapid bus routes (RUTA);
- The *Partial Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Historical Centre of Puebla* was completed in 2015. This programme aims to define strategies, policies and regulations for the development of the historical centre, and to promote the participation of the public and private sectors in rehabilitation interventions, with an emphasis on areas in a poor state of conservation. A Management Plan for this programme was finalised in 2016 as an instrument to define strategies and concrete intervention projects. Based on an exhaustive diagnosis, the plan identifies 17 sub-areas and their short, medium and long-term priorities, giving much attention to the safeguarding of tangible and intangible heritage, to housing and community services, and to mobility.
- The State Party provided a global assessment of damages following the earthquake of 19 September 2017, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale. The assessment was completed within 72 hours, followed by numerous emergency stabilization works. As of 5 December 2017, 1,071 buildings have been inspected, with 343 buildings (32%) reported to have suffered structural damage, and 198 buildings (19%) presenting damage to the facades. There is a high concentration of affected buildings in the areas surrounding the cathedral. Restoration and reconstruction actions will adhere to regulations issued by INAH and the municipality.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

In accordance with the request expressed by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.7**, the State Party submitted extensive information concerning the cable car project. The information introduced the revised version of the project with an amended location in a parkland and the implementation of the proposed modifications by the *Consejo de Monumentos Históricos Inmueble*. Furthermore, the modified project

was revised and approved by INAH. Therefore, in accordance with the modifications, especially those referring to decreasing the visual presence of the towers and ensuring the reversibility of the construction, ICOMOS' technical review concluded that the cable car would not pose a risk to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The State Party should be commended for the preparation of the *Management Plan for the Partial Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Historical Centre of Puebla*, which defines strategies and objectives in an appropriate manner and clearly identifies priorities. ICOMOS will provide a separate technical review that will be transmitted to the State Party in due course with specific recommendations for the future revision of the Plan. In addition, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to secure the necessary human and financial resources and institutional arrangements in order to guarantee the successful implementation of this Plan.

The State Party should also be congratulated for the immediate response and emergency interventions in the structures that were most affected by the earthquake of September 2017. It is recognised that the response to the earthquake will require major human and financial resources. Moreover, an adequate Disaster Risk Management Plan could be used as a tool to assist in the identification of future preventive measures and recovery plans.

It would be opportune to request the State Party to submit, by 1 December 2019, a report on the measures taken to consolidate and restore the structures that were affected by the earthquake, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the Management Plan.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Acknowledges that according to the information provided by the State Party and ICOMOS' Technical Review, the cable car project does not pose a threat to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and reminds the State Party of its obligation in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform in advance and prior any irreversible decision taken, of major restorations and projects which may affect the OUV of the property;*
4. *Welcomes the adoption of the Partial Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Historical Centre of Puebla and its corresponding Management Plan and encourages the State Party to ensure the human and financial resources and institutional arrangements for its implementation;*
5. *Expresses its serious concern regarding the damages caused by the earthquake of September 2017, and commends the State Party for the actions taken in response;*
6. *Recognizes that the implementation of the recently-adopted planning documents, and actions in response to the earthquake, will require major efforts and financial and human resources from the State Party, and reiterates its solidarity and support within the framework of the World Heritage Convention;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2019**, a report on the actions taken in response to the damages caused by the earthquake of September 2017, and the progress made in the implementation of the Management Plan.*

41. Historic Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2000: ICOMOS expert mission; July 2001: expert mission; August 2001: expert mission; April-May 2008: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Deliberate demolition of historic buildings)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Planned and ongoing development projects
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of a Risk Preparedness Plan)
- Lack of management plan (issue resolved)
- Housing - Uncontrolled urban development

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>, and which includes extensive attachments such as the Master Plan of the historical centre, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Via Troncal, and the Metropolitan Development Plan. The State Party reports the following:

- The updated *Master Plan for the Historical Centre and Monumental Zone 2017-2027 (PlaMCha)*, prepared by the Municipality of Arequipa, has been submitted to the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage for its review and favourable opinion, after which the Municipality will be authorised to issue the plan's approval. The plan redefines the delimitation of the historical centre and the buffer zone as requested by the World Heritage Committee since 2011 and in accordance with recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- Sections II – V of the Via Troncal Interconectadora, which represent 50% of the project and include the Chilina Bridge, have been constructed while the remaining part of the road is in the detailed design stage. The HIA of the project has been completed, and concludes that:
 - The values and attributes of the historical centre do not suffer any adverse impact or alteration,
 - The main impact, though still minimal, will affect the archaeological cultural landscapes of Carmen Alto and Tocrahuasi, located in the proposed buffer zone,
 - In other areas outside the World Heritage property and its recognized buffer zone, the urbanization along the Via Troncal will be irreversible and will potentially affect sectors with a high cultural value, such as the cultural landscapes of Quebrada de Lari-Lari y los Tucos, Valle Chilina, Tocrahuasi and Parque Ecológico Las Rocas. These impacts will be managed through planning and regulatory instruments. Mitigation measures have been identified,



- including the designation of certain areas as National Cultural Heritage sites and actions to safeguard intangible heritage,
- The Via Troncal will have positive impacts on the property, mainly through reducing both traffic and air pollution;
- The *Master Plan for the Historical Centre and Monumental Zone 2017-2027* was prepared, which recognizes the monumental zone as an area with special regulations. Once the Master Plan is approved, the *Metropolitan Development Plan 2016-2025* would modify the Zoning Plan to avoid inconsistencies. Other nearby structures of national interest will also receive special treatment within the context of the Metropolitan Plan, and planning documents for these areas have been adopted;
- The Ministry of Culture requested the submission of the preliminary designs of the Monorail Transportation System but has not received any proposals; the project has also been rejected by the Agency for the Promotion of Private Investment.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The identification of the monumental zone as an area that requires special regulation in the Metropolitan Development Plan 2016-2025, and the preparation of an updated Master Plan for this area and the historical centre, is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to complete the revision and approval process of the Master Plan, giving particular attention to the redefinition of the delimitations of the property and buffer zone. These should then be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as a Minor Boundary Modification, as recommended by the Committee in earlier decisions.

It is noted that the HIA of the Via Troncal has been concluded in cooperation with the regional authorities and the Regional Directorate for Culture, and that the Via Troncal will have a minimal impact on the property and a moderate impact on the proposed buffer zone. It is also recognized that there are positive aspects to the project in terms of traffic reduction and improved air quality in the historical centre. However, it is regrettable to note the impact of inappropriate constructions in the traditional village of Carmen Alto and the potential loss of cultural, religious and agricultural traditions. The unavoidable impact of urbanization along the road, including cultural landscapes of national importance, should be carefully managed and monitored, strengthening the densification control. The designation of the Quebrada de Lari Lari y Los Tucos, Valle Chilina and the Parque Ecológico Las Rocas as National Cultural Heritage as well as safeguarding of the intangible heritage will be important mitigation measures.

In June 2017, ICOMOS undertook a Technical Review of the proposal to improve pedestrian circulation around the Plaza Mayor and adjacent streets, and to construct the Salaverry-Malecon Soabaya Viaduct. While commending the State Party for the in-depth and high-quality analysis of both projects, the Technical Review made several recommendations concerning the proposals, which were transmitted to the State Party along with the request that both projects be re-submitted in their final versions.

It is noted that the report does not address in a systematic manner the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission. It would be appropriate to request the State Party to review all recommendations and report back to the Committee on their implementation.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the adoption of the *Metropolitan Development Plan 2016-2025* and the definition of the monumental zone as an area that requires special regulation, and notes that a *Master Plan 2017-2027* has been prepared for this area and the historical centre;

4. Urges the State Party to complete the revision and approval process for the Master Plan 2017-2027 and to inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly, and to proceed with the submission of the revision of the boundaries of the property and buffer zone as a Minor Boundary Modification, according to Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Also notes that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Via Troncal has been completed and that there will be a minimal impact on the property and a medium impact on the proposed buffer zone, and that there will be positive effects on the traffic flow through the historical centre;
6. Notwithstanding the above, strongly recommends to the State Party to carefully monitor the impact of the Via Troncal in other areas than the World Heritage property, particularly the potential urbanization along the Via Troncal that may affect cultural landscapes, historical villages and expressions of intangible heritage that contribute to the contextual setting of the property, and to implement the relevant recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission in order to manage and mitigate these processes;
7. Requests the State Party to review all recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission in a systematic manner and to report back on their implementation;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

42. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/> and reports the following:

- A USD 20 million loan has been obtained from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the *Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme* (PURP) to be implemented from 2017 to 2022 and whose objectives are to contribute to the socio-economic revitalization of the inner city and the conservation of its built heritage, including the strengthening of the Management Authority and the development of a Tourism Plan. The Programme is implemented by the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation, which is the designated Management Authority of the World Heritage property, under the overall responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture;
- In the framework of the IDB-PURP programme, the 2011-2015 Management Plan will be updated for the period 2018-2022. Government-owned monumental buildings will be restored and the Management Authority will be strengthened. The reconstruction project of the monumental National Assembly buildings that were destroyed by fire in 1996 is in its design phase. ICOMOS issued a technical review in late 2017 and its recommendations are now under review by the State Party. To this end, on 22 March 2018, the State Party submitted additional information as follow-up to this technical review;
- As to the Waterfront, the State Party is considering the termination of a land-lease for a major development project by a private company, as noted at the previous Committee session. A project for the construction of an Ice Cream Parlour was submitted to ICOMOS for technical review, and its recommendations are now under consideration by the State Party. The overall approach to the Waterfront is also an important component of the IDB-PURP programme in the context of flood prevention and adaptation to climate change. The preparation of a strategic Master Plan for the Waterfront has been initiated. In the meantime, the report confirms that the *Monument for Victims* was constructed and inaugurated on 17 March 2016;
- No action was taken with respect to the extension of the boundary of the property to include a 50 metre strip of the river, nor to the expansion of the buffer zones;
- Two historic wooden monuments (one in the buffer zone and one within the World Heritage property) were illegally demolished by their owners in 2017, and two other historic buildings were partly destroyed by fire.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The approval and implementation of the PURP is highly welcomed, and the State Party should be commended for this achievement and for the fact that the World Heritage Management Authority is the main actor in its implementation. From the information provided by the State Party, it appears that the programme includes all relevant components, such as the updating of the Management Plan, the strengthening of the Management Authority, and the preparation of a Tourism Plan, as well as a Strategic Plan for the Waterfront. It would be recommended, however, that the Committee request the State Party to submit a copy of the programme documentation to the World Heritage Centre as well as periodic reports on its implementation, including information on the community's participation.

As to the Waterfront, a Strategic Plan is urgently required in order to prevent constructions that could potentially have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. One key example is the *Monument for Victims* built without having undergone a technical review of the information on the project requested by the Committee, as well as the proposed Ice Cream Parlour for which ICOMOS issued a technical review in late 2017 with a negative conclusion. In this sense, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate that the Waterfront is a key attribute of the World Heritage property, and that any significant intervention could pose a potential threat to its OUV. The further developments in the Waterfront area should be closely monitored to prevent any negative impacts to the property's OUV.

As such, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to withdraw the licence granted to a private company for construction at the Waterfront, and to proceed urgently with the expansion of the World Heritage property boundaries to include a 50 metre strip of the river, and the extension of the buffer zones, as clearly expressed in previous Committee decisions.

The reconstruction of the previous National Assembly buildings was the subject of a technical review by ICOMOS in late 2017, which concluded that it is commendable to undertake such an endeavour, but that certain aspects of the reconstruction of the wooden front and side facades should be further studied, along with the visual impact of the complex on its wider setting. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies are in consultation with the State Party about the further development of this important project.

It is regrettable that two monumental buildings were illegally demolished by their owners in 2017, and that another two were partly destroyed by fire. It is recommended that the Committee request further information on the extent of these incidents, their relevance to the property's OUV, and any corrective measures identified and implemented. Fire prevention and participation of private owners, as well as awareness-raising activities, should be strongly emphasized in the framework of the PURP programme.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the approval and implementation of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP) that addresses key issues of the management and conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to provide a copy of the programme documentation and periodic progress reports on its implementation, including information on the community's participation, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Urges the State Party again to withdraw the licence to the private company for the development project at the Waterfront, and to urgently proceed with the expansion of the property's boundaries to include a 50 metre strip of the river, and with the extension of the buffer zones as recommended in earlier Committee decisions by means of a formal Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Recommends that the State Party pay particular attention to the development of the whole Waterfront which is a key attribute of the property and to submit the Strategic Plan for the Waterfront, once it becomes available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Regretting that four historic buildings were either destroyed by fire or illegally demolished by their owners in 2017, also requests the State Party to provide further information on the most recent incidents in regard to their relevance for the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
7. *Further requests the State Party to give high priority to fire prevention and awareness raising among private owners of historic buildings in the property and its buffer zone;*
8. *Commends the initiative of the State Party to re-build the former National Assembly buildings and requests furthermore the State Party to take into account the recommendations made by the ICOMOS technical review, and to engage in further consultations with ICOMOS on the elaboration of updated architectural designs;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

AFRICA

43. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1996-1996)

Total amount approved: USD 2,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 5.07 million by the Italian Funds-in-Trust for the “Aksum Archaeological Site Improvement Project: Preparatory studies for the reinstallation of the Obelisk and capacity building for archaeological conservation - Phase 1”, “Reinstallation of the Obelisk - Phase 2” and “Consolidation of Stele III”

Previous monitoring missions

November 1998: ICCROM reappraisal mission for the World Bank; 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009: missions of the World Heritage Centre and experts for the implementation of the Obelisk project; February 2010 and January 2013: Joint Reactive Monitoring missions World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS; February 2016: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of this serial property
- Lack of conservation and management plans
- Lack of appropriate urban planning and building regulations
- Urban encroachment and inappropriate new developments
- Rising water level / seepage
- Structural instability of Stele III and Mausoleum
- Lack of progress on Church Museum construction
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/>; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/video>

Current conservation issues

On 15 February and 29 December 2017, the State Party submitted reports on the state of conservation of the property, both available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents/>, outlining the progress made in relation to the requests of the Committee, as follows:

- No progress has been made on the completion of the Church Museum construction. The State Party has engaged the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which will appoint a consultant to improve the façade design in early 2018;
- The draft Management Plan was validated through workshops held in Aksum, after which it was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The State Party is now

engaged in addressing the comments raised in ICOMOS' June 2017 Technical Review and plans to submit the updated Management Plan during 2018;

- The Ethiopian Mapping Agency has been engaged to prepare detailed maps for the property for submission, including the information requested to be included by former monitoring missions, such as explanatory information for each area of this serial property;
- The State Party has reiterated its decision to self-fund the consolidation project of Stele III, as well as the investigation into the causes of the groundwater problem in the Tomb of the Brick Arches. The project is proceeding, with the State Party reporting the progress made to date on this project. A team of engineers has visited the property to reassess the problems, and a contract has been established for engineers to oversee the project. Tenders have been called for to execute the project. The contracting document was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies along with the state of conservation report;
- The City of Aksum is growing fast and therefore an integrated Structure Plan for the entire city, which appropriately deals with the World Heritage property and old town Aksum, was implemented in 2016. This Structure Plan was only submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2018 and includes provisions for development controls in the buffer zone of the property;
- The State Party plans to submit a request for International Assistance to support training of staff engaged in the management of Aksum and other Ethiopian World Heritage properties as well as to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The management of the property and the impact of development on its setting remain of concern, but the proposal by the State Party to initiate a training programme for its officials in response to a request of the Committee (**40 COM 7B.10**) is welcomed.

The State Party has been active in submitting documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review. A Management Plan was reviewed by the Advisory Bodies in June 2017, and recommendations were made for its improvement. It remains unclear how the Management Plan relates to the 2010 Thematic Master Plan as the latter has not yet been submitted for review and its current status is unclear. The World Heritage Centre is also still awaiting the detailed maps of the property and buffer zone boundary delineations, requested by the Committee in 2013 and 2015. The State Party has reported that map preparation is in process, but this process has been delayed substantially. The review and approval of the Management Plan is dependent on the submission of these detailed maps.

The set of documents outlining the minor façade modification for the Church Museum, requested by the Committee since 2015, did not indicate any changes to the façade design. The State Party's confirmation that a consultant will be appointed to undertake the design modification is welcomed. However, due to the long delay in the construction of the Church Museum, the temporary, but highly negative, impact on the setting and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains. The Church collections continue to be housed in a perilous state of conservation, which is cause for concern. The World Heritage Centre is still awaiting details of the archaeological features that were discovered during the Church Museum building works, as requested by the Committee in 2016.

The State Party has made progress on addressing the structural instability of Stele III, the problem of rising water in the Tomb of the Brick Arches, and the structural instability of the Mausoleum, as far as appointing consultants. The Advisory Bodies have made clear recommendations for amending this contract document to include a suitably qualified archaeologist, and to request that all documentation for the proposed interventions be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before any on-site work is executed. It is important to highlight the previous decision of the Committee that any proposal that requires excavation in or around the Tomb of the Brick Arches should be avoided and that a cautious approach needs to be followed. The State Party has been keeping the Advisory Bodies updated on progress through the submission of documentation for technical review, but no alternatives to the original proposal have been submitted to date.

It is concerning that the 2016 Structure Plan has been implemented without awaiting comment from the Advisory Bodies. There has been no submission of details of current and potential developments within the property and buffer zone as requested by the Committee. While the State Party reports that the Structure Plan addresses this concern, this Plan was not reviewed, and the detailed boundary delineation has not yet been completed. It remains unclear how the State Party has addressed the inappropriate developments reported to be underway in the 2016 mission report, and the current status of landscaping proposals for the Church Compound. The status of the 2010 Thematic Master Plan, and

its relationship both with the Management Plan currently in the process of being completed and the 2016 Structure Plan, remains unclear.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party on the progress made in developing a Management Plan for the property, even though this is still in the process of development, and on the intention to instigate training officials involved in the management of the property and application of the principles contained in the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;*
4. *Remains concerned about the management of the property and the impact of development on its setting, in the absence of:*
 - a) *A completed and approved Management Plan,*
 - b) *Defined property and buffer zone boundaries,*
 - c) *A review of the 2010 Thematic Master Plan;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2018**, the revised Management Plan and the 2010 Thematic Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and to clearly clarify the relationship between these documents and the 2016 Structure Plan;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit, as a matter of urgency, the previously requested detailed boundary delineation maps of the property and its buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre details of all current and potential developments within the property and the buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, together with appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), including for the developments commented upon by the 2016 mission;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Amend the contract for the stabilization of Stele III to take account of the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies,*
 - b) *Continue with investigating solutions for the problems faced at the Tomb of the Brick Arches and the Mausoleum, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies, before executing this project,*
 - c) *Continue to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies updated on this project, refrain from implementing procedures that have not been reviewed, and follow a cautious approach in this project by engaging expert advisors throughout,*

- d) *Submit the revised design for the façade modification of the Church Museum, and an archaeologist's report on the archaeological features that were reported as being discovered during the Church Museum building works, by **1 February 2019**, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Encourages the State Party to develop its proposal for training relevant personnel on the Convention, the Operational Guidelines, and the Management Plan for Aksum, once the latter is finalized;*
10. *Urges the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2013 and 2016 missions,*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

44. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 17,018

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 400,000 euros from European Union (project launched in 2016)

Previous monitoring missions

April 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Development projects
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Land conversion
- Absence of established boundary

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- The updated description of the Kuraz Sugar Development project (KSDP) provides new information:

- The revised KSDP comprises a total cultivable area of 100,000 ha and four sugar processing factories,
- As of December 2017, 14,000 ha of sugar cane have been planted. Each of the four factories will have a main town. In addition, 10 sub-towns, 40 villages, 2,610 km of access roads and 1,384 km of drainage canals are foreseen,
- As of June 2017, 1,016 residential houses and 11 non-residential buildings, such as schools and hospitals, were constructed,
- Status of the four sugar processing factories: production started in June 2017 for Kuraz I and in March 2017 for Kuraz II. Construction of Kuraz III is to be completed in June 2018 and in 2020 for Kuraz V,
- Additional information on the pastoral communities: villagization programme providing infrastructures and social services (e.g. schools, health stations, irrigable lands), training in sugar production and other farming activities. To date, five local community villages have been constructed, and five additional villages are planned;
- The updated description concludes that the project has no potential impact on the three formations (Kibish, Usno and Shingura) making up the Lower Omo Valley World Heritage property;
- The updated map indicates factory locations, main and secondary canals, access roads, farm villages, and farm blocks;
- The Ethiopian Mapping Agency continues to work on the boundary delineation of the property in the framework of the EU-funded project;
- The State Party is amending the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Kuraz project on the basis of ICOMOS' review of November 2017;
- A scoping study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Kuraz project was submitted with the report, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which was to assess potential impacts of the Gibe III dam and Kuraz project on the Lake Turkana basin, the State Party of Kenya informed the World Heritage Centre by letter of 23 June 2017 that the SEA would not be ready by the February 2018 deadline, as requested in Decision **39 COM 7B.4**.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The updated information on the KSDP submitted by the State Party is welcomed. The documents confirm that the project is well advanced even though it has been reduced in scale to comprise four sugar factories (vs five) and the cultivation of 100,000 ha (vs 175,000 ha), yet there has been an increase in the planned access roads (2,610 km) and drainage canals (1,384 km) and secondary and tertiary canals (2,171 km).

The map submitted shows the locations of the factories and, for the first time, the network of roads, canals, villages and towns near the cultivated fields and factories. It also provides the following distances from the three main areas of the property to the currently planned closest farm blocks: 12 km (Kibish), 31 km (Shungura) and 35 km (Usno). The map does not provide details of ancillary development near the property linked to the main project such as feeder roads, supplementary settlements or extraction areas for building materials.

It is recommended that the Committee regret the fact that the necessary impact assessments have not been carried out in a timely manner regardless of the project's advanced stage.

The HIA submitted by the State Party in June 2017 concluded that the proposed project would not have a significant negative impact on the Paleo-anthropological and archaeological attributes of the property. However, it is not clear on what basis such conclusions were reached. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to augment the HIA by including the full details of the KSDP and taking into account ICOMOS' Technical Review of November 2017.

The EIA scoping study reports that the project has received the full consent of the residents in the project area, as a result of consultations held with the local communities, which are primarily pastoralists, as a part of a villagization programme in conjunction with the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the outcomes of the consultations for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The EIA scoping study does not adequately address all the potential impacts of the KSDP on the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the EIA strengthens the analysis of indirect impacts on cultural aspects, in particular from ancillary projects

associated with the main project, and examines all potential impacts of the project on the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage property in Kenya and the Lower Valley of the Omo World Heritage property in Ethiopia and their settings, in line with the IUCN and ICOMOS guidelines on impact assessments, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The above-mentioned HIA should be integrated within the EIA.

Although the last Committee Decision (**41 COM 7B.68**) did not address the issue of the SEA to assess the potential cumulative impacts of the KSDP and all major development projects on the Lake Turkana basin, including on both Lower Valley of the Omo and Lake Turkana World Heritage properties, which has been requested from the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya since 2012 (Decisions **36 COM 7B.3**, **39 COM 7B.4** and **40 COM 7B.80**), it is of deep concern that the State Party provides insufficient information on the status of this SEA, while moving on with further developments. A SEA should precede any developments and should have been completed prior to detailed impact assessments of individual projects. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya to undertake the long-overdue SEA, without further delay, in order to assess the potential impacts of these projects and to identify urgently needed mitigation measures.

It is also regrettable that the Ethiopian Mapping Agency has not completed the boundary work undertaken as part of the EU-funded project despite the Committee's request to give priority to this matter. It is recommended that the Committee request that the boundary work be urgently progressed in order to underpin the HIA and the Management Plan of the property, and that a draft proposal for boundaries be submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions are made.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.3**, **39 COM 7B.4**, **40 COM 7B.80**, **41 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the updated information on the Kuraz Sugar Development project (KSDP) submitted by the State Party and notes that the project is well advanced and has been reduced in scale to four sugar factories with sugar cultivation of 100,000 ha, but that there has been an increase in access roads, drainage canals and secondary and tertiary canals;*
4. *Also notes that no details have been provided on ancillary development near the property linked to the main project, such as feeder roads, supplementary settlements or areas of extraction for construction materials; and requests the State Party to provide these;*
5. *Regrets that the adequate impact assessments have not yet been carried out in a timely manner regardless of the project's advanced stage, and also requests the State Party to augment the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) carried out in June 2017 by including the full details of the KSDP and its ancillary projects and taking into account ICOMOS' Technical Review of November 2017; and to integrate the HIA within the proposed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);*
6. *Further notes that the EIA scoping study reports that the project has received the full consent of the residents as a result of consultations held with the local communities as part of a villagization programme in conjunction with the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation; and further requests the State Party to submit the outcomes of the consultations for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

7. *Considers that the EIA scoping study does not adequately address the full potential impacts of the KSDP on the property and its setting, and requests furthermore the State Party to strengthen the analysis of indirect impacts on cultural aspects, in particular from new ancillary projects associated with the main project, and to examine all potential impacts of the project on both Lower Valley of the Omo and Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage properties and their settings, in line with the IUCN and ICOMOS guidelines on impact assessments, and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Expresses its deep concern that the State Party, while progressing the KSDP project, has provided insufficient information on the status of the SEA that was requested by the Committee from the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya since 2012 (Decision **36 COM 7B.11**, **39 COM 7B.4** and **40 COM 7B.80**), to assess the potential cumulative impacts of the KSDP and other development projects in Ethiopia and Kenya on the Lake Turkana basin, including the Lake Turkana in Kenya and the Lower Valley of the Omo in Ethiopia, as a precursor to detailed impact assessments of individual projects; and urges the State Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya to undertake the long-overdue Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) without further delay in order to assess the potential impacts of these projects and to identify urgently needed mitigation measures;*
9. *Notes furthermore the progress with the EU-funded boundary project, but expresses concern that the boundary work has not been completed by the Ethiopian Mapping Agency, and requests moreover the State Party to give priority to progressing this work, which is needed to underpin the HIA, EIA and SEA, and the Management Plan of the property, and to submit draft boundary proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions are made;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

45. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late finalization of the mission report)

46. Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius) (C 1259bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1259/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 r in 2004

Total amount approved: USD 17,487

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1259/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2016: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development project including 6 hotels
- Incomplete implementation of parts of the Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1259/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission visited the property in November 2016 to advise on the implementation of Decision **40 COM 7B.14**. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1259/documents/>. The State Party report includes the following:

- The Management Plans (and sub-plans on Land Management, Lagoon Management and Local Economic Development) were finalized in 2017 to address the concerns and recommendations made by the February and November 2016 missions. The strengthened Management Plan (2017-2021) includes a plan of action to realize the Plans' strategic objectives. Government approval is expected soon. A Risk Management Plan has been developed as well as a Visitor Management Plan for the mountain access;
- The Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund (LMHTF) has developed a 3-year Strategic Plan (2016-2019) which incorporates the Management Plans. This recommended a twinning agreement between Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Robben Island Museum (South Africa), which was signed in March 2017;
- The opening of access to Le Morne Brabant Mountain – a high priority for the property – became effective in July 2016. Visitors' amenities were put in place and visitors are generating income for the LMHTF;
- The *Société du Morne Brabant* has allowed access for further archaeological research on maroonage at the Makak settlement site. Research has also been started on maritime archaeology;
- The report also emphasizes the problem of invasive alien species due to gradual change in the forest ecosystem, effect of climate change and disruption of ecosystem. Considerable efforts are being made to train staff and mobilize funding to maintain the biodiversity;
- Pertaining to any new constructions, the State Party recalls its commitment to ensure appropriate management of the property through its existing legal documents and management plans which are adequate and effective. All development projects are measured against the property's OUV and judged accordingly.

Concerning the legal challenge associated with the proposed development in the property by Le Morne Brabant IRS Co Ltd (LMB), which is before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, complementary information received by the World Heritage Centre on 22 February 2018 explained that the case is still in mediation and arguments are scheduled to be heard before the Supreme Court of Mauritius on 5 July 2018.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party should be congratulated for the achievement of gaining access for visitors to Le Morne Brabant Mountain.

The revised Management Plans, and sub plans, including a plan of action to attain the strategic objectives, are welcomed. The development of a Risk Management Plan and a Visitor Management Plan, in which the historical and cultural identity of the Creole community are included and highlighted, are well noted. Some of the recommendations of the Visitor Management Plan have been put in place while others remain very challenging (security and safety, lack of staff in LMHTF and trained guides).

The twinning agreement signed with the Robben Island Museum is commendable and the links should be further encouraged.

It is noted that there is still lack of resolution over legal challenges related to proposed development in the property by Le Morne Brabant IRS Co Ltd (LMB). It is to be reiterated that it is most important that the impasse between the State Party and the plaintiff is resolved in a definitive and harmonious manner.

Concerning the additional information brought forward by the State Party, the efforts to manage changes in the ecosystem and address the problem of invasive alien species are well noted.

Finally, the strong commitment of the State Party to comply with the *Operational Guidelines* and ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is maintained in relation to development projects is to be welcomed.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.14, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party for gaining access for visitors to Le Morne Brabant Mountain;*
4. *Noting the implementation of the revised Management Plans and sub plans including a plan of action, welcomes the elaboration of the Risk Management Plan and the Visitor Management Plan and encourages the efforts made by the State Party to resolve the challenges in implementing these plans;*
5. *Also commends the signature of a twinning agreement between the property and Robben Island Museum (South Africa);*
6. *Notes that the legal challenge linked to the proposed development by Le Morne Brabant IRS Co Ltd still lacks resolution, and stresses the need for this case to be resolved in a definitive and harmonious manner;*
7. *Also notes the challenges the property is facing regarding invasive alien species, and also encourages the State Party to pursue its effort to maintain the biological diversity of the property;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

47. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C599)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

48. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria) (C 938)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

49. Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (South Africa) (C 1099bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010 and January 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; March 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a proper buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Lack of a management plan (issue resolved)
- Mining activities
- Development pressure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, and on 9 March 2018 a supplementary report in response to a request of the World Heritage Centre. The reports (both available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/documents/>), provide the following information:

- The State Party affirms that it has fully resolved the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee and that the property should no longer be subject to reporting within the process of Reactive Monitoring;
- The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is well maintained and monitored;
- The property faces no threats from mining, and the two existing mines, Vele Colliery and Venetia mine, located outside the current buffer zone, have no significant impact on the property and remain under strict environmental monitoring;
- Heritage authorities continue to monitor compliance with the recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding the Venetia mine's underground expansion project. Notably, water usage is carefully monitored, and regular meetings are organized with the company;
- The biodiversity offset agreement between the mining company of Vele Colliery and the State Party is considered to have contributed to the conservation of the property;
- The rehabilitation and stabilization works on major sites within the property, including the K2 archaeological site, were undertaken in 2013, and no further deterioration has occurred;
- A new integrated management plan for the property is being developed in 2018, and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion. A document dated 2014 outlining key aspects of the site-specific management plans and the work plan for the review of the property's management plan was enclosed to the State Party report, but had also been submitted to the World Heritage Centre in July 2016.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is noted with appreciation that the State Party is continuing to closely monitor the two existing mines, Vele Colliery and Venetia, located in the vicinity of the property but outside of its current buffer zone. The previously undertaken HIAs, and the established mitigation and monitoring protocols seem to

provide a good basis for minimizing the risks to the property, while it is clear that these efforts should be maintained and adjusted as needed, for the entire duration of the mining operations and beyond, to ensure the strictest environmental controls for the protection of the property's OUV. It should be recalled that the Committee had previously commended the State Party for the adoption of the Environmental Management Framework and measures to control the processing of existing mining rights and to prohibit further prospecting licenses in the buffer zone of the property (Decision **40 COM 7B.19**), thereby mitigating potential future threats from extractive activities.

The process to review the management plan provides an opportunity to assess and adjust the property's management framework to ensure its effectiveness. The State Party's assurances that it has fully resolved all issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its past decisions, that the property's OUV is well maintained and monitored, and that the property faces no imminent threats, are welcomed. Yet, very limited information on the current state of conservation of the property, including monitoring and conservation activities undertaken since 2016 has been provided.

A detailed and up-to-date report on the conservation of the archaeological sites including regular monitoring activities, and on the implementation of the property's management plan, should be provided to enable the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to make an informed assessment on the property's current state of conservation, and decide whether a recommendation could be made to exempt the State Party, for the time being, from further reporting to the Committee under the Reactive Monitoring process.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party on its efforts to ensure effective monitoring of the two existing mines, Vele Colliery and Venetia, in the vicinity of the property;*
4. *Welcomes the proposed development of a new integrated management plan, to be completed in 2018 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;*
5. *Acknowledges the State Party's assurance that it has fully resolved the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee, that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is well maintained and monitored, and that the property faces no imminent threats, but notes that the State Party report included limited information on the monitoring and conservation of the property since the adoption of Decision **40 COM 7B.19** in 2016 to confirm its good state of conservation;*
6. *Also acknowledges the submission of the 2013 report on rehabilitation and stabilization work of the archaeological sites, and the 2016 report that mentions further work on K2, but notes that no details have been provided that set out follow-up activities to these reports, and requests the State Party to provide a detailed report of archaeological conservation and monitoring work for all sites undertaken since the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, together with an illustrated assessment of the current state of conservation of the sites;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including detailed up-to-date information on the monitoring and conservation of the property, including recent data on available conservation indicators and implementation of the property's*

management plan, and on the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

50. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2004-2014

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1983-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 72,240

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 201,390 from the Norwegian Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO rehabilitation project

Previous monitoring missions

February 2004: ICOMOS mission; June 2008, March 2009, and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of approved boundaries for the property and buffer zones linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection
- Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric
- Sea wave erosion
- Theft of stone from ruins for use as building material (issue resolved)
- Lack of functioning local consultative committee
- Lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/>, and reports on the following:

- The State Party acknowledges the importance of carrying out work towards the eventual modification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone as requested in Committee Decision **40 COM 7B.20**. Towards this end, it submitted an International Assistance request in October 2017 to support the necessary work. A request for a minor boundary modification will be submitted following the completion of this work and the finalization of the land use plan for the entire property. The State Party has also completed a Conservation Management Plan for the Kilwa Kivinje Historic Town with the aim of proposing an extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje;
- In 2016, the State Party completed an Integrated Management Plan (2016 – 2019) (IMP) for the property, which integrates the main recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and is currently being implemented. The plan was attached to the report;
- Conservation work is ongoing at the Gereza Fort. The project to strengthen the seawall was completed in 2015, and in May 2018, the State Party reported the completion of the work

undertaken to strengthen the base of the Oman Tower using stones and lime mortar, in order to protect it against sea erosion;

- The State Party is planning to continue work when funds become available on strengthening the ability of monuments to withstand the forces of sea erosion through the construction of sea walls, utilizing rock armour, gabions and concrete. It further reports plans to improve visitor facilities through the expansion of the existing Kilwa Kisiwani jetty, the construction of a jetty at Songo Mnara, an improvement of visitor routes through expansion and paving of visitor routes from Kilwa Kisiwani to Husuni Kubwa and the Great Well, and through the construction of other visitor facilities and amenities as foreseen in the IMP.

On 19 January 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, regarding the submission of photographs showing new constructions located in the immediate vicinity of the Great Mosque of Kilwa Kisiwani. To date, the State Party has not responded.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The completion of the IMP and the beginning of its implementation are welcomed. The plan deals primarily with visitor management including interpretation, security, tour guides, cleanliness, and the need for better visitor facilities. It also examines the administrative/management structure for the site, socio-economic issues, land use planning, and the involvement of stakeholders. The condition of the monuments also remains a key area of concern, as do the need for a disaster risk management strategy and a sustainable plan for funding activities at the property including public-private partnerships.

The IMP calls for a number of important steps such as the creation of a participatory management system, improved visitor management, the development of a maintenance plan, and the consolidation and conservation of all monuments by 2019. The State Party does not however report on progress of any of these activities. It should be noted that the four-year timeframe for the IMP (to end in 2019) seems very short, and may not give the State Party sufficient time to complete all of the proposed activities. Future planning exercises should consider a longer window of implementation, which includes milestones for evaluation and necessary change during the planning period. Monitoring is foreseen in the plan, but is not in harmony with the plan's overall timeframe.

It would also be useful, as per the recommendations of the 2013 mission, that a separate more detailed Sustainable Tourism Development Plan be created taking into account carrying capacity and other conservation factors in addition to improving visitor experience, given the potential increase in tourism. It is noted that the overall Land Use plan for the property has not been completed yet, which should also be considered as a priority activity.

Work on the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone for the property needs to be carried out with urgency along with the accompanying regulatory measures. The International Assistance request was returned to the State Party for revision. As the revised request was incomplete, it was not examined by the panel in April 2018. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to find other sources of financing for the work, or to resubmit the request, taking into account the comments of the panel so that it may be considered for the 2019 cycle. It should be noted that any boundary modification to add Kilwa Kivinje to the property, as recommended by previous missions to the property, would most likely be considered a significant boundary modification, which would involve the submission of a complete nomination dossier.

Concerning the ongoing consolidation work at Gereza Fort and other monuments, it would be useful for the State Party to submit plans for future work to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before work is undertaken. This is also true for the strengthening of all the sea barriers. It is also considered positive that the State Party has sent a conservator from the property to ICCROM's International Course on Stone Conservation to improve conservation skills at the property. An update on the progress on the consolidation and restoration work on the 30% of the monuments that have not been addressed in this manner, is also recommended.

Noting the plans to upgrade and build new visitor facilities and routes; improve, expand, and build new jetties, and improve other aspects of visitor management, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit any plans for these projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the plans are finalized.

Finally, the State Party should be advised to respond immediately to the letter sent by the World Heritage Centre on 19 January 2018 in order to provide more information regarding the new constructions within the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.20**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the completion of the Integrated Management Plan (2016–2019) and the beginning of its implementation, bearing in mind that the State Party might wish to consider a longer implementation timeframe for future planning exercises;*
4. *Requests the State Party to finalize work on the overall Land Use plan for the property and develop a separate, more detailed Sustainable Tourism Development Plan taking into account carrying capacity and other conservation factors in addition to improving visitor experience, for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to continue work on the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone of the property as well as accompanying regulatory framework, and if necessary, to submit a new International Assistance request as part of the 2019 cycle;*
7. *Also encourages the State Party to continue with work both on the conservation of monuments at the site and the work on strengthening the sea barriers with the aim of slowing erosion, and further requests that plans for this work, along with an update of work already carried out, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Notes the intention to build new visitor facilities and jetties and improve existing tourism infrastructure, and requests furthermore that any plans be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before plans are finalized and implementation begins, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

51. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii) (iii) (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1998-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 2009: USD 24,000 for the inventory of the public spaces in Zanzibar; 2011: USD 14,000 for capacity-building in managing digital inventory; 2013: 49,935 USD for participatory mapping of HUL (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust). 2010-2013; USD 400,000 for Zanzibar and two other African sites under the World Heritage Cities Programme (Flemish Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

May 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; January 2011: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September/October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; October/November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system/management plan
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Development and environmental pressures, particularly in relation with Malindi port project (issue resolved)
- Natural disasters and lack of risk-preparedness
- Visitors/tourist pressures
- Housing pressure
- Lack of human and financial resources
- Lack of legal framework
- Commercial development (large shopping mall) particularly in relation to the Darajani Corridor project

Illustrative material see pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173> and

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which responded to the previous Committee Decision. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission was invited to visit the property in October 2017 to consider the proposed Darajani Corridor Business Centre, restoration of the Chawl building, Beit-el-Ajaib (House of Wonders), the Majestic Cinema, the Bwawani Hotel complex, and the Palace Museum. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>.

In response to the mission report, the State Party submitted a commentary in February 2018, containing:

- Progress in addressing 'Specific Recommendations for Procedures to Adequately Control Development and Promote Conservation' developed by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission; some progress regarding the mitigation measures at the Mambo Msiige;
- An analysis of the building stock shows that between 1990 and 2017, 39 buildings out of a total of 2,000 in Stone Town collapsed or were demolished, 55% through lack of maintenance and 26% through intentional destruction;



- Classification undertaken by the Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA) in collaboration with the Zanzibar Housing Corporation (ZHC) of 300 urban buildings owned by ZHC in order to prioritize their conservation; out of 300 buildings, 27 are in poor/dilapidated condition and need immediate attention;
- The Mizingani Sea Wall project has been completed; progress is being made in addressing the restoration of a number of Grade I buildings, including Palace Museum and Chawl Building; the Tippu Tip House and the Caravanserai. Regarding, Beit el Ajaib (House of Wonders), the State Party is following UNESCO's recommendations, and the rehabilitation project funded by the Sultanate of Oman is under preparation;
- The Development Control Unit (DCU) is operational. It has had its financial resources augmented, and is staffed with experts. The STCDA has been strengthened with more staff and training. A skills training restoration programme has been executed (funded by the European Union). A Conservation Management Plan is under development and will be implemented by 2019;
- Preliminary work has begun to relocate the container port outside Stone Town to Mpiga Duri.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Although the management of the property has been strengthened through the establishment of the Development Control Unit (DCU) with its supporting legal framework, the Advisory mission reported that the management system is not functioning adequately and that the Heritage Board is not operational. Ways of managing the large number of "players" involved in the management and conservation of the Stone Town have not been successfully addressed in the 17 years since the property was inscribed.

The Advisory mission came to a similar conclusion regarding the state of conservation of the property. Although the mission commended the Department of Urban and Rural Planning (DoURP) Ng'ambo Local Area Plan and Green Belt proposals, and the restoration of the Chawl Building, and supported the proposed Hifadhi Zanzibar Majestic Theatre, it noted that minimum mitigation measures for the Mambo Msiige project, identified by the 2016 mission as non-negotiable minimum, have not all been implemented, while the Tippu Tip House is highly vulnerable and the Palace Museum in danger of partial collapse unless urgent measures are taken. It should be noted that the State Party has followed the ICOMOS recommendations regarding Beit el Ajaib (House of Wonders) and that the World Heritage Centre should be kept informed of all developments regarding the rehabilitation project.

These few important individual buildings are the tip of the iceberg; the overall state of conservation of the general building stock remains equally vulnerable. The categorization of some 300 buildings owned by the ZHC is a welcome start, but an overall detailed inventory of the building stock that could allow monitoring of the distinctive urban fabric that characterizes the Stone Town and strategic conservation approaches are still lacking.

Also of concern to the Advisory mission was the lack of effective control of development proposals. The mission advised that the Bwawani project (for hotel, conference centre and yacht harbour), which involves land reclamation of the Funguni Creek Lagoon, and high-rise buildings, be halted in view of the highly negative and irreversible potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Further, it recommended that the Darajani Business Centre project be halted and a new project developed in line with the principles of the DoURP Ng'ambo Local Area Plan and Green Belt proposals, and that no decision should be made on projects for the Malindi Container Terminal and Tippu Tip House that also have potentially impacts on the OUV without consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. With regard to the now-completed Mizingani Sea Wall project, the final plans requested by the Committee in 2010, 2011 and again in 2016 have not been submitted for review. Moreover, many recommendations of the two previous missions remain unaddressed.

The overall weaknesses highlighted by the Advisory mission reflect the concerns expressed by the Committee in 2016 when it urged the State Party to define and implement corrective measures. It is recommended that the Committee express concern that the weaknesses identified then still persist.

In order to address these strategic weaknesses and the diverse and complex issues facing the property, there is a need for extraordinary measures to be taken supported at a high level in order to ameliorate a situation that is putting the property at risk. The mission recommended a high-level cross-cutting Task Team be established for a defined period that would have the authority to act and address all outstanding Committee decisions and mission recommendations for implementation. It is recommended that the Committee support this proposal in the light of the fact that the condition of the property could, as in 2015, warrant consideration for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, under paragraphs 178 and 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.45, 36 COM 7B.49, 38 COM 7B.55, 39 COM 7B.45 and 40 COM 7B.21, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,**
3. Welcomes the development of the Department of Urban and Rural Planning (DoURP) Ng'ambo Local Area Plan and Green Belt proposals, the successful restoration of the Chawl Building, and supports the proposed development of the Hifadhi Zanzibar Majestic Theatre;
4. Notes that the State Party has followed the ICOMOS recommendations regarding Beit el Ajaib (House of Wonders) and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of all developments regarding the rehabilitation project;
5. Notes with concern that minimum mitigation measures for the Mambo Msiige project, identified by the 2016 mission as non-negotiable minimum, have not all been implemented, while the Tippu Tip House and the Palace Museum remain vulnerable unless urgent measures are taken;
6. Notes with great concern that the Advisory mission of October 2017 considered that none of the factors affecting the property, as listed in the state of conservation reports since 2014, has been addressed successfully and nearly all comments and recommendations made in the 2014 and 2016 mission reports still remain valid today, and moreover that the current Management System, including the 2010 Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA) Act, is not being implemented fully, with resultant negative consequences for the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
7. Also notes that the overall state of conservation of the general building stock remains vulnerable and that an overall detailed inventory of the building stock is still lacking whilst welcoming the categorization of some 300 buildings owned by the Zanzibar Housing Corporation (ZHC) and the restoration skills training undertaken;
8. Expresses its concern that major development projects have not been notified to the World Heritage Centre and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit details for the Malindi Container Port and Tippu Tip House projects before any implementation is undertaken, development rights granted or fundraising started, in the light of their high potential impact on the OUV of the property, and submit for review the World Monument Fund Report for the Palace Museum Restoration;
9. Also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Halt as a matter of urgency the extensive Bwawani Hotel Redevelopment Plan (including proposals for the sea front, Funguni Lagoon and Blue Mosque), in view of its highly negative and irreversible potential impact on OUV,
 - b) Clarify the current status of rights to development granted on the entire area and submit this, also as a matter of urgency, to the World Heritage Centre,
 - c) Protect the remains of the Bwawani Hotel, and its sea front and the Funguni Lagoon as public open spaces,

- d) *Further develop appropriate plans for the Bwawani Hotel complex for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review,*
 - e) *Halt the current Darajani Bazaar project as it will have an adverse effect on the OUV of the property, and to develop a new project, based on the principles contained in the DoURP Ng'ambo Local Area Plan and the Green Belt proposals;*
10. *Also expresses its concern* *at the failure to provide project proposals and final details for the Mizingani Sea Wall project as requested in 2010, 2011 and 2016;*
 11. *Further expresses its concern* *that the overall weaknesses highlighted by the 2017 Advisory mission reflect the previous concerns of the Committee and could warrant consideration for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, under paragraphs 178 and 179 of the Operational Guidelines;*
 12. *Urges* *the State Party to take the following actions to address these problems and, in the light of their complexity and diversity and the range of stakeholders and actors involved, recommends that a cross-cutting Task Team be set up as recommended by the 2017 mission for a defined period of minimum five years with the mandate to:*
 - a) *Address the 'Procedures to Adequately Control Development and Promote Conservation',*
 - b) *Implement the outstanding recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions,*
 - c) *Guide the development of the new integrated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and its coordination into all spatial local and regional plans,**and invites the State Party to submit the terms of reference for the CMP for review;*
 13. *Further requests* *the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2019 to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and in particular, progress with the formation of a Task Team;*
 14. *Requests furthermore* *the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, a report on the state of conservation of the property, and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019; with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to OUV of the property, its possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

ARAB STATES

52. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

53. Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C 1437)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted in the framework of the Kurdistan Regional Government Funds-In-Trust:

- The Revitalization of the Citadel of Erbil Phase I project: USD 1,510,444
- The Revitalization of the Citadel of Erbil Phase II project: USD 12,837,347
- Management of the Buffer Area of Erbil Citadel project: USD 338,208

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of survey, documentation and mapping of surviving surface buried archaeological remains of all types
- Slopes of the archaeological mound non stabilized
- Location and/or architectural design of the Kurdistan National Museum not appropriate
- Existing legal framework needs to be improved
- Insufficient involvement of former inhabitants and of Erbil's civil society in the revitalization of the Citadel

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/>

Current conservation issues

On 21 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/documents/>. The State Party addresses the progress made in implementing the recommendations adopted at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, noting that:

- Progress is being made on implementing measures in line with the Management Plan, including the creation of a functional map-linked database of the citadel;

- An operational visitor centre with interpretative facilities has been established and signage installed at focal points in the property. Educational programmes, including summer training opportunities, are offered to academic institutions and students are encouraged to participate as guides and conservation volunteers;
- Plans for enhanced visitor routes have been completed by elaborating the pre-existing land use plan and identifying specific functions for specific locations. These plans include proposals for the adaptive re-use of buildings. Further details with which to engage donors are under development. Buildings in the Citadel are being allocated to partner organizations, resulting in partner-sponsored building rehabilitations;
- All of the above has been achieved through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR) and the UNESCO Office for Iraq;
- Interpretative material, including guidebooks in English, Arabic and Kurdish, is being developed and the HCECR regularly engages both local and international media to disseminate information on the progress made in revitalizing the Citadel;
- The HCECR was active in addressing building conservation and reports conservation work and emergency interventions at 14 buildings, additional to which the 170 buildings with temporary roofing are constantly being monitored;
- Surveying, documentation and mapping of buried archaeology continues through a collaboration with the Department of Classics and Italian Archaeological Mission in Iraqi Kurdistan of the Sapienza University of Rome, and has led to international conference presentations and a preliminary report;
- The State Party continues active stakeholder engagement through local and international activities;
- The State Party also reports that no further development projects require reporting, that the Kurdistan Museum Project remains halted, but that international consultants have been engaged to compile a review of the project and engage with the World Heritage Centre in light of the Committee decision on the project.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Considering the very difficult conditions that continue to prevail in Iraq and the region, the commitment and resolve of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property under difficult conditions should be noted, as it was in 2016. Added to this is the commendable engagement of the international community and local parties in various fields of action.

One such field is the continuing archaeological investigations in response to the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription in 2014. These actions are continuing to yield results, which are being disseminated internationally through conference presentations and academic articles, with more publications being planned at present. The information gained through this has reached a volume that needs to be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in order to finalize the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property, which is currently still provisional.

The HCECR is active in engaging investors to rehabilitate the tell-top settlement and stabilise structures, especially at the edge of the slope. It was already noted in 2016 that it would be prudent to ensure that the tell-top settlement is not redeveloped for the most part as a commercial and cultural precinct but instead retains as much as possible its current residents while other permanent residents are stimulated to settle here.

The State Party's engagement of international consultants is noted, addressing the Committee's request to reconsider the location, or substantially modify the design, of the proposed Kurdistan National Museum in order to harmonize it with the Citadel and its setting. It remains of high importance that the draft setting and design concepts for the proposed museum be submitted by the State Party, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before the project is approved or any tenders are awarded for its construction.

The State Party has not reported on the juridical review that the Committee requested in 2014. This was reported as being in progress in 2016. The Advisory Bodies are ready to engage the State Party as regards the recommendations of the juridical review.

The implementation of the UNESCO 'Erbil Citadel Revitalization Project-Phase II' was completed on 30 April 2017. This project contributed to reinforcing the capacities of the HCECR in documentation, conservation and sustainable management of the property and to revitalizing and the urban fabric by enhancing the visitor's experience and restoring the Citadel's most vulnerable attributes.

The period under review has not brought any overt new threats to the OUV of the property, which is being conserved and developed by the State Party along the same trajectory as during the previous review period, despite the continued instability in the region. The State Party also reports that no major developments are planned at present that may affect the OUV of the property or its setting.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.20 and 40 COM 7B.23**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes the positive results of the 'Erbil Citadel Revitalization Project' implemented by UNESCO in the framework of the Kurdistan Regional Government Funds-In-Trust;*
4. *Commends the State Party for continuing the actions undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of the property's inscription;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to continue with the implementation of the measures and activities already undertaken and to continue its fruitful engagement with national and international partners, so as to ensure the adequate conservation and management of the property, and prevent and limit the threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, concept schemes for the location and design of new constructions within the property and its buffer zone, in particular the proposed Kurdistan National Museum, before commitment is given with regards to their approval or construction,*
 - b) *Continue with the juridical review to strengthen the management of the property, its buffer zone and setting and thereby safeguarding its OUV,*
 - c) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the archaeological investigations for review by the Advisory Bodies in order to finalize the provisional Statement of OUV;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

54. Petra (Jordan) (C 326)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

55. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

56. Byblos (Lebanon) (C 295)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

57. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1988-2004

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1988-1988)

Total amount approved: USD 57,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 25,000 (private funding)

Previous monitoring missions

2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003: World Heritage Centre expert missions; December 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Use of inappropriate conservation techniques
- Urban pressure
- Lack of a management plan and appropriate legislation
- Housing
- Legal framework
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Deterioration of the earthen structures of the Fort

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/documents/>, outlining progress made in response to Decision **40 COM 7B.26** and the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission of March 2017, and noting the following:

- A 'World Heritage Sites Department' has been established within the Ministry of Heritage and Culture (MHC) and a site management office will be provided at Bahla;

- The Management Plan was completed in 2010, but has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It identifies 19 'Character Zones' and required conservation and management actions for each zone. Further co-ordination with other Ministries will enable key actions from the Management Plan to be implemented, including creation of a wider buffer zone, regulation for the use of the agricultural land in the oasis, and irrigation systems;
- The request for a minor boundary modification, including an enlarged buffer zone, will be submitted when the necessary legal framework is established;
- The mission team did not have access to numerous project documents and it is acknowledged that this documentation should be accessible. MHC prepares comprehensive documentation before intervention to any monument and works follow the original morphology and building techniques, including use of adobe. Information has been provided concerning works carried out in the Souq, the Shaikh Bin Baraka Mausoleum and the Alkhair Mosque. The approach to conservation of the Wall includes cleaning and root removal, avoiding moisture transmission, preventing the construction of new buildings nearby and making local people aware of the need for protection;
- Comprehensive restoration work in Harat Al-Aqr is challenging owing to its size and the extent of earthen construction. MHC is preparing plans for the maintenance of facades and visitor pathways, in accordance with the mission findings. Adobe workshops have been held to build capacity for conservation works;
- Some negative impacts identified by the mission at Harat Al-Ghuzeli, Al-Hawuiya and Harat Al-Aqr, particularly concrete interventions, pre-date the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. However, the need for urgent action to save Harat Al-Aqr from abandonment and loss of authenticity is acknowledged.

Finally, the State Party indicates that although it appreciates the proposal to change the property's name to mention the word 'oasis', as proposed by the mission, which argued that this addition would facilitate better understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its national and local heritage values, the priority is currently the conservation of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party continues to make efforts to improve the management and legal status of the property, including the creation of a 'World Heritage Sites Department' within MHC, and a site management office at Bahla. Moreover, it has undertaken restoration works, and engaged actively with the 2017 mission and its findings. However, key actions previously requested by the Committee have not occurred; these include submission of a finalized Management Plan, a minor boundary modification request, and documentation of the conservation and management actions already undertaken and planned at the property. This delay is hampering the ability of the State Party and its agencies to respond to major challenges, such as rapid development, encroachment of concrete construction and abandonment of vernacular buildings in traditional settlements (harats). For example, the mission report observes that the authenticity of Harat al-Aqr settlement is endangered by construction pressure. The Falaj irrigation system also appears to be at risk through abandonment, and parts of the surrounding ancient oasis wall are in decay, impacted by adjacent concrete buildings, or have been destroyed. Although, during recent years, projects have been undertaken on the Bahla market (souq), the mosque, the mausoleum, the gate, and the property's fortress, large areas of the property remain vulnerable.

In response to these circumstances, the mission made recommendations related to:

- Control and monitoring of new construction;
- Provision of maps indicating clearly the defined boundaries of the property and buffer zone boundaries, plus on-site sign markers;
- Preparation of comprehensive documentation of the state of conservation of the property showing: original fabric, interventions with the different earthen building techniques, interventions with other traditional materials, and new concrete construction;
- Submission of the Management Plan and the newly approved legal framework and heritage law to the World Heritage Centre;
- Establishment of a local management office with a site director and a technical management team;
- A conservation plan/strategy defining procedures for conservation and maintenance;
- Enhancement of architectural records with further scientific analysis and historical research, as a basis for future projects;
- A range of recommendations specific to particular monuments and precincts.

The mission concluded that the State Party should adopt a more consistent and dynamic approach to protecting the property from encroachment, in order to address the continuing threats. The focus needs to be broadened to preserve the entirety of the property components, including the fortress, the Falaj irrigation system, oasis, ancient settlements, natural and built environment, surrounding ancient oasis perimeter wall, Bahla market (Souq), and the old souq, as well as all dynamic living structures of the community that contribute to its authenticity, integrity and, therefore, its OUV.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its efforts to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of the property, and welcomes the creation of a 'World Heritage Sites Department' within the Ministry of Heritage and Culture (MHC), and a site management office at Bahla;*
4. *Regrets that, despite previous requests, neither the finalized version of the Management Plan nor a request for a minor boundary modification have been submitted;*
5. *Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the finalized and updated version of the Management Plan, including the legal framework that will support its implementation;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and based on Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed document summarizing the conservation and management actions already undertaken and planned at the property, (original fabric, interventions with the different earthen building techniques, interventions with other traditional materials, and new concrete construction), and showing the articulation between them and the finalized and updated version of the Management Plan;*
7. *Noting the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, also requests the State Party to implement them, and in particular provisions for improved control and monitoring of new construction, and preparation of a conservation plan;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2019**, a minor boundary modification enlarging the buffer zone, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

58. Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia) (C 1361)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system not in place
- Detailed Conservation Strategy not finalized
- Projects and development work with the potential to impact the authenticity of the property
- High rate of decay of the historic houses

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents>, and which provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the decision adopted by the Committee at its 40th session as follows:

- A complete and accessible database of all historic buildings is currently available. The Urban Affairs Agency in Jeddah's Amana and its GIS department have partnered with the King Abdul-Aziz University to develop further the database with new technologies, including 3-dimensional and digital data for documentation, to be used for monitoring purposes;
- Despite several efforts, a recent survey underlines that a number of houses are fragile and at risk of collapse. Actions to avoid the collapse and to stabilize the buildings at risk are under planning and implementation phases;
- Activities are carried out in Historic Jeddah by non-governmental actors, including a programme to train local artisans who may support restoration activities;
- Following the restoration of the Ash-Shafe'i Mosque accomplished in 2015 in the framework of the "National Historic Mosques care Program", the renovation project of the Al-Me'mar Mosque is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2018;
- Local communities, civil society and private sector are involved in several conservation and restoration activities;
- The Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH) and the Amana undertook steps to apply the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in managing the property. This includes a survey of the city's resources, fostering public-private partnerships, the integration of heritage values and their vulnerability into the city's development plans, and the prioritization of conservation and development actions. For the latter, indicators have been developed concerning conservation, planning, development and partnerships;
- Following the request by the Committee to incorporate a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) approach into the regulatory and management framework, the SCTH carried out a HIA for Historic Jeddah. The approval of the Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law (2014), the formalization and approval of the Municipal Building Regulation and preparation of "Guidelines

for Building Regulation” aim to facilitate implementation of laws and regulations for the property to preserve its heritage within a comprehensive strategy stemming from the HIA;

- Actions to prevent fire in the property have been undertaken by the Civil Defense, Government Officials of Historic Jeddah and the Municipality. These include the implementation of a water storage and supply for emergency fires occurring in Historic Jeddah, located at the northern part of the registered area, and fixing more than 600 hand-held fire extinguishers in historic buildings.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Important advances have been made in relation to the database of historic buildings with a 3D database underway. However, no detailed information was provided, as requested by the Committee, on whether the data will include other attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), such as the tower houses, other urban houses, the wikalas, mosques and zawiyas.

The State Party did not submit a comprehensive conservation strategy as requested by the Committee. Although the efforts of the State Party in undertaking conservation projects within the property are commendable, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on the works achieved, and plans and strategies to be undertaken, in particular to buildings that are at risk of collapse. In addition, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide technical information on the restoration and/or conservation projects of emblematic buildings, such as Al-Me'mar Mosque to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies. In general, conservation and restoration practices should respect the authenticity of the historic buildings and fabric.

The State Party has provided detailed explanations on the legal framework and institutional responsibilities, and on initiatives taken to establish and incorporate the HUL approach in managing the property, and has set urban/architectural conservation and development indicators thereon.

The State Party has also advised that an HIA was carried out for Historic Jeddah, but this has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The HIA seems to have been prepared to assist with 'implementing plans' for the property, rather than as a tool for evaluation of particular projects. It is desirable that preparation of HIAs for significant projects also be incorporated as part of the framework for managing the property.

The State Party has also undertaken several risk mitigation measures to prevent fire in the property but still needs to provide a risk management and prevention plan. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to send detailed information on the initiatives stated above to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.27**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the significant achievements in finalizing a detailed database of the buildings in the property and encourages it to pursue its efforts to include all the attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its urban fabric within this database;
4. Welcomes the engagement of the State Party in achieving a more comprehensive management approach for the property and the adoption of legal instruments and institutional measures that would allow for its improved protection, conservation and management, as well as initial steps toward application of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach to management of the property;

5. *Also encourages the State Party to further develop an integrated conservation strategy for the property including systematic Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) studies, prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties to be applied to significant projects within the property;*
6. *Notes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to prevent risk of fire and requests it to integrate those measures into a risk preparedness plan for the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
 - a) *Detailed information on all plans, projects and strategies to be undertaken within the property, in particular on emblematic buildings and those at risk of collapse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - b) *The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which has been prepared for the property,*
 - c) *The integrated conservation strategy for the property including the HIA framework for specific projects,*
 - d) *The risk management and prevention plan for the property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2020, 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 45th session in 2021.*

59. **Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)**



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 68,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2004, 2006, 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deterioration as a result of exposure to difficult environmental conditions such as wind with sand and floods
- Urban encroachment
- Absence of a management plan with government commitment
- Flooding
- Ground transport infrastructure

- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems / management plan
- Wind and Desertification

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>, providing information on the following:

- Five archaeological missions are currently taking place within the framework of the *Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project* (QSAP) (comprising two missions from the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, as well as a mission each from the Italian Institute for Conservation and Restoration, the Spanish Mission and the German Archaeological Institute), which aims at halting further degradation of monuments, caused by exposure to extreme climatic conditions and destructive and uncontrolled human activity, and where possible to carry out conservation measures such as the restoration and reconstruction of archaeological remains and wall paintings, based on scientific studies and analysis. The project also focuses on the documentation and mapping of the property, the upgrading and improving of the Barkal Museum, as well as enhancing site presentation and visitor experience;
- The property retains a high degree of integrity and authenticity, and environmental monitoring and surveys are carried out in preparation of the conservation works. The Mut Temple has been the focus of careful conservation and stabilisation works, while the Kiosk B551 was reburied after 3D photo-scans were taken. The Small temple displays the worst effects of regular flash flooding, which have undermined the entire temple front. Planned conservation consists of building a drainage system to divert the water runoff, clearing debris inside the temple, repairing flooring, and partly rebuilding columns, however, due to lack of funding, these works have not yet been carried out. The Great Amun Temple, which is of vast proportions, has suffered severely from flooding and erosion as well as scavenging, and has been reburied until funding is available to carry out necessary conservation work. The Meroitic palace, originally excavated in 1919, was used as a dump site for excavations. It will not be re-excavated, but a computerized model may be displayed in the Barkal Museum. The Hathor temple of Taharqa, located at the south-western edge of the property, has been totally destroyed by stone scavengers, and inner rock chambers have been badly eroded;
- The construction of a cover over the El Kurru funerary temple, at a suggested height of 3.5m above ground surface, is proposed as part of the International Kurru Archaeological Project as a protection against rainwater, corrosion and defacement while allowing the ventilation of groundwater moisture;
- Two grants have been provided to the Jebel Barkal museum to upgrade, digitise and catalogue the collection, and to modernise the building, exhibition space and storage rooms. Currently, the museum functions rather as a storage space for artefacts, which are undocumented, poorly displayed and have largely been broken due to inappropriate handling.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Notwithstanding the preventive conservation efforts and preservation actions so far implemented by the State Party in the framework of the QSAP, the overall state of conservation of the property is cause for great concern. The protective measures to shield the monuments from further erosion and to rehabilitate the stonework of the pyramids are valuable efforts, as are the future planned activities addressing visitor management, site presentation and the Barkal museum upgrade. The property appears to be in a perilous state of conservation, reflecting years of neglect, lack of maintenance and protection, and inadequate management and staff capacity, which result in the deterioration of important attributes, threatening the property's integrity and having a direct negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). An overall Master Plan for the site's development, interpretation, and capacity-building for long-term site management arranged by QSAP, needs to be developed as a matter of priority rather than being a desirable goal. The construction of a cover over the El Kurru funerary temple needs more careful consideration and detailed documentation should be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Regrettably, the report of the State Party does not provide clear information on the overall strategy and status of project activities, nor have urgent management and monitoring issues been addressed. It is unclear whether a tourism management plan guides site presentation and visitor guidance actions. No information has been provided concerning the completion of the mapping to clearly identify the boundaries of the five component parts in accordance with the standards identified in Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*, despite previous requests by the Committee. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee strongly urge the State Party to address management issues and the monitoring system, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, within the overall strategy, in order to adequately target long-term conservation needs. Furthermore, the State Party should provide details on the tourism management plan, as well as detailed documentation on the actions carried out and planned.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the property's state of conservation, identify precise threats to its OUV in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders, develop an action plan addressing management, monitoring and visitor management issues, and determine whether the state of conservation of the attributes that sustain the property's OUV, notably its authenticity and integrity, are subject to ascertained or potential danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.28, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes the preventive conservation efforts and preservation actions so far implemented by the State Party in the framework of the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project;
4. Expresses its concern about the overall state of conservation of the property which, according to the information provided, appears to be in a perilous state, reflecting years of neglect, lack of maintenance and protection, and inadequate management and staff capacity, which result in the deterioration of important attributes, threatening the property's integrity and having a direct negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
5. Regrets that, despite its previous request, no clear information has been provided on the overall strategy and status of project activities for each of the five component parts, nor have the urgent management and monitoring issues been addressed;
6. Also regrets that no information has been provided concerning the completion of the mapping to clearly identify boundaries of the five component parts in accordance with the standards identified in Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Urges the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to address the management issues and need for a monitoring system in order to adequately target long-term conservation needs, and to provide details on the tourism management plan, as well as detailed documentation on the actions carried out and planned in the five component parts;
8. Requests the State Party to provide detailed information and documentation on the proposal to construct a cover over the El Kurru funerary temple, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. *Also requests the State Party to invite, as a matter of urgency, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to: evaluate its state of conservation, identify precise threats to its OUV in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders, develop a plan of action to address the issues of management, monitoring and visitor management, and to determine whether the state of conservation of the attributes that sustain the OUV of the property, notably its authenticity and integrity, are subject to ascertained or potential danger; in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019.*

60. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia) (C 37)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

61. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181quinquies)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982, extension in 1989

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/181/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/181/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2015: joint IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Forestry / Wood production (Commercial logging in areas adjacent to the property)
- Biosecurity
- Impacts of tourism / visitation / recreation
- Management systems / management plan
- Mining (Mineral exploration and extraction)
- Plans to permit commercial logging in the property (issue resolved)
- Potential construction of a dam (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/181/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 June 2017, the State Party submitted a literature review and synthesis report on the Aboriginal Heritage of the property. On 28 November 2017, it submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/181/documents/>; and on 14 December 2017, a Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property. These State Party reports provide the following information:

- A new Management Plan, which applies to all land within the property reserved under Tasmania's Nature Conservation Act 2002 (over 97% of the property) came into effect in December 2016. All recommendations of the 2015 mission are being implemented through this Plan, including *inter alia* the prohibition of commercial logging and mining in the whole of the property, provisions for joint management arrangements with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and measures to improve the understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural heritage;
- The Management Plan includes additional assessment criteria, including consideration of impacts on wilderness values in addition to natural and cultural values, for commercial tourism development proposals within the property and foresees the development of a Tourism Master Plan by 2019 in order to ensure a strategic approach to tourism at the property. This Tourism

Master Plan will be based on an analysis of current and future visitor expectations and demand and will include a marketing strategy that would integrate promotion of the property's values with other Tasmanian tourism strategies;

- The Management Plan reflects the recommendations made by independent reviews of Tasmanian fires which occurred in 2016; AUD 4 million (USD 3.1 million) were committed by the Tasmanian Government over four years for the implementation of key recommendations related to fire management;
- A review of archaeological research undertaken in the property over the past 40 years was finalised in March 2017 and has been endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council. The report will be used to inform the preparation of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (rSOUV);
- The *Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* has been developed with guidance and advice from the Aboriginal Heritage Council. Its limitations are recognized as, for instance, there is no synthesis of known rock art sites within the property. The document thus includes ten work 'packages' designed to improve understanding and management of Aboriginal cultural values. One relates to the delivery of a regional rock art recording programme, while another focuses on the need for training in cultural heritage management. The packages will be implemented through a '*stand-alone Community Engagement Agreement*' as part of the Management Plan ;
- Process to designate Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) within the property as reserves is underway, and reserve classes for these areas will be determined following community consultation;
- Efforts to protect endangered orange-bellied parrots (*Neophema chrysogaster*) are being strengthened *inter alia* by allocating AUD 3.2 million (USD 2.5 million) to further assist the recovery of the wild population;
- A process to identify a dual name for the property has been initiated in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The ongoing implementation of the recommendations made by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission and of the Committee's previous requests should be welcomed. This especially extends to the implementation of the State Party's commitment, included in the 2016 Management Plan, to ban commercial logging along with mineral exploration and extraction within the entire property. As requested by the Committee, the recommendations of the independent reviews of the management of the 2016 Tasmanian fires are fully taken into account in the new Management Plan, and the allocation of resources by the Tasmanian Government for their implementation is welcomed.

The inclusion in the Management Plan of additional assessment criteria for commercial tourism proposals and of requirements to consider potential impacts on the wilderness values of the property are also welcomed. However, limited progress has been achieved to date with the development of a Tourism Master Plan for the property. While the timeline for its finalization by December 2019 is noted, it is of concern that this key strategic document is still lacking. Furthermore, some of the provisions in the 2016 Management Plan raise concerns, in particular the rezoning of some areas from "wilderness" to "remote recreation" in order to allow for acceptable tourism opportunities and make provisions for wider aircraft access, which may have impacts on wilderness values of the property. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to expedite the development of the Tourism Master Plan in order to ensure that the strategic approach to tourism development within the property retains the protection of the OUV as its primary goal. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the draft Tourism Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalization.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to speed up the on-going efforts to designate current PTPZL and FPPFL zones within the property as reserves, in line with the recommendations of the 2015 mission.

Efforts to protect endangered orange-bellied parrots are also welcomed.

The Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property and the work carried out to produce a synthesis of archaeological research conducted over the past 40 years are welcomed. The Detailed Plan addresses a request of the Committee first made at its 32nd session in 2008 to research, document, protect and effectively manage archaeological and Aboriginal cultural sites, and marks a major step towards understanding the full value of cultural heritage within the property and towards a much greater involvement of the Aboriginal communities in its management. They will also constitute a basis for the development of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (rSOUV), as they are a first step to address the lack of detailed documentation for archaeological and rock art sites.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the progress made so far with assessing cultural heritage assets and in documenting archaeological and other research undertaken, and that it encourage the State Party to fully implement the 'work packages' in order to clearly define both living and archaeological heritage and support the co-management of these resources with the Aboriginal communities.

Finally, the State Party's continued support of Aboriginal cultural heritage is noted, and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party include cultural heritage specialists amongst its staff, in order to ensure the effective protection and management of cultural sites within the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.66** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 mission through the new 2016 Management Plan for the property, particularly the ban on commercial logging along with mineral exploration and extraction within the property and the recommendations related to fire research and management, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard;*
4. *Also welcomes the specific inclusion in the Management Plan of additional assessment criteria for commercial tourism proposals and requirements to consider potential impacts on the wilderness values of the property,*
5. *Urges the State Party to expedite the development of the Tourism Master Plan in order to ensure a strategic approach to tourism development within the property, in line with the primary goal of protecting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to submit the draft Tourism Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalization;*
6. *Requests the State Party to finalize, as a matter of priority, the on-going process to designate Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) within the property as reserves;*
7. *Commends the State Party for the progress made with assessing cultural heritage assets by documenting archaeological and other research undertaken over the past 40 years;*
8. *Also encourages the State Party to implement the Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property, in order to fully define both living and archaeological heritage and to support co-management of these resources with the Aboriginal*

communities; and further encourages it to use these data to complete the drafting of a Retrospective Statement of OUV;

9. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to add cultural heritage specialists to the property staff, in order to ensure the effective protection and management of cultural sites within the property;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.

62. Trang An Landscape Complex (Viet Nam) (C/N 1438bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (v)(vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan (Need to revise the management and zoning plans, including tourism planning and consideration of the adequacy of permissible activities and developments; Lack of an appropriate buffer zone)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Developments and urbanization stemming from tourism and recreation; Localized, seasonal overcrowding and lack of clarity in terms of planning of tourism infrastructure and services; Need to reinforce full accountability for private tourism actors with respect to the protection of features of possible Outstanding Universal Value)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents> and includes two Action Plans for visitor management and archaeological heritage management, respectively. The report provides an update on the previous Committee decision, as follows:

- The revised Management Plan, dated 2015, was reviewed focussing on archaeological heritage and visitation, leading to the above-mentioned Action Plans;
- Visitor numbers reached some 2.4 m in 2016, 11% increase over the previous year. The estimate of 2 m visitors by 2020 had to be substantially revised to 3.5 m. The State Party reports “no observable undesirable environmental or social impacts” in this context. A replica movie set of the movie “Kong: Skull Island” has been established to promote the property;

- Several provisions in response to increased visitation are in place or planned, e.g. an increase in the number of boats from currently 2,650 to 3,865 (by 2020) and eventually 4,360 (by 2030), more daily trips per boat and the opening of a new boat route;
- Actions and provisions concerning archaeological heritage management are consistent with the objectives laid out in the revised Management Plan and include protection of pre-historic archaeological sites, research, conservation, capacity-building and training. The large international research SUNDASIA project with Queen's University Belfast is contributing to the understanding of the adaptation of prehistoric communities to changing environmental conditions. An *ad hoc* Management and Scientific Advisory Committee on archaeological heritage management was formalized;
- High and increasing visitation is reported to not have caused visibly detrimental impact on the state of biodiversity within the property. Strengthened conservation efforts in collaboration with other stakeholders include *inter alia* biodiversity surveys under the SUNDASIA project;
- A possible re-introduction of the critically endangered Delacour's Langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*) is mentioned;
- Brief reference is made to education, training, promotion and administrative reform in Ninh Binh Province. The property's Management Board was transferred to the newly established Department of Tourism, which supervises and controls all activities;
- The provincial Tourism Master Plan continues to mention the possibility of a new urban university area within the buffer zone of the property, although the State Party notes that the likelihood of project implementation is extremely low, and the project would be subject to rigorous assessment procedures, fully considering World Heritage status. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not considered required at this stage.

In March 2018, national media reported on the illegal construction by Trang An Tourism Company of a 1 km long concrete walkway at Cai Ha Mountain within the property, despite repeated warnings from Ninh Binh Tourism Department. On 22 March 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide clarification on this issue. On 11 May 2018, the State Party provided further information on the construction and the measures taken to dismantle it. Dismantling of the structure started on 30 March 2018 and are expected to take three months..

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party's commitment to refine management is fully acknowledged. The shifting of management authority under the provincial Tourism Department confirms that tourism is a primary management objective. While fully legitimate, the coincidence of a comparatively small property and enormous visitor numbers - increasing beyond expectations - call for responsive, strong and decisive management responses. It should be noted in that regard that the establishment of a replica film set cannot be considered an appropriate heritage promotion strategy for a World Heritage property, misses the opportunity to raise awareness of the cultural and natural significance of the property and has clear adverse impacts on its authenticity. It is advisable that management authorities focus instead on raising awareness of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The rapid increase of already-high tourism numbers will most likely change the property's rural and social setting, creating significant direct and indirect impacts in terms of traffic, parking infrastructure, disturbance, sewage and waste management, etc. For example, the State Party mentions a need for additional parking lots in the buffer zone without further elaboration. The sharply increased visitor numbers and substantially revised future estimates add weight to the acute necessity of adequate management capacity and may swamp even improved management efforts. It should be recalled that the ICOMOS evaluation noted that "*the management system for the property does not appear to be robust enough to meet the challenges affecting it in terms of tourism development*".

The measures suggested to address overcrowding and carrying capacity appear to be an attempt to accommodate growing visitation only, rather than enhancing understanding of impacts and necessary enforcement of acceptable limits to carrying capacity, for example the substantial increase in the number of boats to 3,865 by 2020 beyond the cap of 3,000 determined in the Management Plan. The report makes no reference to criteria, methodological approaches, let alone measurements of impacts beyond visual observations and visitor feedback. The current approaches of the State Party to address environmental and social impacts should be strengthened by providing concrete scientific data to ensure that tourism growth is adequately controlled in light of the primary concern of conserving the property's OUV.

While the specifically recognized natural World Heritage values refer to landscape beauty and the extraordinary karst geology, the biodiversity setting is also a key part of this aesthetic. The interpretation plan should be clearly developed to provide visitors with information beyond just scenic beauty of the property. Systematic terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity conservation should become an integral element of management planning, including monitoring. This needs to be facilitated by adequate mandates and capacities in the management structure, which currently appears to focus on tourism development. Uncontrolled tourism use of this small property may jeopardize the very reasons why tourists are attracted to the place.

The above-described illegal construction of a concrete staircase at the property emphasizes the Advisory Bodies' concerns, noted in their 2014 Evaluation reports that "*the greatest threat to the nominated property is from inadequately planned and managed tourism along with its associated infrastructure support and service provision developments*" (IUCN), and that one of the main threats to the property was the "*lack of adequate regulation for development of facilities for tourism*" (ICOMOS). The case also highlights the need for an appropriate mechanism of consultation within the Management Board and among all stakeholders to address various issues in considering multiple needs for a sound preservation and promotion of the property as well as a clearer protocol concerning any new and major developments, stronger regulation and control of tourism developments, wider understanding of heritage value by stakeholders and enhanced tourism management.

While there is no indication that the proposed university in Bai Dinh will develop into a project in the immediate future, the State Party should keep the Committee updated on possible changes of the project status. While the State Party does not perceive a current need for an SEA in this regard, the Committee's previous recommendation for an SEA had the objective to encourage comprehensive planning in the buffer zone beyond this particular project and is thus still considered valid. In that regard, it should be recalled that the IUCN Evaluation had noted that "*protection of the nominated property must have primacy in considering any permissible activities and developments*". Furthermore, it appears that there are no clear mechanisms in place to fulfil the need for impact studies within the property and its buffer zone before the construction of new buildings and amenities.

The State Party's report highlights a number of developments and construction of infrastructures such as the visitor centre at Tam Coc wharf, private tourism facilities, the car park and the small temple, while leaving it unclear whether measures are in place to ascertain that these developments are carried out after proper study of potential heritage loss and their impact on OUV. Therefore, a clear process needs to be elaborated for Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs and HIAs) to be carried out prior to any developments within the property and its buffer zone. The information provided on the planned reintroduction of the Delacour's Langur is limited. Should the State Party wish to proceed, engagement with IUCN's Species Survival Commission is strongly encouraged.

In light of the abovementioned concerns related to tourism and visitor management, and unregulated tourism development, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess its current state of conservation, and to provide further technical advice on these issues.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.14** and **40 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 38th (Doha 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in following up on earlier Committee concerns about management planning, including the review of the Management Plan and the elaboration and submission of Action Plans for visitation management and archaeological heritage management;*

4. Notes with significant concern that current visitation has already increased beyond the previously anticipated two million visitors per annum and is further anticipated to increase to 3.5 million visitors per annum by 2020, and strongly urges the State Party to undertake the necessary studies to enable a better understanding of impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) from high and rapidly increasing visitation, and to establish and enforce a strict limit to visitation to ensure it does not exceed the carrying capacity of the property, in order to conserve its OUV, as well as its biodiversity as a key part of its aesthetic value;
5. Also welcomes that the dismantling of the illegally built concrete walkway at Cai Ha Mountain has started;
6. Reiterates its concern that measures taken continue to be inadequate to balance tourism development and heritage protection, as demonstrated by the illegal construction of a concrete walkway at Cai Ha Mountain within the property, and requests the State Party to:
 - a) Strengthen the regulations for tourism facilities,
 - b) Ensure the establishment of an appropriate consultation mechanism within the Management Board and among all stakeholders of the property, in order to :
 - (i) Ascertain that a balanced approach be made considering aspects relating to tourism, heritage management and nature conservation as a whole,
 - (ii) Apply a clearer reporting protocol concerning any new and major developments within the property and ensure the necessary prior consultation of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - c) Ensure measures are in place to limit overcrowding, including the establishment of a clearly justified maximum daily quota for peak and normal visitation days,
 - d) Undertake an assessment of the facilities and services required to adequately service current and future visitation, taking into account the substantial current numbers and the revised future estimates, including the extrapolated festival-day peaks of up to 50,000 visitors,
 - e) Further develop the sections within the Management Plan concerning archaeological heritage, in particular staff training and capacity building, so that the national human resources are continuously provided to ensure a long term and successful management of the archaeological heritage of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide adequate financial and human resources for systematic environmental monitoring, as an integral part of management planning and operations;
8. Considers that the establishment of a replica film set impacts adversely on authenticity and is not an appropriate heritage promotion strategy for a World Heritage property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that any heritage promotion and marketing undertaken within the property is consistent with interpretation of its OUV;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its current state of conservation, in particular in light of inadequately planned and managed tourism and associated infrastructure and service provision developments;
10. Noting that the likelihood of the construction of a new urban university area in Bai Dinh is considered very low by the State Party, nevertheless reiterates its request to the State

Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed development projects within the property, its buffer zone and setting for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse, including new parking infrastructure;

11. *Also strongly urges the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for developments within the property and the buffer zone as a timely and appropriate method of assessing both individual and cumulative impacts of current and planned developments on this small and fragile property, taking into account potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with the IUCN and ICOMOS guidelines on impact assessments for the proposed projects, prior to allowing any such developments to take place;*
12. *Encourages the State Party to work with the Advisory Bodies on further refining its efforts, including the integration of biodiversity conservation into management and decision making;*
13. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

63. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 (from 2015-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance (need to strengthen the coordinating mechanism)
- Legal framework (need to assure that the buffer zone is configured in a way designed to protect the property)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of an integrated Protection and Management Plan)
- Weak monitoring system for the Cultural and Natural value

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property in Spanish, and an English version on 12 April 2018, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/documents/>, and which provides the following information:

- The Development Wide Vision Programme for the Municipality of Calakmul 2013-2040 (PDGV) has been prepared in the framework of a transnational project for the protection and sustainable use of the Selva Maya in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico. Among its lines of action are the promotion of sustainable agriculture, conservation of natural and cultural resources, sustainable tourism, and the participation of local communities;
- The revision of the zoning of the Biosphere Reserve has not yet been concluded as this requires modification of the Decree that established the Reserve as a natural protected area. Consultations have been held between the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), responsible for the development of a new zoning scheme for the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, and the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH, responsible for the management of natural and cultural sites in Mexico) on the proposal for a new zoning scheme;
- In February 2018, CONANP and INAH signed an agreement (“General Bases for Collaboration”) that defines cooperation mechanisms and processes between both institutions with regards to the management and conservation of archaeological monuments and zones located within natural protected areas. A first initiative is to create an Evaluation and Monitoring Technical Group that will meet at least every six months to prepare joint operational plans and analyze progress in projects and commitments. Given the significance of the property, a “Special Project” has also

been elaborated for it under the general agreement. Furthermore, the World Heritage Technical Sub-Council of CONANP will be expanded to include specialized academics and NGOs, and will coordinate the decision-making processes regarding the management, conservation and protection of the property;

- The process for the elaboration of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is ongoing and a draft of its general provisions and objectives has been submitted together with the state of conservation report;
- Regarding the possible revision of the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, this will be considered by the State Party at a later stage.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The progress made by the State Party in the integration of the protection, conservation and management arrangements of the natural and cultural resources of the mixed property should be welcomed. Particularly, the formal agreement between the heads of CONANP and INAH is considered an important step in this process, as is the confirmation that the World Heritage Technical Sub-Council of CONANP will act as coordination body for the property. It is further noted that under the general agreement between CONANP and INAH, a Special Project has also been developed specifically for the property, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more precision on what this Special Project will exactly undertake.

Despite the progress achieved in establishing closer institutional cooperation between CONANP and INAH, further progress is still needed in addressing the Committee's requests with regard to strengthening legal protection and the management of the property. It is acknowledged that the integration of management mechanisms, including management plans and zoning, are complex and time-consuming processes. However, the State Party should be urged to proceed in these areas as soon as possible, taking into account Decision **38 COM 8B.16** and the observations made by the Advisory Bodies on the draft IMP. It is therefore recommended that the Committee again strongly encourage the State Party to implement the recommendations made in Decision **40 COM 7B.63** regarding the revision of the zoning of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and development of an IMP for the mixed property.

It is recommended that the Committee also urge the State Party to proceed with the review of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones in order to ensure an effective layer of additional protection for all related cultural and natural values, as was requested by the Committee in its Decisions **38 COM 8B.16** and **40 COM 7B.63**.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.16**, and **40 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) session, respectively,
3. Acknowledges the progress made in the integration of the protection and management of the cultural and natural values of the mixed property, and welcomes particularly the formal agreement of cooperation between the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and the National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH);
4. Notes the development of a Special Project specifically for the property under the newly signed cooperation agreement between CONANP and INAH, and requests the State Party to provide more precision on what this Special Project will exactly undertake;
5. Reiterates however, its request to the State Party to:

- a) *Complete the updating and reinforcement of legal protection for the extended property as a mixed site, including through the ongoing revision of the zoning of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, in order to ensure that both the natural values and the cultural heritage and sites contained in the entire property are adequately protected,*
 - b) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the draft proposal for the revision of the zoning of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, including maps,*
 - c) *Complete and approve the Integrated Management Plan for the extended mixed property, which also includes a monitoring program for both cultural and natural attributes of the property, as well as risk management measures specifically addressing threats to these attributes, and submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to consider, in the future revision of the boundaries of the property, the inclusion of additional and relevant cultural sites that enhance the property's Outstanding Universal Value and furthermore, to improve the configuration of the buffer zone to ensure it provides an effective layer of additional protection to the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

AFRICA

64. Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad) (C/N 1475)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(vii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Need to strengthen the legal protection status of the property
- Inadequate management plan
- Need for a zonation which allows full protection of the key areas for biodiversity
- Need to guarantee the full participation of the local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/documents/>, providing the following information:

- While a strengthened legal protection status of the property remains pending, the creation of the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi (RNCE) is underway, with strong local support. The November 2016 site visit by a ministerial delegation enhanced local awareness and created momentum. A map of the proposed RNCE was submitted, which seems to indicate that the entire mountain chain of Ennedi, surrounded by a substantial buffer zone, would be included in the reserve;
- Conservation and management of RNCE will be ensured through a partnership agreement between the State Party and the African Parks Network (APN), funded by the European Union and other partners. The agreement will increase the availability of financial and human resources and should improve the ability to address Committee recommendations;
- Local participation, acknowledged as paramount to conservation, is formally ensured by local committees and a future local Governance Council with an advisory role;
- Funding constraints have prevented the effective implementation of the existing Management Plan (2014-2024) for the property and impeded the requested revision of the Plan. APN and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) conducted preparatory studies in 2016 to inform the future zonation to be reflected in a revised Management Plan. A botanical inventory, along with broader intentions to strengthen ecological monitoring, is foreseen as part of the consolidation of management;
- The report indicates that functional traditional management exists and that there are no imminent threats foreseen. Specific legal provisions are in place and considered adequate to protect cultural and natural heritage;

- Vandalism of rock art remains a serious challenge, while climate change is acknowledged as a concern likely to affect biodiversity;
- The State Party further notes that field missions and training on rock art in both Ennedi and Tibesti have taken place through the support of the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation via the Trust for African Rock Art (TARA);
- Preparations for the reintroduction of ostrich have advanced, and reintroductions of oryx and addax are being envisaged.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The large and remote property is sparsely populated and subject to limited immediate pressures. While the local extinction of many mammal species illustrates that the human presence has resulted in significant ecological impacts, traditional regimes and social control are in place, contributing to the management of the fragile natural and cultural resources. However, there are indications that grazing pressure is increasing in some parts of the property and, if left unchecked, could quickly escalate. Climate change could aggravate concerns by reducing water availability. The documented cases of vandalism of some of the rock art in the property are also of serious concern, and reports on rehabilitation should be made available. Tourism is being actively promoted as a local development option; if successful, this could bring local economic benefits, but could also bring additional pressure. To be prepared for emerging threats, it is therefore important that the government commitment to the conservation of the area be translated into tangible management and conservation actions to complement traditional natural resource management practices.

Since the submission of the State Party report, the agreement between the Republic of Chad and APN was signed on 19 February 2018 (<https://www.african-parks.org/press-release/chad-ennedi-protected>). As part of this agreement, the European Union and the Dutch Postcode Lottery have committed 7.7M euros to manage and restore RNCE. This funding provides an unprecedented opportunity to consider all Committee requests and recommendations and translate longstanding political commitment into action. The announced strengthening of the legal protection status can at last become a reality. This process should carefully consider the boundaries of the inscribed property, which were modified during the course of the evaluation. The property, as currently inscribed, does not include the northern part of the massif, leaving out important rock art sites, including the emblematic site of Niola Doa, and potentially important areas for biodiversity. At the time of inscription, the Committee recommended an extension of the property, in particular to protect important rock art sites in the north and north-western part of the Ennedi Massif. The creation of the RNCE provides an opportunity to address this recommendation and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before finalizing the proposal for the boundaries of the RNCE so as to guarantee that all important areas are included and an appropriate buffer zone is foreseen. The map provided as part of the State Party report was of poor quality and does not allow a clear analysis.

The availability of funding and human resources through the RNCE partnership will also enable the overdue revision of the Management Plan, which should fully consider all previous Committee requests and recommendations in terms of zonation, preparedness for potential threats, local participation and respect for existing traditional knowledge and practices, as well as systematic and adequate documentation of the rock art sites.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.15** and **41 COM 8B.52**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the proposal to upgrade the protection status and consolidate the management of the property, and the opportunities offered by the new partnership between the State Party and African Parks Network (APN), with financial support of the*

European Union, Dutch Postcode Lottery and other partners, and encourages the international community to continue to provide financial and technical support for the property;

4. Also welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to document and mitigate the reported cases of vandalism of some of the rock art in the property since its inscription, and requests the State Party to provide a detailed report of the extent of the damage and measures taken to rehabilitate the affected sites;
5. Strongly encourages the State Party and its partners to systematically address all the outstanding requests and recommendations already expressed in Decision **40 COM 8B.15** through the new project to support Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi (RNCE), in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Recommends that the long-envisioned strengthening of the legal protected area status be accompanied by a review of the best possible configuration for the property, ensuring full harmonization between the national legal status, management approach, World Heritage status and buffer zone boundaries, and urges the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before finalizing the proposal for the boundaries of the RNCE so as to guarantee that all important areas are included and that an appropriate buffer zone is foreseen, and to submit a request for boundary modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
7. Recalls that the longstanding relationship between local communities, the archaeological remains and an extreme natural environment contributes to the authenticity and sustainable conservation of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure full participation of local communities and their traditional authorities in the governance and management of the property, and also encourages traditional management systems be further documented;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

65. Cliffs of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (v)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1988-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 99,679

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient site management means
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property
- Unstable security situation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/>, providing the following information:

- In some villages, the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara has established a Surveillance Brigade responsible for the protection of the sites and cultural properties. The Dogon Initiative Association (ADI) has set up a surveillance mechanism for the Toloy site. Furthermore, a legal procedure is still ongoing for this same site, which was vandalized;
- The local communities are involved in information, awareness-raising, conservation and promotion activities for cultural heritage. Thus, restoration work on the Gin'na (large Dogon family houses) in the villages of Nando, Youga Dogourou and Pélou have been carried out with important participation of the communities;
- The State Party ensures the development of international cooperation as regards the combat against the illicit trade of cultural property. Various initiatives, in particular a capacity building workshop in partnership with UNESCO, have been undertaken to strengthen the fight against looting and trafficking of cultural property;
- The Management and Conservation Plan has been updated, through a consultative procedure with the local communities, covering a five-year period (2018-2022);
- The site and the infrastructures, victim of acts of vandalism, looting and climate change effects, require more regular maintenance work. Conflict in the region has provoked important damage, difficult to repair by the local populations. The progress of religious fundamentalism in central Mali and in particular towards the Land of the Dogon, notably causes an erosion of cultural identity. Although the local populations resist this progress, preserving their ancestral traditions and values, pressure is strong. Furthermore, the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara envisages involving the religious leaders in the preservation of the heritage.
- The State Party also states its concern regarding the difficulties linked to the functioning and maintenance of the cultural and tourist infrastructures.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

Despite the persistent problems regarding the security situation, the actions carried out by the State Party, through the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara, has notably enabled the updating of the 2018-2022 Management and Conservation Plan, which benefited from a broad consultation with the local communities. It is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for the work achieved, that formalizes the framework of crucial involvement of communities in the conservation of the property and the different elements of its heritage. In this context, community initiatives such as those of ADI and the creation of village committees are to be applauded, because they have enabled the conduct of restoration work in several villages (restoration of Gin'na and Toguna). Moreover, these committees are key bodies in the conduct of information and awareness-raising campaigns. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the continuance and strengthening of these campaigns by and with the communities, in particular by involving young people.

Efforts to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property should also be welcomed. Therefore, at the level of communities, the holding of a capacity building workshop in November 2017 is appreciated, but it is important to support the implementation of the recommendations of this workshop and maintain the mobilization of all the stakeholders involved. Also, the pursuit of the measures to sanction those responsible for the acts of vandalism and illicit trafficking, such as the opening of legal investigations to this end should be pursued.

At the international level, the conclusion of partnership agreements, like that between Mali and the United States of America concerning the restriction of the importation of archaeological material from the Niger Valley and the Cliff of Bandiagara, are important initiatives and deserve to be multiplied,

notably with neighbouring countries. The State Party should be further encouraged to initiate such agreements, and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the States Parties to support Mali in its combat against illicit trade in the framework of the *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)*. It is also appropriate to renew the appeal to the international community to encourage contributions towards the implementation of the second phase of the Rehabilitation Programme of cultural property and safeguarding the ancient manuscripts of Mali.

The report rightly recalls the impact of the crisis on the property at several levels and the fact that the effects observed and experienced are mutually dependent, namely the impact on the tourist economy and its infrastructures, the degradation of the flagship sites and monuments, the increase in looting, vandalism and illicit trafficking of cultural property, and the erosion of cultural identity linked to the progress of radical Islamists. It is why it is essential to strengthen all actions in this respect covering all forms of heritage, coordinating these actions with assistance from the concerned UNESCO Cultural Conventions (1954, 1970, 1972 and 2003).

Finally, it is recommended that in response to the extremely difficult conditions prevailing at the property and the isolation of the staff, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies examine the possibility of establishing a short-term distance support programme to enable dialogue on capacity building and the strengthening of the sustainable management of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.64, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the revision and updating of the 2018-2022 Management and Conservation Plan for the property, and notably for the important involvement of local communities, despite the persisting problems caused by the security situation;*
4. *Favourably welcomes the measures taken to involve communities in the conservation of the property and the different components of their heritage, and more particularly the community initiatives such as the Dogon Initiative Association (ADI) and the creation of village committees, enabling the restoration work in several villages, and encourages the State Party to continue and strengthen the information and awareness-raising campaigns by and with the communities, notably by including young people;*
5. *Appreciates the measures taken to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property at both local community levels as well as at the international level, and urges the State Party to increase support to the local communities and intensify cooperation, especially with neighbouring countries to reinforce the combat against illicit trafficking of cultural property;*
6. *Reiterates its appeal to all the States Parties who are also States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to support Mali in its fight against illicit trade;*
7. *Also launches an appeal to the international community to support the efforts of the State Party and contribute towards the implementation of the second phase of the Rehabilitation Programme for cultural heritage and safeguarding of the ancient manuscripts of Mali;*

8. *Also encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to explore the possibility of establishing a short-term distance support programme to enable dialogue for capacity building and the strengthening of the sustainable management of the property;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

ARAB STATES

66. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

67. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan) (C/N 1377)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a database on cultural heritage
- Lack of proper conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites
- Lack of traffic and visitor management plans
- Potential encroachment from development in the village of Rum
- Lack of trained staff and financial resources for the management of the property
- Financial resources
- Governance
- Human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>. It presents the following information:

- The Department of Antiquities (DoA) is entrusted with overseeing all research, management and monitoring activities related to cultural heritage at the property, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) in 2014;

- Several initiatives relating to data compilation and survey work are ongoing, all of which will contribute to the realization of an integrated GIS (Geographic Information System) database of the cultural and natural attributes of the property. This includes capacity building of local personnel and members of the local community to ensure sustainability of the monitoring system. A Biodiversity Information Management System integrating data on cultural and natural heritage was established with funding from the United Nations Development Programme;
- Out of 25 tourist camps, fifteen are currently active, seven of which are unlicensed. Actions taken by ASEZA to date include legal warnings by the local governor, lawsuits, awareness raising programmes with members of the local community, and the establishment of a committee to investigate the possibility of changing the licensing mechanism for tourist camps;
- Capacity building in Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment (EIA and HIA) was planned for March 2018 in collaboration with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage;
- Progress made in developing an interpretation programme for the property includes securing sufficient funds for restructuring the main visitor centre for Wadi Rum Protected Area, developing new road signage and interpretation materials targeting local communities, redesigning the visitors' reception point, and creating training activities targeting staff, community organizations and tourism service providers;
- The development of a wastewater treatment plant in Rum Village is considered a priority; its construction has been postponed, however, because of a desire to expand the project to include the surrounding areas. Temporary measures have therefore been put in place, including regular transport and treatment of wastewater outside the property, and transfer of solid waste to treatment plants in Aqaba;
- The revision of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is expected to be finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2018. A land use plan for the buffer zone is currently being developed and is scheduled to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2018;
- Various national and international institutions and organizations are actively collaborating on the protection and management of the property. In addition, community engagement has been initiated through the establishment of Local Advisory Committees and capacity building.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party's efforts to address the Committee's concerns and the recommendations made by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission, despite the financial and technical challenges, are noted.

Significant progress is noted in the implementation of the 2014 MoU between ASEZA and the DoA, as well as in the compilation of data on the property's resources and in conducting field surveys.

Progress with regard to the development of an interpretation programme and initiating a capacity building programme on EIA and HIA is also welcomed. The State Party, however, has not reported any progress on the assessment of appropriate tourism activities in and around the property.

Although issues related to illegal tourist camps and site violations are being addressed through several means, they have not yet been resolved. While the State Party intends to consider the possibility of amending legislation to improve regulation concerning the establishment of camps in the property and its buffer zone, effective temporary measures need to be put in place and the rehabilitation of degraded areas undertaken.

The State Party has not commented on a possible timeframe for the completion of a wastewater treatment plant in Rum Village. The State Party's intention to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of future plans is nevertheless noted.

While the State Party has mentioned the various management aspects that will be addressed in the revised IMP, it has not commented on whether it will include references to legal measures and policies as requested by the Committee. Measures need to be backed by the necessary staff and financial resources to ensure the effective management of the property and its buffer zone.

The intention of the State Party to request the World Heritage Centre's feedback and approval of the land use plan for the buffer zone is welcomed. This will ensure optimum compliance with relevant guidelines and standards.

The State Party has demonstrated considerable engagement with national and international research institutions in the protection and management of the property, which is welcomed and should be further encouraged.

While the State Party mentions that assessing the state of conservation and monitoring of the property's cultural features is being carried out, it has not commented on the establishment of a consistent conservation approach for all cultural sites within the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the revised IMP includes a cultural heritage conservation strategy to enable the long-term sustainable conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.65, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes with appreciation progress made by the State Party in addressing the recommendations made by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission, despite facing financial and technical challenges;*
4. *Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about plans for the development of a wastewater treatment plant, and on the development of a land use plan for the buffer zone;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to continue pursuing collaboration with national and international institutions for achieving the highest standards in science- and evidence-based decision-making related to the management of the property;*
6. *Urges once again the State Party to address the issue of tourist camps and other camp-like installations within the property, to rehabilitate any areas that may have been degraded, and to establish procedures and regulations that will ensure a permanent resolution of the issue;*
7. *Notes that the State Party has initiated the integration of the cultural heritage database currently under development with the natural heritage database into one compatible GIS (Geographic Information System) database, to support and facilitate the integrated monitoring and management of the cultural and natural attributes of the property, and also encourages this work to be completed expeditiously;*
8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the revised Integrated Management Plan (IMP) provides references to legal measures and policies, backed by the necessary staff and financial resources, to enable effective management of the property and its buffer zone, and also requests the State Party to include in the revised IMP a cultural heritage management strategy to enable a consistent conservation approach for all cultural sites within the property;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to actively pursue the implementation of all recommendations of the 2014 mission, particularly with regards to carrying out assessment of tourism activities through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in and around the property;*

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

68. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criterion (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000 ("Enhancing Our Heritage" project on the assessment of management effectiveness). The property has benefited from the United Nations Foundation-funded World Heritage India programme from 2008 onwards, to enhance management effectiveness and build staff capacity, increase the involvement of local communities in the management of the property and promote their sustainable development, and raise awareness through communications and advocacy

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre site visit; March 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water management (Inadequate water supply and competition among different users; Insufficient quality and quantity, combined with high natural variability of rainfall)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species; Invasive/alien freshwater species (*Prosopis*, *Eichhornia*, *Paspalum*)
- Other (Disappearance of Siberian cranes)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/> and provides the following information:

- Recalling the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) notification published in the Indian Gazette on 13 October 2015, consultation with multiple stakeholders is reported; the final ESZ notification is to be issued shortly;
- Overall water release to the property was 629.81 million cubic feet (mcft) in 2016, stemming from the Pachna Dam, the Chambal Pipeline Project and the Govardhan Drain. This is the second highest amount in the period between 2010 and 2016, for which a helpful time series is provided, and above the 550 mcft considered to constitute the minimum water requirement;
- Site management, the Rajasthan Forest Department, researchers and non-governmental actors have joined forces to conduct water bird surveys (January-February 2017), with a focus on nesting populations and heronries in the property and its nearby satellite wetlands, using the Asian Water Bird Census framework;

- The invasive plants *Prosopis juliflora* and *Eichhornia crassipes* and the African sharptooth catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) continue to be removed from the property in operations involving forestry staff, local rickshaw pullers and with the support of non-governmental organizations;
- The State Government of Rajasthan extended the current Management Plan (2010-2014) until 30 September 2017, with work underway to produce a revised Management Plan to be made available upon completion, noting that electronic and hard copies will be shared with the World Heritage Centre.

Based on reports from third parties and media articles, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 18 January 2018, requesting information regarding the disposal of cattle carcasses near the property and any potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The letter expresses concern regarding wildlife health hazards, while media reports point out possible additional human health risks. A response by the State Party remained pending at the time of writing of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The Committee has consistently considered water provision as the crucial overarching issue and concern for the conservation of the property. The time series provided for 2010 to 2016 contains highly appreciated information distinguishing the three main supply sources. While it is encouraging that the overall release of water in 2016 exceeded 550 mcft, it is alarming that, in 4 out of the 7 years reported, the minimum requirement was not met. This is a clear indication that reliable solutions to sustaining adequate water supply remain to be found as a matter of utmost priority. It is fully acknowledged that the enormous inter-annual variability of the seasonal monsoons adds complexity to this challenge.

It is encouraging that the information provided on bird surveys is more detailed than in earlier reporting. It remains unclear which species were included in the census beyond the small number of species listed, and to what degree the collected data relates to past data. It is strongly recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to define a long-term approach and methodology permitting systematic monitoring of bird populations in the property and its satellite sites. The approach should be enshrined in the upcoming revised Management Plan, but ought to be applied beyond the horizon of that Plan.

The continued efforts to control invasive species should be welcomed. However, it would be important to develop a long-term strategy to address this issue as part of the revised Management Plan, including the definition of a systematic approach and measures to assess trends and the effectiveness of management interventions.

The on-going revision of the Management Plan should be used to critically assess the effectiveness of current management responses to address well-known challenges. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN stand ready to provide advice to the State Party as required.

The upcoming formalization of the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the property, and in particular consultation with local stakeholders is welcomed. Unfortunately, the information provided by the State Party does not permit a clear understanding of the process. Considering that the relationship with neighbouring villages is singled out as a major challenge in the property's Statement of OUV, adopted in Decision **36 COM 8E** (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), it would be helpful if the State Party could provide additional information on this process. As requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.87** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the elaboration of a Zonal Master Plan subsequent to the final notification of the ESZ should likewise be based on full stakeholder consultation.

In light of the impending establishment of the ESZ, it is recommended that the Committee also encourage the State Party to consider the subsequent formalization of a World Heritage buffer zone, as per the procedure for a Minor Boundary Modification specified in Paragraphs 107 and 164 and in Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is regrettable that a State Party response to the World Heritage Centre letter requesting clarification of the reported disposal of cattle carcasses near the property was not available at the time of reporting. Urgent clarification is required in order to better understand the situation, and notably any potential threats to the OUV of the property.

In view of the Committee's long-standing concerns over water provision and the impacts of invasive species, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and the progress made by the State Party in addressing these issues.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Reiterates its utmost concern that new data shows that, in 4 out of 7 recent years, water provision to the property has remained well below the 550 million cubic feet recommended by the 2008 mission as a minimum to sustain its wetland values, and strongly urges the State Party to identify and implement solutions to sustain adequate and reliable long-term water supply to the property and its satellite sites;
4. Welcomes the continued efforts to combat invasive species within the property but reiterates its request to develop an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy for the property and to integrate this strategy into the revised Management Plan;
5. Also welcomes the further progress accomplished towards the establishment and issuance of a final notification declaring a 500-metre strip of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure full stakeholder consultation prior to finalizing the notification, and during the subsequent development of the Zonal Master Plan;
6. Further welcomes the survey data provided on bird species in the property and its satellite wetlands, and requests the State Party to engage in systematic monitoring of bird populations in the property based on a clearly identified long-term approach and methodology, which should be clearly documented in the pending revised Management Plan;
7. Also encourages the State Party to use the on-going revision of the Management Plan to assess the effectiveness of current management responses to the well-known challenges the property is facing as a basis for enhanced responses, and to obtain advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as required, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an electronic copy of the draft revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and progress made in addressing issues of water provision and invasive species;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a written clarification of the current situation regarding the reported disposal of cattle carcasses near the property, including possible impacts on the property's OUV;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

69. Western Tien Shan (Kazakhstan / Kirgizstan / Uzbekistan) (N 1490)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of one of the States Parties report on the state of conservation of the property)

70. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

71. Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine) (N 1133ter)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2014: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Slovakia

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (lack of integrated Management Plan, lack of legal protection from logging, and inadequate management of logging in the Slovak part of the property)
- Inappropriate boundary configuration of some parts of the property
- Management and institutional factors (lack of transnational research and monitoring plans, need for capacity building)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2018, the State Party of Slovakia submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133>, providing the following information:

- A cross-sector working group comprising representatives of different ministries and other governmental entities was formed to work on a proposal for boundary modifications for the Slovak components of the property. The intermediate results of this work were discussed at a meeting with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on 7 December 2017. Two Government resolutions were prepared and approved, establishing measures aimed at the implementation of the Committee's requests, including preparation of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) by 31 August 2019, after the anticipated finalization of the boundary modification;
- Logging within the Slovak components of the property remains suspended;
- In consultation with non-state forest owners, three new nature reserves - Čerňa (Černiny), Pramenisko Cirochy within the Stučica – Bukovské vrchy component and Nežabec within the Vihorlat component, are being planned, adding to the existing nature reserves in these components and enlarging the area where a non-intervention regime is applied;
- A series of workshops were organized on the topic of sustainable tourism in the property.

On 23 January 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party of Romania seeking clarifications on the issue of logging in the national parks in which components of the property are located. On 26 February 2018, the State Party of Romania responded providing the following clarifications:

- All forest areas included in the Romanian components of the property have a strict protection regime and are excluded from any human interventions;
- Some logging operations have been undertaken in the buffer zone of the property; however, these operations are legal and do not violate the management plan of the national parks where the forestry units in question are located.

On 27 February and on 3 April 2018, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party of Slovakia third-party information regarding logging activities since inscription, including inside the buffer zone and parts of the property, as documented through satellite images. No response was received at the time of writing of this report. The State Party of Slovakia noted its intention to invite the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to the property to discuss the proposed boundary modification.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The two resolutions adopted by the State Party of Slovakia aimed at addressing requests and recommendations expressed by the Committee should be welcomed.

The confirmation that logging continues to be suspended within the Slovak components of the property is noted. However, satellite imagery received from third parties shows that since the property's inscription there has been substantial logging inside the buffer zone and even in parts of the property, potentially affecting its integrity and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is also of concern that in parts of the components, protection from logging is still only guaranteed by a voluntary commitment of forest owners. It needs to be recalled that, as the result of the absence of a legal protection status of its components, the property continues not to meet the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*, putting its OUV at significant risk.

Additional measures proposed by the State Party of Slovakia to provide legal protection of these areas, which currently do not benefit from a non-intervention regime, including through designation of new nature reserves, are therefore of utmost urgency and should be expedited, while ensuring consultations with stakeholders concerned.

The efforts undertaken by the State Party of Slovakia to elaborate a proposal for boundary modifications for the Slovak components of the property are noted. Consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as well as a wide range of relevant stakeholders are welcome and should be continued. However, it is important to stress that any proposed boundary modification should have the objective of a better protection of the OUV of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Slovakia to carefully design the adjusted boundaries and finalize the proposal as a matter of priority in consultation with the other States Parties of this transnational property, and with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. The boundary modification proposal should demonstrate that it includes all important areas for the expression of the OUV of the property, that all areas within the property are provided a sufficient legal protection regime, that consultations have been held with relevant stakeholders, and that buffer zones are adequate in size and are subject to a management regime which ensures the protection of the property's OUV. Given its potential impact on the OUV of the property, the boundary modification will have to be considered as a significant one, in line with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The planned preparation of an IMP for the Slovak components of the property by August 2019 is noted. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that this process is fully in line with the development of the significant boundary modification proposal at all stages and the final proposal outlines the relevant management provisions.

The information provided by the State Party of Romania that logging in the buffer zone of some of its components is legal and in line with the provisions of the Management Plan for the respective national park is noted. However, it should be recalled that in its Decision **41 COM 8B.7**, the Committee requested all States Parties of this property to give special emphasis to appropriate buffer zone management, in order to support undisturbed natural processes, including ongoing monitoring of threats and risks. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate this request to the States Parties of Romania and Slovakia and request it to ensure that no logging operations are allowed in the buffer zones of the property, if they can have negative impacts on its OUV.

It is further recalled that, in its Decision **41 COM 8B.7**, the Committee requested all States Parties of the property to strengthen the protection level within buffer zones and to improve the ecological connectivity between component parts, and to ensure that committed funding arrangements are able to safeguard consistent site management at the component level as well as coordinated management across the

property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request all States Parties to jointly report on the state of conservation of the property, including on transnational management of the serial property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.4** and **41 COM 8B.7**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the two specific government resolutions adopted by the State Party of Slovakia aimed at addressing the Committee's requests and recommendations regarding the protection and management of the Slovak components of the property;
4. Notes the confirmation provided by the State Party of Slovakia that logging remains suspended within the Slovak components of the property, but notes with utmost concern the continued absence of adequate legal protection for part of the property and the continued reports of logging within the buffer zone and within the property;
5. Considers that the additional measures proposed by the State Party of Slovakia to provide legal protection of parts of the property which currently do not benefit from a non-intervention regime, including through designation of new nature reserves, are therefore of utmost urgency, and requests the State Party of Slovakia to expedite this process, ensuring legal protection from logging while continuing to involve and consult relevant stakeholders;
6. Noting continued efforts of the State Party of Slovakia to elaborate a proposal for boundary modifications for the Slovak components of the property, including through consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, considers that given its potential impact on the OUV of the property, the boundary modification should be submitted as a significant modification in line with paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, and also requests the State Party of Slovakia to finalize the proposal as a matter of priority, in consultation with the other States Parties of this transnational property, ensuring that:
 - a) the proposed boundary modification results in better protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the new delineation includes all important areas for the expression of this OUV,
 - b) all areas within the property are provided with an adequate legal protection regime,
 - c) consultations have been held with relevant stakeholders through a participatory process,
 - d) proposed buffer zones are adequate in size and are subject to a management regime which ensures the protection of the property's OUV;
7. Reiterates its position that due to the continued lack of adequate legal protection of the Slovak components of the property, their protection from logging and other potential threats cannot be guaranteed in the long term, which would clearly constitute a potential danger to the OUV of this serial transnational property as a whole, in line with Paragraphs 137 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and also considers that this needs to be urgently addressed by adequate legal provisions and an appropriate management regime of its buffer zones;

8. *Also recalling Decision 41 COM 8B.7, which requested the States Parties of this property to emphasize buffer zone management supporting undisturbed natural processes, further requests the States Parties of Romania and Slovakia to ensure that logging is, and remains, strictly prohibited within the property, and that no logging operations are allowed in the buffer zones of the property, if they could have negative impact on natural processes and the property's OUV;*
9. *Requests furthermore the States Parties of this property to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property, including on the transnational management of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

72. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225bis)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

73. Gros Morne National Park (Canada) (N 419)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Oil and gas (petroleum exploration in the vicinity of the World Heritage property)
- Management systems/ management plan (no buffer zone around the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/documents/>, and reports the following:

- The “pause” on onshore and onshore-based petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing outside the property remains in place, and will remain until a full assessment of the recommendations of the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Review Panel has been

completed. Industrial resource extraction inside the property is prohibited, both on and below the surface;

- There are no active exploratory licenses in the offshore area immediately adjacent to the property and the province is not accepting any new hydraulic fracturing projects. Parks Canada is also taking measures to formalise protocols for interagency collaboration on resource extraction and land use management in areas adjacent to the property;
- Parks Canada will seek representation on the Review Panel for the interim review of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the western portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area – to open in 2019 – which may provide an opportunity to give consideration to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- A section on OUV of the property will be included in the upcoming SEA of the next Gros Morne National Park Management Plan;
- The existing legislation and regulation are sufficient to provide long-term protection to the property without defining a buffer zone. In this context, Parks Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are developing a land-use advisory committee, comprising of provincial government department representatives and Parks Canada, which would advise Parks Canada concerning resource extraction and development project proposals around the property.

The State Party considers that a Reactive Monitoring mission was not required as the “pause” on oil exploration is still in place.

On 18 August and 20 September 2016, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party, third party information raising concerns about possible impacts from a potential hydrocarbon exploration project in the Old Harry prospect. The State Party responded on 31 March 2017 clarifying that the proposed exploratory drilling project is located approximately 200km southwest of Gros Morne National Park, and has been subject to an environmental assessment process since 2011.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The clarification on the prohibition of industrial resource extraction inside the property is welcomed, and the ongoing “pause” on hydraulic fracturing outside the property is appreciated. However, the pause does not appear to be a formal moratorium, but rather “an operational decision of the provincial Department of Natural Resources”, as stated in the 2016 Newfoundland & Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel report.

Whilst the current “pause” on hydraulic fracturing has been effective, it would seem appropriate that more long-term substantive measures are put in place as a matter of priority to prevent future oil and gas licenses in the vicinity of the property. Recalling that the Newfoundland & Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel report was presented in late spring 2016, clarification is needed on when a full assessment of its recommendations will be completed, and it should be ensured that the “pause” remains in place until the appropriate measures are taken, not just until the assessment of the recommendations has been completed. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the risks to the property’s OUV of petroleum exploration in its vicinity, in case the “pause” is discontinued without putting in place appropriate measures for maintaining OUV.

The affirmation that there is no active exploratory license immediately adjacent to the property is welcomed. Nevertheless, it should be noted that any oil spills occurring southwest of the property could potentially have a negative impact due to the counter-clockwise flow of currents in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Therefore, potential exploratory drilling in the Old Harry prospect (License EL-1153) southwest of the property is of concern. It is furthermore of concern that a map of the Canada-Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, dated 15 January 2017, indicates that there is an active onshore-to-offshore exploration license approximately 40km southwest of the property (Lake Harbour in the Bay of Islands area; License 1120), and an active offshore exploration license about 80km away (License 1070). It is therefore recommended that in case any licence would be awarded and activated, adequate safeguards be put in place and that the awarded licenses are preceded by rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in line with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, taking into account relevant environmental factors such as flow of currents and wind regime.

Although the State Party considers that existing legislation and regulation are sufficient to provide long-term protection to the property without defining a buffer zone, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regard the establishment of a buffer zone as a key tool to ensure that the property will not be impacted by adverse developments such as future onshore and offshore oil and gas developments. This is also

in line with paragraphs 103 to 107 of the *Operational Guidelines*, which recall that an adequate buffer zone should be provided wherever necessary for the proper protection of the property. The State Party's reported progress in developing measures towards formalizing protocols for interagency collaboration and developing a land-use advisory committee are certainly encouraging, but they should feed into further discussions on developing a buffer zone. It is recommended that these initiatives ensure transparent engagement and consultations with local communities and civil societies.

The consideration of the property's OUV in the interim review of the SEA for the western portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area would be valuable and should be strongly encouraged. The State Party intends to include a section on OUV in the SEA of the next management plan, which is considered beneficial provided there is clarification on how this addresses the primary concern of reviewing the threats of the extractive industry and tourism development on the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the clarification provided by the State Party that industrial resource extraction inside the boundaries of the property, both on and below the surface, is not permitted;
4. Requests the State Party to ensure that long-term, substantive measures are introduced to prevent future oil and gas licences being awarded in the vicinity of the property as a matter of priority, and before the "pause" on hydraulic fracturing outside the property is lifted;
5. Noting that the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Review Panel's recommendations were presented in May 2016, also requests the State Party to clarify when a full assessment of the recommendations will be completed, and submit the final analyses to the World Heritage Centre;
6. Also noting the potential negative impact on the property from hydrocarbon exploration in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, further requests the State Party to ensure that any potential exploration licenses located in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence are subject to adequate safeguards and rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
7. Notes with appreciation that the State Party is developing measures towards formalizing protocols for interagency collaboration on resource extraction and land use management in areas adjacent to the property, and is also establishing a land-use advisory committee, but considers that the establishment of a buffer zone remains a key tool to ensure that the property will not be impacted by adverse developments such as future onshore and offshore oil and gas developments, and therefore requests furthermore to the State Party to establish an appropriate buffer zone as part of wider protection measures through transparent consultations with local communities and civil society;
8. Strongly encourages the State Party to provide input to the interim review of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the western portion of the Canada-Newfoundland

and Labrador Offshore Area to consider the OUV of the property, particularly to review the threats of extractive industry and expanding tourism development on the property;

9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the risks to the property's OUV of petroleum exploration in its vicinity, in case the "pause" on acceptance of such applications is discontinued without putting in place other appropriate measures for maintaining the OUV of the property;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.

74. Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (N 98bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979, extension 2000

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-1997

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1992-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 46,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 1992: IUCN expert mission; September 1992: Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission; September 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission; May 1996: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Poaching of bears (issue resolved)
- Dynamite fishing (issue resolved)
- Destruction of the forests and park facilities (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation (possible over-visitation of the site)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (significant expansion of tourism facilities within the property)
- Pollution and water contamination
- Water extraction

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/documents/>. Following the World Heritage Centre's request on 5 February 2018, the State Party submitted further information on 7 March 2018. On 15 March 2018, the State Party submitted a draft Management Plan, including a draft Visitor

Management Plan, which was commented upon by the World Heritage Centre on 19 April 2018. A State Party decision on Amendments to the Spatial Plan for the property was submitted on 18 April 2018.

Overall, the State Party reports the following:

- Monitored by a multisector Operational Working Group (OWG), the Action Plan for improving the property's conservation status and responding to the Committee's requests is being implemented;
- The State Party's decision to amend the Spatial Plan for the property would include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of existing, potential and cumulative impacts of the entire plan, including its proposed amendments, on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Meanwhile, new guidelines for regional authorities responsible for issuing construction permits were developed to reinforce compliance with the current Spatial Plan. As a result, since July 2017 only two building permits were issued (compared to over 50 permits approved between April 2014 and July 2017), and permits for buildings exclusively used for tourism are no longer granted;
- The newly amended Nature Protection Act ensures that the property's management authority, the Public Institution Plitvice Lakes National Park (PIPLNP), is involved in the issuance of building permits. The PIPLNP continues to exercise its right to purchase land in the park to pre-empt inappropriate construction;
- In 2017, inspections of 194 cadastral plots detected 34 irregularities out of which 30 illegal facilities were requested to be removed. In addition, there were 4 cases of irregularities concerning wastewater treatment, 37 illegal simple constructions (not requiring permits) and 8 illegally built pools;
- The ecological and chemical water quality in the property was good or high in 2014-2016, and 2017 data is being assessed;
- Water infrastructure is planned to be upgraded through an EU-funded project, which includes relocating the water supply outside the property. Installation of a mobile wastewater treatment plant and rehabilitation of the main water supply line have been initiated as emergency measures in 2018;
- In 2017, annual visitor numbers exceeded 1.72 million. A visitor centre is being constructed, and an E-ticketing system and limits to visitor numbers at peak times will be introduced in 2018;
- Options for a by-pass road to avoid transit traffic through the property are formally being considered.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In its Decision **41 COM 7B.3**, the Committee considered that the significant and unsustainable expansion of tourist facilities inside the property with associated visual impacts as well as pressures on the property's sensitive hydrogeology presented a potential danger to its OUV. It further noted that in the absence of substantial progress in addressing these threats the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger would be considered during the current session.

The State Party has made commendable progress in responding to the Committee's concerns, resulting in strengthened regulations, monitoring of compliance with construction and water permits, and a significant reduction in the number of issued building permits. It is also noted with appreciation that PIPLNP has enhanced its monitoring of aquatic ecosystems and continues to exercise its right to pre-emptively purchase land within the property. PIPLNP's involvement in issuing building permits inside the property thanks to the amendments recently introduced to the Nature Protection Act should also be welcomed. The high number of violations of the existing legislation and permits recorded during recent inspections demonstrates the imperative of continuing these efforts. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party's decision to develop amendments to the Spatial Plan, which also envisages a SEA that considers impacts on OUV, including the conditions of integrity of the property and cumulative impacts, in line with decisions **40 COM 7B.95** and **41 COM 7B.3**. It is further recommended that the preparation of a new Management Plan for the property, including the Visitor Management Plan, is fully harmonized with the procedures foreseen for the SEA and for the amendments to the Spatial Plan, in order to ensure that the overall management framework is fully consistent with the protection of OUV. While the State Party's commitment to share the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of all the planned projects with the World Heritage Centre is appreciated, it is recommended that the cumulative impacts of all known plans is nevertheless also assessed as part of the SEA.

It is also appreciated that the State Party is planning to upgrade water infrastructure in order to improve wastewater treatment and water supply management and ensure compliance with the EU Directive concerning urban wastewater treatment (UWWTD) by 2023. While noting that the installation of a mobile

wastewater treatment plant and the restoration of the water supply line were initiated as an emergency measure in 2018, it is of concern that – amid water permit violations and exponentially growing tourist numbers – only 20.68% of the pollution load is currently treated in accordance with UWWTD.

Growing visitation is likely to increase the pressure on the property's sensitive hydro-ecological system. The draft Visitor Management Plan includes provisions for a redistribution of visitors and a limit to visitor numbers at peak times, but it focuses on the carrying capacity of the park's infrastructure and how it could be expanded rather than on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem and the attributes that demonstrate its OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Visitor Management Plan is further elaborated in order to emphasize the preservation of the property's OUV as the primary objective and to establish carrying capacity based on strict scientific criteria.

While substantial progress has been made, it is considered that until key outstanding actions have been completed, including the upgrade of water infrastructure, the completion of the SEA, amendments to the Spatial Plan and the finalization of the management and visitor management plans, the continued exponential growth of visitation at the property represents a potential danger to its OUV, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Commends the State Party for progress made to respond to the Committee's decisions and to the 2017 mission recommendations, and urges the State Party to continue these efforts to fully implement all recommendations of the mission;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's decision to amend the Spatial Plan for Plitvice Lakes National Park which would include preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and Decisions **40 COM 7B.95** and **41 COM 7B.3**, and requests the State Party to provide the results of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre, once available;*
5. *Takes note of the additional guidelines on the implementation of the current Spatial Plan developed and provided to the relevant regional authorities responsible for issuance of construction permits, and the amendments to the Nature Protection Act which ensure participation of the Public Institution Plitvice Lakes National Park (PIPLNP) in decision-making processes regarding issuance of permits, and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to strictly regulate and monitor both issuance of new permits and compliance of existing buildings with the relevant regulations;*
6. *Also welcomes the preparation of a new management plan for the property, including a visitor management plan, and further requests the State Party to ensure that this process is fully harmonized with the procedures foreseen for the SEA and for amending the Spatial Plan, in order to ensure that the overall management framework is fully consistent with the protection of the OUV of the property;*
7. *While noting information provided by the State Party regarding the existing plans to improve wastewater and water supply management within the property, considers that the inadequate water supply and drainage system, water pollution risks and continued exponential growth of visitation at the property continue to represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational*

Guidelines and therefore also urges the State Party to address all pending issues related to water and visitor management as a matter of priority;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

75. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: Joint UNESCO/UNDP mission; 2007, 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline construction plans)
- Ground transport infrastructure (impacts of a road project across the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/>, and provides the following information:

- The route of the Altai gas pipeline has not been determined yet and no construction works have been carried out. The State Party does not support the revocation of the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Altai N202 from 2012, which provides a legal basis for construction of linear infrastructure on the territory of the Ukok Quiet Zone within the property, since such linear infrastructure is considered vital for the socio-economic development of indigenous people of the Ukok plateau;
- The Kalgutinskoye deposit of tungsten-molybdenum ores located on the territory of the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park is not being developed;
- The UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme officially approved the nomination of the transboundary Biosphere Reserve "Great Altai", which includes the component of the property Katunsky State Nature Reserve and Katon-Karagaiskiy National Park in Kazakhstan. Transboundary cooperation with Mongolia has been enhanced.

The report provides more detailed information on one component of the property, the Katunsky State Nature Reserve, including on long-term monitoring of climate change impacts on high altitude ecosystems and monitoring of glaciers. Information also concerns visitor management and measures taken to monitor impacts along the trails and mitigate potential negative impacts, as well as on efforts to better engage with local communities and stakeholders regarding activities aimed at outreach, education and promotion of the World Heritage property and at supporting local communities and promoting sustainable livelihoods, including through the development of ecotourism activities involving local people.

On 10 January 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarifications regarding third party information raising concerns about planned and ongoing tourism infrastructure development, as well as potential gold exploration and extraction within the property. At the time of writing this report, no response has been received from the State Party.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party report provides little information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 mission and most of the information provided is related to one component of the property only, the Katunsky State Nature Reserve. It is recommended that the Committee recalls the 2012 mission recommendations and urges the State Party to provide a full report of their implementation across all components of the property.

The approval by UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme of the transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Great Altai”, which includes the Katunsky State Nature Reserve component of the property and the Katon-Karagaiskiy National Park in Kazakhstan is welcome. It is also welcome that transboundary cooperation with Mongolia has been enhanced through a Memorandum of Understanding between the reserve’s authorities and the Administration of Protected Areas of the Mongolian Altai, as recommended by the 2012 mission. It is recommended that the Committee encourage again all the States Parties of the Altai region to consolidate existing transboundary conservation efforts, including through the application of the *World Heritage Convention* where appropriate.

The efforts to ensure better engagement of local communities and other stakeholders in the management of the property, and activities aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods and outreach, education and promotion activities are also welcome and should be further encouraged and expanded to other parts of the property. While the State Party reconfirms that the route of the proposed Altai gas pipeline has not yet been determined and that no construction works have been undertaken, it should be recalled that the Committee has repeatedly *urged the State Party to take an unequivocal decision to abandon the plans for the construction of the pipeline through the property* and that any decision to go forward with the Altai gas pipeline through the property would represent an ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. *It should be further recalled that the Committee* also has repeatedly expressed its concerns about Decree N202 of the Republic of Altai adopted in 2012, which legally enables construction of linear infrastructure within the property. It is unclear which type of infrastructure the State Party refers to in the report when stating that such infrastructure is considered vital for the socio-economic development of indigenous people living on the Ukok plateau. However, it should be recalled that it was noted in previous State of conservation reports that the Decree was elaborated specifically to facilitate the Altai gas pipeline project, which is intended for the export of gas to China. It is therefore strongly recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party revoke Decree N202.

The information that the Kalgutinskoye deposit of tungsten-molybdenum ores located on the territory of the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park is not being developed is noted. However, it is unclear whether this statement merely reflects the current situation or if it refers to a long-term commitment to prohibit its development. Furthermore, the third party information received regarding recent granting of a licence for gold exploration and extraction from a deposit located within the property in close proximity to Lake Teletskoye raises serious concerns. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on any existing mining licences within the property or its vicinity, recalling the Committee’s established position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status. It is further recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to revoke any mining concessions that overlap with the property and ensure that mining outside the property is not permitted if it is likely to have negative impacts on the property’s OUV. Likewise, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify third party information on planned and ongoing tourism infrastructure development within the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Regrets that the State Party report provides little information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 mission and that most of the information provided is related to one component of the property only, the Katunsky State Nature Reserve;
4. Urges the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2012 mission, as adopted in Decision **36 COM 7B.25**, across all components of the property and to provide information of progress achieved to the World Heritage Centre;
5. Commends the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan for their ongoing transboundary cooperation resulting in the official approval by the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme of the transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Great Altai”, which includes the component of the property Katunsky State Nature Reserve and Katon-Karagaiskiy National Park in Kazakhstan, welcomes enhanced transboundary cooperation with the State Party of Mongolia and encourages again all States Parties in the Altai region to consolidate existing transboundary conservation efforts, including under the World Heritage Convention;
6. Also welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party aimed at involving local communities and other stakeholders in the management of the property, including activities supporting local communities and promoting sustainable livelihoods as well as outreach, promotion and education, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts, including in other parts of the property;
7. Noting the information provided by the State Party that the route for the Altai gas pipeline has not yet been determined and that no construction works have been undertaken, but reiterates its concern about legal changes introduced in 2012, which grant the legal basis for construction of linear infrastructure within the Ukok plateau component of the property, also reiterates its position that any decision to go forward with the Altai gas pipeline through the property would represent an ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger; and therefore reiterates its request to the State Party to take an unequivocal decision to abandon the plans for the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property as a matter of urgency, and to consider alternative routes and to revoke Decree N202 of the Republic of Altai dated 2 August 2012;
8. Also noting the information provided by the State Party that the Kalgutinskoye deposit of tungsten-molybdenum ores located on the territory of the Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park is not being developed, however, notes with serious concern that, according to third-party information received by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a licence would have recently been granted for gold exploration and extraction from a deposit located within the property in close proximity to Lake Teletskoye, reiterates its established position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, and requests the State Party to urgently respond and to provide detailed clarifications regarding any existing or proposed mining licences or concessions that overlap with the property and to revoke any mining

licences or concessions that overlap with the property and to ensure that mining outside the property is not permitted if it is likely to have negative impacts on the property's OUV;

9. *Also requests the State Party to clarify third party information raising concerns about planned and ongoing tourism infrastructure development within the property;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, an updated report on the state of conservation of the entire property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to the property's OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

76. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 33,200

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1998: World Heritage Centre monitoring mission; 2001: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; 2011: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Mission; 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Gas and oil pipeline project across the World Heritage property in 2006 (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of adequate management system)
- Legal framework (uncertain legal protection)
- Pollution
- Illegal activities (timber harvesting, construction on the lake shore, sale of land)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (tourism development)
- Water infrastructure (lack of mechanism to control waste water discharge)
- Fire (wildfires in the Baikal region in 2015)
- Water infrastructure (Shuren Hydropower Plant and Orkhon River Reservoir complex projects (in Mongolia))

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents> and reports the following:

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has only been partially completed within the framework of research conducted by the Federal Agency for Water Resources on the water level regime of Lake Baikal. The State Party considers that the increased limits on fluctuation between minimum and maximum water levels of Lake Baikal are not expected to negatively impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).;
- Ongoing monitoring has shown a decrease in fish stocks and crustaceans in various regions, which may be attributed to changes in the productivity of coastal ecosystems caused by the marked increase in algae biomass near well-frequented recreational sites and possibly also due to climatic and hydrological shifts;
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has developed an Action Plan for the remediation of the site of the former Baikal pulp and paper mill and public consultations have been held to inform an EIA on remediation action;
- Several, mostly natural fires have affected more than 400ha each, in addition to one larger fire in the Baikalo-Lensky Reserve affecting 13,409ha;
- Public consultations in the Slyudyansky, Orkhon and Irkutsk regions, organized with support from the Implementation Group of the hydropower development project (MINIS), have shown that public opinion opposes the implementation of hydropower projects on the Selenga River in Mongolia. Identification of alternative solutions is recommended. Furthermore, it is reported that the Implementation Group recommended against developing feasibility studies for Shuren and Orkhon projects, until SEA, Regional Environmental Assessment (REA) and EIA procedures have been completed; and that the SEA is conducted jointly with the Russian Federation prior to undertaking REAs or EIAs.

On 14 November 2017, the World Heritage Centre also received information on a draft resolution by the government of the Russian Federation extending the use of increased limits on the fluctuation of water levels of Lake Baikal in 2018-2020. On 23 April 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarifications with regards to the recently adopted reduction of the water protection zone of Lake Baikal, as well as concerns expressed by third parties regarding water level management.

On 31 January 2018, the State Party of Mongolia informed the World Heritage Centre that an additional study on the impacts of the Egiin Gol hydropower plant project (EGHPP) on Selenga River and on the biodiversity of the property is planned to commence in 2018. Referring to an EIA on EGHPP, submitted in May 2017, the State Party of Mongolia expects negligible impacts on the water volume of Lake Baikal and further reports that a joint Mongolian-Russian working group has been established to address issues concerning hydro-power facilities planned in the Selenga River basin.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While it is reported that a comprehensive study preceded the draft resolution extending the use of increased limits to fluctuation of water levels, this study has not been submitted for review to the World Heritage Centre. Furthermore, the EIA, which was requested in Decision **41 COM 7B.6**, was reportedly only partially completed. Hence, the concern about potential impacts on the OUV of the property remains and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to refrain from any further changes to the legislation regulating the fluctuation of water level of Lake Baikal until the impacts of all existing water use and management regulations on the OUV of the property are fully understood through a complete and comprehensive EIA, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and that the EIA is submitted in due course to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

It is of significant concern that latent eutrophication near recreational areas is found to be one of the drivers for algal blooms and decreasing fish stocks. While the existing monitoring and research programmes aimed at identifying stressors to the ecosystem are noted, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop a property-wide ecological monitoring system in order to identify the scale and causes of such changes and the responses required to preserve the ecological integrity of the property. In this regard, the recently adopted reduction in area of the water protection zone of Lake Baikal raises serious concerns as this might potentially increase pressures on already disturbed ecosystems. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to provide detailed information on the adopted changes, including an EIA containing a specific assessment of potential impact on the OUV of the property. Similarly, it is regrettable that the World Heritage Centre neither received the results of the EIAs for the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) located within or overlapping with the property, nor any information on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on

the cumulative impacts of existing and future developments, as requested in Decision **41 COM 7B.6**. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to undertake these assessments and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

Concerning the site of the former Baikal pulp and paper mill, it is appreciated that an Action Plan for its remediation has been developed and that public consultations on a planned EIA have been held. Recalling previous decisions of the Committee, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to include in the EIA an assessment of possible options for the future use of the site and their possible impacts on the OUV of the property to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

While wildfires have been successfully contained and their extent has been limited compared to the major outbreak of 2015, their frequent occurrence demonstrates the persistent high risk of fire. It is recalled that forest management and forest fire control measures were planned to be reformed in 2017-2018. In its Decision **40 COM 7B.97**, the Committee had urged the State Party to assess the impacts from the fires on the lake ecosystem and encouraged it to elaborate new guidelines for future management plans in order to develop an Integrated Management Plan for the entire property, which should also include a fire management and prevention plan. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide an update on these matters.

It is welcome that, according to information publically available on the official website of the federal agency responsible for issuing licenses for mineral resource extraction, the license for Kholodninskoe deposit has been revoked. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to confirm this information given that it has not reported on this matter.

Concerning potential hydro-power projects in the Selenga River system, the planned additional study on the impacts of EGHP on the biodiversity of the property is welcome. To be in line with the findings and recommendations of the 2015 mission, this study should especially take into account impacts on the habitats of endangered migratory species of the Selenga/Lake Baikal complex and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN. The enhanced cooperation between the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation through a joint working group for issues related to hydro-power projects is likewise welcome. It is recommended that such cooperation supports the implementation of the 2015 mission recommendations and feeds into the development of a joint transboundary SEA, which should precede and guide the elaboration of EIAs for any specific hydropower and water management projects, including the planned Shuren hydropower and Orkhon river project, as repeatedly requested by the Committee.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Noting with serious concern the resolution extending the use of increased limits on the fluctuation between the maximum and minimum water levels of Lake Baikal for 2018-2020, urges the State Party to stop introducing further changes of the limits on fluctuation until the impacts of all existing water use and management regulations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are fully understood through a complete and comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), undertaken in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and requests the State Party to submit this EIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, by **1 December 2019**;*
4. *Welcomes the information, publically available on the official website of the federal agency responsible for issuing licenses for mineral resources extraction, that the mining*

license for Kholodninskoe deposit has been revoked and also requests the State Party to confirm this information;

5. Also welcomes the environmental monitoring activities undertaken at the property, but notes with significant concern the reported algal blooms and decreases in fish stocks, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a property-wide ecological monitoring system in order to identify the scale and causes of such changes and the responses required to preserve the ecological integrity of the property;
6. Also notes with serious concern the reported reduction in area of the water protection zone of Lake Baikal, and also urges the State Party to provide detailed information on these changes and their potential to impact on the OUV of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide an update on:
 - a) Planned forest management and forest fire control measures,
 - b) Assessed impacts from past fires on the lake ecosystem, and
 - c) Preparation of guidelines for the future development of management plans for all protected areas around Lake Baikal, with a view to develop an Integrated Management Plan for the whole property, including a fire management and prevention plan;
8. Regrets that the State Party did not submit either the results of the EIAs for each Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located within or overlapping with the property or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for all SEZs regarding existing and future developments and their cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, and further urges the State Party to complete these assessments as a matter of priority and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as they are available;
9. Appreciates the development of an Action Plan for the remediation of the former Baikal pulp and paper mill site as well as the consultations for an EIA, and further requests the State Party to submit this EIA, including an assessment of possible options for the future uses of the site and their potential impacts on the OUV of the property, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, by **1 December 2019**;
10. Takes note of the intention of the State Party of Mongolia to undertake an additional study on the impacts of the Egiin Gol hydropower plant project (EGHPP), including impacts on the biodiversity of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party of Mongolia to take into account the findings and recommendations of the 2015 mission, especially regarding assessing impacts on the habitats of endangered migratory freshwater species of the Selenga/Lake Baikal complex, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as it is available;
11. Also welcomes the establishment of a joint Mongolian-Russian working group on the planned hydro-technical facilities in the Selenga River basin, also reiterates its request to the States Parties of the Mongolia and Russian Federation to implement the recommendations of the 2015 mission as well as the requests in Decisions **39 COM 7B.22**, **40 COM 7B.97** and **41 COM 7B.6**, and to jointly develop a transboundary SEA for any existing and planned hydropower and water management projects ensuring that its results guide the elaboration of EIAs of any such projects, including the planned Shuren hydropower and Orkhon River projects, and requests moreover the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to also include an assessment of alternative solutions in the SEA;

12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.*

77. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management Plan (issue resolved)
- Oil and gas (Geophysical prospecting in the marine area surrounding the property)
- Marine transport infrastructure (Planned construction of a naval base within the property)
- Increased human presence

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 10 to 18 August 2017. On 1 February 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available together with the mission report at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents> and reports the following:

- Reserve staff continued with the cleanup of garbage from past economic activities. 670 tons of scrap metal have been removed from the island in 2017 and 330 tons are planned to be removed in 2018. It is reported that 5 ha near Somnitelnaya have been cleaned and that 200 metal drums were moved to a storage site. Garbage removal has also been conducted at Vezdehod and Tundroviy Peak;
- Over the past years, six removable huts using renewable energy sources have been built for the accommodation of visitors to replace existing facilities. A few old huts have been renovated and three further residential huts have been built in Ushakovskoe to accommodate an office and park staff. There are currently no plans for additional tourist infrastructure, which could affect Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Nevertheless, the field station of Bukhta Popova is planned to be reconstructed in 2018 to conduct research on geese and to potentially attract tourists and birdwatchers. Outside the property, it is planned to create visitor centres at the Museum of Local History of Anadyr and at the Anadyr City Airport;
- Russian law prohibits any drilling, exploration or exploitation of minerals within the boundaries of the property and its marine protective zone. Current seismic prospecting activities in the surrounding Chuckchi and East Siberian seas are reported not to affect the marine part of the



property nor its protective zone. No oil exploitation activities are currently foreseen in the marine areas adjacent to the property;

- Thanks to an entomological survey, 100 new insect species were recorded for the property. Park staff collaborate with American scientists to monitor the Chuckchi-Alaska polar bear population as well as the snow geese population.

On 20 February 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested additional clarifications concerning garbage removal, hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation licenses, and military facilities and activities, but had not received a response at the time of writing of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The 2017 mission assessed the property's state of conservation to evaluate whether criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger were met.

While there is currently no hydrocarbon exploitation planned near the property and it is prohibited by law within the property's boundaries and its protective zone, it is noted with serious concern that Article 2 of Order No. 103-p, dated 31 January 2013, still provides the right to use the licensed subsoil plots of Yuzhno-Chukotski, Severo-Vrangelski-1 and -2, for exploration and hydrocarbon exploitation. Two of the three licenses intersect with the 36 nautical miles protective zone of Wrangel Island Strict Nature Reserve, coming as close as 12 nautical miles to the marine boundary of the property. While the State Party report notes that seismic prospecting currently underway would not affect the marine part of the property, it is not clear on what basis such a conclusion was made. The mission concluded that hydrocarbon exploitation in the waters near the property could represent a potential danger to its OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to suspend these activities, and to urgently undertake an EIA, meeting highest international standards, including a rigorous assessment of the impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment before any hydrocarbon drilling activities are undertaken;

The mission was informed that negative impacts of recently constructed military facilities within the property would remain limited and could include some potentially positive side effects. However, the mission was not provided with any information, which would allow assessing the impacts of the military facilities and related activities on the OUV of the property. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee regret that the State Party has not provided this information despite repeated requests by the Committee, and that it request the State Party to urgently provide more detailed information on current and potential impacts, to immediately halt any activity that may negatively affect the OUV of the property, and to implement appropriate measures to avoid and minimize impacts, and to mitigate any residual impacts.

The mission further concluded that the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, while not recommended at this stage, could be justified in the case of: 1) absence of proof that the military presence within the boundaries of the property does not constitute an ascertained danger to its OUV; or in the case that 2) hydrocarbon exploitation is pursued without prior EIA in line with International Finance Corporation (IFC) 2012 performance standards and a rigorous assessment of the impacts on the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

The continued efforts to remove garbage from the island under difficult environmental conditions are welcome. The mission noted the intention to completely remove garbage within approximately five years. However, it is of concern that only 1,000 tons of scrap metal are planned to be removed over the period of 2017 and 2018, whereas 1,200 tons of metal garbage were removed in 2016 only. In order to attain the five-year target, efforts will need to be stepped up significantly considering that the property's 2013-2017 Management Plan counted 25,000 tons of scrap metal and 100,000 metal drums. It is regrettable that 13 years after inscription of the property, fuel drums remain dispersed across the island, particularly in riverbeds, and significant concentrations of garbage still exist around former settlements. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide a clear timetable for the clean-up of garbage and associated contaminants in order to guarantee its targeted completion within five years and to report on the planning and implementation of these activities.

The accommodation of a limited number of visitors in new removable huts is not currently cause for concern, as long as visitation remains within sustainable limits.

Overall, the mission observed a trend towards increasing human activity on the Wrangel Island and in the wider region, including maritime traffic, exerting increasing pressure on fragile arctic ecosystems. This increased pressure coincides with additional stress on the ecosystem resulting from climate

change. The mission therefore recommended identifying the ecological carrying capacity of the property through a study on the terrestrial and marine components of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.25**, **40 COM 7B.98**, and **41 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. Taking note of the conclusions of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, expresses its serious concern on the reported threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the mission;
4. Welcomes the continued efforts for the removal of garbage from Wrangel Island, but regrets that many thousands of tons of garbage remain on the island 13 years following its inscription and also requests the State Party to provide a timetabled programme to strengthen these efforts in order to complete the removal of garbage and clean-up of associated contaminants within the targeted deadline of five years, and to regularly report on progress made in implementing these activities, and to submit, by **1 February 2023**, a final report to confirm whether the island is free of garbage and associated contaminants;
5. Also regrets that the State Party has not provided information regarding military facilities and associated activities within the property as repeatedly requested by the Committee, therefore not enabling an assessment of their impacts on the property, and strongly urges the State Party to:
 - a) Provide more detailed information on current and potential impacts of military facilities and associated activities on the property's OUV,
 - b) Immediately halt any activities that may negatively affect the OUV,
 - c) Implement appropriate measures to avoid and minimize impacts and mitigate any residual impacts of military facilities and activities on the OUV of the property, as recommended by the mission,
 - d) Submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, a report on the impacts from military facilities and activities and the effectiveness of mitigation measures;
6. Also welcomes the confirmation of the State Party that no hydrocarbon exploration or exploitation activities are allowed within the property, but expresses its utmost concern that potential future hydrocarbon exploitation could still take place in the waters near the property, and also urges the State Party to conduct a detailed EIA that assesses the possible impacts on the OUV of the property before permitting any hydrocarbon drilling activities in the Yuzhno-Chukotski, Severo-Vrangelski-1 and -2 blocks, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
7. Also takes note of the missions' conclusion that the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger could be justified in case of:

- a) *Absence of proof that the military presence within the boundaries of the property does not constitute an ascertained danger to its OUV,*
or in the case that
- b) *hydrocarbon exploitation is pursued without prior EIA in line with International Finance Corporation (IFC) 2012 performance standards and a rigorous assessment of the impacts on the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, including on the implementation of the mission recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

78. Virgin Komi Forest (Russian Federation) (N 719)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (vii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and institutional factors (Changes to the boundaries of Yugyd Va National Park)
- Mining (Gold mining inside the property)
- Tourism (need for a sustainable tourism management strategy)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The boundaries of the property within the Yugyd Va National Park (YVNP) have not changed and no exploration or extraction of minerals have been carried out on the property's territory, including within the area of Chudnoe gold deposit. The Arbitration Court of the Republic of Komi granted ZAO "Gold Minerals" a postponement until 1 September 2018 for the removal of their large-size equipment and property from the Chudnoe site;
- A Business Plan and a Management Plan were developed for the YVNP for the 2016-2020 period;
- In the framework of an UNDP/GEF (Global Environment Facility) project, a number of activities were implemented, which were aimed at the prevention of forest fires and permafrost protection;

- Two monitoring programmes for key species and tourism flows, respectively, have continued. No major negative impacts have been observed;
- A fire-fighting station was established on the territory of the park. In 2017, three forest fires impacting a total area of 791.6 ha were extinguished within the park.

The State Party also submitted an Integrated Management Plan for the property for the 2017-2031 period.

On 1 March 2018 and 18 April 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested clarifications from the State Party regarding information available on the official website of the Russian Federal Geological Fund "Rosgeolfond" of the Federal Agency for Subsoil Use "Rosnedra". According to this information, the license for exploration and mining at the Chudnoe gold deposit was amended twice in 2017 and would only expire by 31 December 2029. No response has been received from the State Party at the time of writing.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party report only provides information on one component of the property, YVNP, but no information on the Pechora Ilych Nature Reserve (PISNR) component.

The information provided by the State Party that no exploration or extraction of minerals has been carried out within the property, and that the ZAO "Gold Minerals" company has to remove its equipment and property from the area of the Chudnoe gold deposit by September 2018 is noted. However, it is noted with concern that the license granted to ZAO "Gold Minerals" for exploration and extraction at Chudnoe appears to have been extended according to the information available on the official website of the Russian Federal Geological Fund "Rosgeolfond" of the Federal Agency for Subsoil Use "Rosnedra". It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to clarify the status of this license, and to urgently revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licenses granted for the Chudnoe gold deposit, situated within the property. It is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure the strict enforcement of the deadline for the removal of the company's equipment as imposed by the Arbitration Court of the Republic of Komi, and to restore the areas damaged by mining-related activities, which were undertaken in 2011 and 2012.

It is welcome that the Committee's request to develop an Integrated Management Plan for the 2017-2031 period for the entire property has been fulfilled. In order to ensure sufficient human and financial resources for the implementation of the Plan in the entire property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to address the total budget deficit of more than 25 million roubles (approximately USD 406,500) a year, given that a lack of resources is noted in the Integrated Management Plan as a significant obstacle. It is also welcome that prevention of forest fires and protection of permafrost was enhanced in the framework of a UNDP/GEF project and that a fire-fighting station was established.

The information provided by the State Party regarding tourism management and monitoring in YVNP is noted. However, it should be recalled that tourism impact concerns had previously been expressed in the PINR component. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that tourism is effectively managed across all components of the property in order to minimize any potential impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.99**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party report only includes information on one component of the property, Yugid Va National Park (YVNP) but that no information on the Pechoro-Ilychskiy Nature Reserve component is provided;*

4. *Welcomes* enhanced capacity for the prevention of forest fires and protection of permafrost in YVNP as well as the development of the property's Integrated Management Plan for the 2017-2031 period, and *requests* the State Party to address the total budget deficit for the implementation of the plan at all components of the property;
5. *Reiterating its established position* that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, *notes with concern* that, according to official information, the license granted to the ZAO "Gold Minerals" company for exploration and extraction at the Chudnoe gold deposit has been extended, and therefore *urges* the State Party to:
 - a) Clarify the status of the license of the Chudnoe gold deposit,
 - b) Unequivocally revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licenses granted for the Chudnoe gold deposit, as requested in previous Committee decisions
 - c) Ensure that the removal of the ZAO "Gold Minerals" company's equipment from the property is completed by September 2018 as imposed by the Arbitration Court of the Republic of Komi,
 - d) Restore the areas damaged by the mining-related activities, which were undertaken in 2011 and 2012;
6. *Recalling* previous concerns regarding tourism impacts on Pechoro-Ilychskiy Nature Reserve, *also requests* the State Party to ensure that tourism is effectively managed across all components of the property in order to minimize negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value;
7. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the entire property, including the Pechoro-Ilychskiy Nature Reserve and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

79. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 1997: IUCN fact-finding mission; February 2001: UNESCO mission; May 2004, August 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities (Illegal salmon fishing)
- Mining (gold mining)
- Major linear utilities (Gas pipeline)
- Renewable energy facilities (Development of a geothermal power station)
- Fires
- Management and institutional factors (Boundary changes)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction of the Esso-Palana road)
- Legal framework (Need for the development of a comprehensive national legal framework for the protection and management of natural properties)
- Decline in populations of wild reindeer and snow sheep
- Governance (Lack of management structure and coordination system)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/>, and which provides the following information:

- The total area of the property is 3,959,952.90 ha of which 2,475,036 ha consist of the four clusters of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka Nature Park (Nalychevo, Bystrinsky, Kluchevskoy and Southern Kamchatka). The discrepancy between this figure and the total size of nature parks reported at the time of the inscription of the property is a result of the more accurate mapping of the boundaries which was undertaken in 2009;
- An Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the entire property has not been developed yet, but the organizations responsible for the management of the different protected areas comprising the property continue their cooperation;
- Monitoring and research activities continued within the property. Populations of all species monitored remain stable, with the exception of the wild northern reindeer for which the largest recorded group was estimated at only 150 individuals in March 2017. Measures are currently being developed to enable their recovery;
- Anti-poaching activities within the property have been expanded, including creation of special anti-poaching task groups, and a patrolling vessel was acquired by the Kronotsky Strict Nature Reserve in order to strengthen protection of coastal and marine areas. Activities aimed at creating economic alternatives for local communities in the vicinity of the property were also ongoing, particularly those related to tourism development and promotion;
- Potential threats to the property from outside its boundaries remain, particularly due to reduction of game stocks in the surrounding areas and therefore potential increase of poaching activities within the components of the property;
- Resumption of plans for the construction of the Kronotskaya hydropower station cascade in the “Kronotsky Federal Nature Biosphere Reserve” is also noted as a potential threat.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The clarification provided by the State Party with regards to the area of the nature parks components of the property and discrepancies with previously reported figures is noted. Since only boundaries of one component (Southern Kamchatka Nature Park) have been recently clarified through the Retrospective Inventory process, it is recommended that the boundaries of all other components of the property are also formally updated through the submission of high-resolution maps and shapefiles.

The statement that with the exception of the wild population of reindeer all wildlife populations are stable is noted, but it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the reports of the monitoring and surveys, which are at the basis of this statement, including on the salmon populations, in particular in light of the increasing poaching pressure.

The reported on-going anti-poaching efforts are welcomed but it is of concern that the property continues to be threatened by poaching and that this threat is expected to increase due to pressures from outside the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts to address poaching. In particular, it would be important to increase the staffing and budget for the four nature parks. In this regard, it should also be recalled that the Committee had previously requested the State Party to consider strengthening the legal protection regime of these nature parks by changing their

status to national parks or other appropriate mechanisms, such as revision of their zoning. No information has been provided by the State Party on this matter or on the current zoning regime of each nature park and on the activities permitted in each zone. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request in this regard and that it also request the State Party to develop an IMP for the entire property in order to harmonize management across different components, as was recommended by the 2007 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property.

The mission further recommended that on-going mining, gas pipeline, and mineral or geothermal exploration activities near the property should be monitored. Amid discussions on developing the geothermal and mining potential inside the property, the Reactive Monitoring mission noted in 2007 that no such plans were expected to start for at least ten years. As this period has now passed, it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide an update on the status of any mining, gas pipeline, and mineral or geothermal exploration interests within and close to the boundaries of the property. The noted potential resumption of plans for hydropower development within the boundaries of the property's component "Kronotsky Strict Nature Reserve" is of serious concern and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to unequivocally abandon these plans and to consider alternative sources for electricity provision in the region in line with the commitments it expressed in its report presented to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016). In light of all the above, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the status of implementation of the 2007 mission recommendations and to assess the current conservation status of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.100** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes the clarifications provided by the State Party regarding the total area of the nature parks components of the property and the discrepancies with previously reported figures and requests the State Party to submit the information on the boundaries of all components to the World Heritage Centre in order to formally clarify them by submitting high-resolution maps and shapefiles for each of the property's components;*
4. *Welcoming the additional measures undertaken by the State Party to combat poaching, but noting with concern the information that the property continues to be threatened by poaching, including as a result from increasing pressures on game stocks outside the property, urges the State Party to continue its efforts to address this issue;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit the reports of the monitoring and surveys of wildlife populations, including on the salmon populations, in particular in light of the reported increasing poaching pressure;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2007 Reactive Monitoring mission, especially to:*
 - a) *submit to the World Heritage Centre, as a matter of urgency, detailed information on the current zoning regime of each nature park and on the activities permitted in each zone,*
 - b) *consider strengthening the protection regime of the four regional nature parks of the property,*

- c) *develop and implement an integrated management plan and coordination structure for the entire property in order to harmonize management across all components, and further requests the State Party to provide an update on any potential mining, gas pipeline, and mineral or geothermal exploration activities close to the boundaries of the property;*
7. *Noting with utmost concern the potential resumption of the plans for hydropower development at Kronotsky Strict Nature Reserve, also urges the State Party to unequivocally abandon these plans and to consider alternative sources for electricity provision in the region in line with the confirmation it had previously expressed in its report presented to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the status of implementation of the 2007 mission recommendations and to assess the current conservation status of the property;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

80. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

81. Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (N 740bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Invasive/alien terrestrial species (mice) (issue mentioned since 1999)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/documents/>, and provides the following updates:

- A feasibility study for the eradication of house mice (*Mus musculus*) from Gough Island has been conducted by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which showed that eradication is feasible. The operational phase of the project is expected to commence in 2019. A two-year follow-up programme upon completion of the eradication work will also be undertaken;
- £4 million (ca. USD 5.7 million) of the estimated budget for the eradication programme has been secured through government commitments, grants and donations, and RSPB is continuing its efforts to secure the remaining funds;
- The proposed methodology, developed using best practice in New Zealand, will apply rodent bait pellets containing anticoagulant brodifacoum across the island using helicopters. In addition, a captive management plan will guide the efforts to mitigate the risks of primary poisoning of the Gough Moorhen and the Gough Bunting, which are the two endemic land birds on the island, by holding representative individuals of the species in captivity on the island to avoid exposure to baits for the required period;
- The invasive plant, procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*), is currently found on a limited area of the island, and a review of the current progress of its eradication programme will be published by RSPB in early 2018 to inform future work.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the planned implementation of the house mice eradication programme on Gough Island in 2019. However, it is of concern that the full amount of the estimated budget has not been secured yet. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the current funding gap is addressed. The undertaking of the feasibility study for the eradication of house mice, and the efforts towards protecting the endemic land bird species, which are part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, is greatly appreciated.

Considering the significance of the island for a number of important seabird species including the critically endangered Tristan Albatross, it is imperative that potential impacts on these species are also mitigated and monitored. Therefore, it is important that the State Party keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the results of the eradication campaign and progress to avoid collateral impact on any non-target species, especially on those that are critical for the property's OUV.

The ongoing work to eradicate the procumbent pearlwort is appreciated and it is recommended that the review of the effectiveness of its eradication programme be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once it is available.

The experience and lessons learned from eradication projects on the property would be very informative for other World Heritage properties with invasive alien species in island ecosystems, and it is therefore recommended that the State Party be encouraged to share its experiences on its eradication programmes.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.103, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the planned implementation of the house mice (*Mus musculus*) eradication programme on Gough Island in 2019, and requests the State Party to ensure adequate funding to fully implement the programme as a matter of urgency;

4. *Appreciates that a feasibility study for the eradication of house mice has been undertaken and that the captive management of two endemic land bird species is being planned to mitigate risk of poisoning of these species, and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the results of the mice eradication programme and on progress to avoid collateral impact on any non-target species, particularly those that are components of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;*
5. *Further requests the State Party to submit the review of the effectiveness of the eradication programme for the invasive plant species, procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to share its experience on invasive alien species eradication programmes to promote knowledge exchange with other States Parties facing similar challenges;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, a progress report to confirm that funding has been secured for the eradication programme and its implementation has started on schedule, and by 1 December 2020, 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 45th session in 2021.*

82. Grand Canyon National Park (United States of America) (N 75)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/75/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/75/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Pollution (Impacts from aircraft activity, noise pollution)
- Mining
- Water infrastructure (wells may impact springs)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/75/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is accessible at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/75/documents/>, and reports the following:

- All the potential uranium mines are located outside of the property, with the closest facility located 24km away. Currently one mine is being operationalized, and three additional mines located to the northwest of the property have been approved;
- Mining activities are regulated by state and federal environmental laws including watershed protection provisions;
- Potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will be evaluated on potential mines located outside of the property boundaries, before a decision is made;
- No changes were considered necessary to the existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Canyon Mine project during its review in 2012, but some new mitigation measures were added;
- The proposed Grand Canyon Escalade project was voted down by the Navajo Nation and is thus not supported. The State Party continues to monitor the situation and engage with stakeholders.

In response to a request by the World Heritage Centre, the State Party shared a map of the locations of the mines on 16 March 2018, and links to the EIS for the proposed 20-year withdrawal of mining from Federal lands surrounding the property. Links were also provided to the Record of Decision.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The clarification by the State Party that there are no uranium mines proposed inside the property is noted. However, the mining developments outside the boundary, but within the watershed, remain of significant concern as there may be downstream impacts on the property. It is important to recall the Secretary of Interior's decision of withdrawing areas of federal land from mineral exploration surrounding the property for a period of 20 years in order to protect the Grand Canyon watershed from adverse effects, and to allow time to study the potential effects of uranium mining. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore consider that the potential impacts on the OUV of the property of the uranium mining proposals with 'valid existing rights' that are exempt from this withdrawal should be evaluated in detail before a decision is made. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed and ensure the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) take into account IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit copies to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

It is noted that the 1986 EIS for the Canyon Mine is still valid and that a new EIS is not required. However, noting the above mentioned potential impacts on the watershed, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure potential impacts are closely monitored and take an adaptive approach to management and mitigation, keeping the World Heritage Centre informed of monitoring results.

The decision to not support the Grand Canyon Escalade project is welcomed given the potential for this project to adversely impact the property's OUV. In light of this, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the project is legally cancelled.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.104, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Reiterates its significant concern that there are uranium mines proposed in the area surrounding the property and requests the State Party to ensure Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, including a specific assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, are completed and copies submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN before any decisions are made;*
4. *Also requests the State Party to ensure that potential impacts from the Canyon Mine on the OUV of the property are closely monitored, and take an adaptive approach to*

management through the implementation of mitigation measures, and keep the World Heritage Centre informed of monitoring results;

5. *Welcomes that the Grand Canyon Escalade project was voted down by the Navajo Nation and further requests the State Party to ensure that the project is legally cancelled;*
6. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

83. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO mission; April 2008: World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (Proposed hydropower dams)
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation, uncoordinated development)
- Illegal activities (logging and hunting) (issue resolved)
- Management systems/management plan (problems associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)
- Invasive / alien species (issue resolved)
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The new Iguazú National Park Management Plan 2017-2023 was completed in 2017 and at the time of the submission of the report, the plan was in the final stages of approval process. The current version of the plan was made publically available online in August 2017 upon conclusion of the elaboration and consultation process, which involved multiple stakeholders, including local communities and representatives from the neighbouring Iguazu National Park World Heritage property in Brazil. A buffer zone and a zoning regime within the park are defined by the plan;
- A Monitoring Committee will examine the development and success of the 44 projects identified to support the plan's implementation and that respond to the main medium-term goals for the property's conservation and management, out of which 15 are already part of existing cooperation agreements with Iguazu National Park in Brazil;
- The red soil stretch of the National Route 101 (RN101) that crosses the property was identified as one of the nine key conservation values in the new Management Plan for its importance for nature-based tourism, as well as the fact that the route is frequently crossed by jaguars. Therefore, its preservation in the current unpaved state, including its aesthetic importance, is included as one of the objectives of the new Management Plan. There are no plans for paving or

otherwise modifying RN101 at this time. A dialogue was initiated with the National Roads Department in order to discuss an agreement that would recognize the special status of the road, given that it crosses the national park, and provide a platform for the elaboration of a long-term Management Plan for the road;

- Joint activities with the adjacent Iguazu National Park in Brazil have increased, including joint patrolling and monitoring activities and mutual contribution to the updating of Management Plans in both parks. Various meetings were held in 2017 focused on different topics of common interest. In January 2017, a joint meeting was held between both parks' authorities to determine Projects of Common Interest, the results of which are considered a promising step towards designing and implementing a joint strategy for conservation and management activities in the neighbouring properties.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The elaboration and submission of a new Management Plan for the property is welcomed. It is currently being reviewed by IUCN who may provide comments and recommendations to the State Party as appropriate. It is noted that the new plan defines a buffer zone for Iguazú National Park, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, in order to officially establish a buffer zone for the property as considered appropriate.

Increased cooperation with the neighbouring Iguazu National Park in Brazil should be welcomed, in particular, the joint meeting in January 2017 in which a preliminary plan to address Projects of Common Interest was defined. It is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to continue their efforts in strengthening transboundary cooperation with regards to the management of the two adjacent properties. It is also recommended that the Committee request the two States Parties to clarify whether additional actions are planned in order to further formalize transboundary cooperation, following the signing of a letter of intent between the Administración de Parques Nacionales de Argentina, Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio), the Iguazú National Park in Argentina and the Iguazu National Park in Brazil in 2016, which was welcomed by the Committee in its Decisions **40 COM 7B.69** and **40 COM 7B.70**.

The information provided by the State Party regarding the RN101 is noted, and the confirmation that no plans exist for paving or modifying the road that crosses the property should be welcomed. It should, however, be recalled that concerns have also previously been raised regarding future developments to the road, including beyond the property's boundaries. The new Management Plan also notes an increase in traffic on the road due to the paving of sections outside the property as one of the threats to the property's values due to increase in noise, risk of collision with wildlife and illegal extraction of flora and fauna. The plan further notes, as a potential threat, the existing political pressure to pave the entire RN101, including the stretch within the property. However, while it is stated that no plans currently exist for altering the road within the property, no detailed information is provided by the State Party regarding plans for the development of other road sections outside the property's boundaries, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request clarification as to whether any plans exist for extension or further paving of the road outside the property, which might potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is further noted that it is foreseen to develop, in consultation with the National Roads Department, a long-term Management Plan for the road since it crosses the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that conservation of the property's OUV is fully taken into account in the development of the plan.

The construction of the Baixo Iguazu hydropower dam is discussed in detail in the report on the state of conservation for Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (see Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B, item 84), where it is recommended that the State Party of Brazil be requested by the Committee to ensure that an overall comprehensive monitoring system is in place, both for aquatic fauna and water flow, which would allow oversight of the implementation of requirements and action plans developed for the hydropower project, and assess their effectiveness with regards to mitigation of possible negative impacts on the OUV of both properties, and that cooperation with the State Party of Argentina is established to address these issues. It is therefore recommended that the Committee also request the State Party of Argentina to cooperate with the State Party of Brazil on this matter.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the finalization and submission of the updated Management Plan for the property and requests the State Party to ensure its formal adoption and begin its implementation as soon as possible;
4. Takes note that the Management Plan defines a buffer zone for the property, and encourages the State Party to develop and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies and adoption by the World Heritage Committee, in order to officially establish a buffer zone for the property as considered appropriate;
5. Also welcomes the increased collaboration between the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil in the management of the adjacent properties Iguazú National Park and Iguazu National Park, and also requests both States Parties to continue these efforts and to clarify whether additional actions are planned in order to further formalize transboundary cooperation, following the signing of a letter of intent between the Administración de Parques Nacionales de Argentina, Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio), the Iguazú National Park in Argentina and the Iguazu National Park in Brazil in 2016;
6. Also takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding National Route 101 (RN101) and the confirmation that no plans exist for paving or modifying the stretch of the road within the property, and further requests the State Party to clarify whether any plans exist for extension or further paving of the road outside the property, which might potentially affect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
7. Further takes note that the State Party foresees to develop, in consultation with the National Roads Department, a long-term Management Plan for RN101, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that conservation of the property's OUV is fully taken into account in the development of such a plan;
8. Takes note furthermore that the construction of the Baixo hydroelectric dam project in the vicinity of the neighbouring property of Iguazu National Park in Brazil is currently underway, and therefore requests moreover the State Party of Argentina to cooperate with the State Party of Brazil on the development of a comprehensive overall monitoring system both for aquatic fauna and water flow, which would allow oversight of the implementation of requirements and action plans developed for the hydropower project, and assess their effectiveness with regards to mitigation of possible negative impacts on the OUV of the two properties;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

84. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2001

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 50,000 under the Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for fire fighting planning

Previous monitoring missions

March 1999: IUCN mission; April 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Water infrastructure (construction of a hydropower dam)
- Ground transport infrastructure (draft law and pressure to re-open an illegal road)
- Illegal logging and hunting (issue resolved)
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation, uncoordinated development)
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (issues associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The revision of the management plan for the property has been completed and the new plan is currently going through an approval process expected to be completed by mid-2018;
- The Colono Road remains closed and the Bill approved by the House of Representatives in 2013 proposing its reopening has not been evaluated in the Senate nor is there any proposed schedule to discuss it. The Brazilian Federal Government remains opposed to the Bill and in case it gets approved by the Senate, the President would have the power to veto it;
- The Baixo Iguaçu hydropower dam is currently in its installation phase. The authorization process for the dam took into account the assessment of impacts on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio) oversaw the preparation and approval of work plans for the dam and their compliance with the criteria outlined in the Environmental Authorization. Based on the impacts assessment, a number of requirements were identified for the dam's operation, including establishment of a joint operation rule between Baixo Iguaçu and the existing Salto Caxias dam aimed at mitigating water level oscillation currently present and caused by the operation of Salto Caxias, as well as increasing the minimum water flow. A number of monitoring programmes and a National Action Plan for the conservation of endangered aquatic species of the Baixo Iguaçu basin have been developed in collaboration with the company responsible for the hydropower project;

- Monitoring of key species has been ongoing and an increase in the population of jaguar in the area of the property and the neighbouring Iguazú National Park in Argentina has been observed in recent years;
- Joint activities with the Iguazú National Park in Argentina have been ongoing for several years, including species monitoring, patrolling, as well as cooperation around the recent revision of the management plans of the two parks;
- A technical cooperation agreement was signed between ICMBio, the National Parks Administration (APN) of Argentina and cooperation agencies in Argentina and Brazil, which is aimed at strengthening the capacity of APN and ICMBio in the planning and management of protected areas. However, the agreement currently does not provide for any specific actions in the Iguaçú/Iguazú region.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party with regards to the Baixo Iguaçú hydropower project is noted, including the affirmation that potential impacts on the OUV of the property have been considered in the authorization process. However, it should be recalled that the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to submit this specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. While some general information was included in the State Party's report, no such detailed assessment was provided.

The development of specific operational requirements, which would ensure that impacts on water flow from existing dams on the Iguaçú River would be mitigated by the operation of the new dam, and the development of monitoring programmes and action plans for conservation of aquatic fauna are noted. It will, however, be important to ensure that the implementation and effectiveness of these measures is closely monitored, to ensure the mitigation of the identified negative impacts on the OUV of the property, and that cooperation with the State Party of Argentina is established to address these issues. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to ensure that a comprehensive overall monitoring system to monitor the impacts of the project is in place, both for aquatic fauna and for water flow. The State Party should be requested to submit a preliminary analysis of the effectiveness of these measures with its next report to the World Heritage Committee.

While it is noted that the situation with the Colono Road has not changed and that the State Party remains opposed to the Bill 61/2013 approved by the House of Representatives in 2013 to reopen the road, it should be recalled the World Heritage Committee considered that the situation where the Bill remains pending continues to represent a potential threat to the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its concern in this regard, and that it request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre as soon as the proposed Bill is scheduled to be evaluated by the Senate, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Increased cooperation with the neighbouring Iguazú National Park property in Argentina should be welcomed and the Committee is recommended to request the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil continue these transnational efforts with regards to the management of the two adjacent properties. It is also recommended that the Committee request the two States Parties to clarify whether additional cooperative actions are planned following the signing of a letter of intent between Administración de Parques Nacionales de Argentina, ICMBio, the Iguaçú National Park in Brazil and the Iguazú National Park in Argentina in 2016, which was welcomed by the Committee in its Decisions **40 COM 7B.69** and **40 COM 7B.70**.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.70, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. *Notes the information provided by the State Party regarding the Baixo Iguaçú dam and the affirmation that specific impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been taken into account in the authorization process for this project, regrets that no specific assessment of the impacts on the OUV of the property has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to proceeding with the project, and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently submit this assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and to ensure that the construction of the dam complies with all recommendations of the 2015 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;*
4. *Also notes the development of specific operational requirements which would ensure that impacts from existing dams on the Iguaçú River on the water flow would be mitigated by the operation of the new dam, and the development of monitoring programmes and action plans for conservation of aquatic fauna, however, requests the State Party to ensure, in cooperation with the State Party of Argentina, that an overall comprehensive monitoring system is in place, both for aquatic fauna and water flow, which would allow oversight of the implementation of requirements and action plans and assess their effectiveness with regards to mitigation of possible negative impacts on the OUV of the two properties, and to submit a preliminary analysis of the effectiveness of these measures with its next report to the World Heritage Committee;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the confirmation that the Colono Road remains closed, that currently the proposed Bill that would provide a legal basis for its reopening is not scheduled for discussion in the Senate, reiterates its position that the situation where Bill 61/2013 remains pending continues to represent a potential threat to the property, and also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre as soon as the proposed Bill is scheduled for discussion in Senate, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Welcomes the increased collaboration between the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil in the management of the adjacent properties Iguazú National Park and Iguaçú National Park, and further requests both States Parties to continue their efforts in this field and to clarify whether additional actions are planned in order to further formalize this transboundary cooperation, following the signing of a letter of intent between Administración de Parques Nacionales de Argentina, Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio), the Iguazú National Park in Argentina and the Iguaçú National Park in Brazil in 2016;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

85. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2007-2010

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 25 (from 1979-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 567,850

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD3.5 million for the capitalization of an introduced species Trust Fund, management of introduced species, tourism management studies and other technical support

Previous monitoring missions

June 1996: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); February 2003: UNESCO mission; June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); April 2009: UNESCO informal visit; April-May 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Legal framework (inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos)
- Governance
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (high immigration rate)
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing / collection of aquatic resources
- Invasive Alien Species / biosecurity (inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/>

Current conservation issues

From 21 to 25 August 2017, an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property and on 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>. The State Party provides the following information:

- Different regulations and proposed instruments were developed in the framework of the Special Law for the Special Regime of the Galápagos Province (LOREG 2015), which includes a chapter introducing more severe sanctions, for environmental, biosecurity and other infractions;
- Solid waste management has improved through strengthening infrastructure for recycling, composting and a landfill for non-recyclable waste. The wastewater management systems are currently in different stages of implementation within the islands;
- A new zoning system was introduced and approved by ministerial agreement in mid-2016 and its implementation began in 2017. It integrates the terrestrial and marine protected areas under the same use categories. The four zones defined were the transition, conservation, sustainable use and intangible zones, and 25 types of uses were identified, with permitted activities and requirements. Almost 34% of the property falls under zones where extractive activities are

- prohibited. In parallel, the Marine Sanctuary of Darwin and Wolf was established in the northern islands as an additional conservation zone;
- A vessel monitoring surveillance system is in place in the Galápagos Marine Reserve. Despite significant efforts, illegal fishing activities inside the property remain a problem and international illegal industrial fishing in the region remains of high concern, as shown by the capture of a Chinese vessel in August 2017 carrying over 600 tonnes of catch, of which most were shark species listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The State Party notes that illegal fishing is impacting the entire region which requires regional coordinated action;
 - The Galápagos Tourism Accommodation Regulations define the types of accommodation and their minimum environmental compliance requirements. A tourism infrastructure census was undertaken in 2015 and 2016 and all previously unregulated accommodations were brought into compliance with the new norms. In the process, an excess in tourism accommodation supply was noted. As of September 2017, visitor growth had increased by 4.25% compared with 2016. In 2016 and 2017, measures taken to ensure that tourism remains sustainable included maintaining the number of flights to the limit established in 2012 and a moratorium on development of new tourism projects. The State Party expresses its commitment to promote a zero growth tourism model;
 - In terms of biosecurity, the cargo facility in Guayaquil has not yet been constructed. However, the number of staff of the Galápagos Biosecurity Agency (AGB) has increased, and in 2016 100% of commercial and private flights and different types of vessels were inspected. There was new equipment introduced, and the construction of a new specialized laboratory is planned.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The significant ongoing efforts by the State Party to address the longstanding issues, as well as further consolidate governance and institutional arrangements related to the management of the property, should be commended.

The 2017 mission confirmed the overall significant progress in addressing the many threats facing the property. However, it noted that some of the Committee's requests of 2010 when the property was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger remain unresolved. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to address all pending issues, particularly those related to tourism management and biosecurity, as discussed in more detail below, and to fully implement the 2017 mission recommendations, including those related to new emerging issues, such as illegal fishing.

The infrastructure improvement of solid waste and wastewater management are welcomed. However, these efforts should ensure that all islands have appropriate waste management systems in place. The installation of wastewater treatment plants in larger tourism accommodation facilities should be encouraged. Despite the State Party's efforts to reduce plastic waste, plastic carried to shore by oceanic currents remains a problem.

The establishment of the new zoning system and the new Marine Sanctuary of Darwin and Wolf within the property is welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide adequate resources to enable the enforcement of the restrictions that apply to these areas and ensure the preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

It is noted with concern that illegal fishing by foreign vessels inside and outside the property continues to represent a serious threat to the property's OUV and requires immediate attention. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts to address illegal fishing, including by strengthening cooperation with the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama through different international mechanisms, such as the Eastern Tropical Pacific Corridor cooperation and concentrating efforts around the four natural marine World Heritage properties located in this region. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue collaborating with other States Parties whose fishing vessels are found to operate illegally within the property or illegally target migratory species that are part of the property's OUV.

It is recommended that the Committee note with satisfaction the different improvements in the biosecurity controls and the approved location for the Guayaquil port. Nevertheless, the 2017 mission reports that the port's construction has not yet started due to a lack of funding and that there is no substantial progress in the implementation of the project for the Baltra port. Therefore, it is necessary to reiterate the establishment of both ports as key measures for biosecurity control, as has been requested in past Decisions.

The various measures to restrain uncontrolled tourism growth in the property are noted, however, the current increase of visitors and its impacts on the fragile ecosystems are factors that require further attention. The State Party has noted a commitment to promote a zero growth tourism model, which should be further developed and adopted as a priority. It is suggested that this model be integrated into the updated Management Plan currently under revision and that its measures should be sustained in the long term as permanent regulations, including maintaining the limits on the number of flights and the moratorium on the development of new tourism projects.

Decision: 42 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.74, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party for progress achieved with the further consolidation of governance and institutional arrangements related to the management of the property and with addressing the longstanding issues facing the property;*
4. *Notes with concern that, despite this progress, some of the requests made during its 34th session in 2010 when the property was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger remain unresolved, and urges the State Party to implement all pending requests, particularly those related to tourism management and biosecurity, and requests the State Party to fully implement the recommendations made by the 2017 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;*
5. *Takes note of the various measures implemented by the State Party to discourage rapid and uncontrolled tourism growth in the property, and its commitment to a zero growth tourism model, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop and implement a clear tourism strategy that ensures that suitable measures are sustained in the long term as permanent regulations, including maintaining the moratorium on construction of new tourism projects and the limits on the number of flights;*
6. *Welcomes the establishment of a new zoning system within the property, including a new marine sanctuary and designation of other marine no-take zones, and also requests the State Party to provide adequate resources to enable the enforcement of the restrictions that apply to these areas and ensure the preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
7. *Also notes with concern that illegal fishing by foreign vessels in and outside the property continues to represent a threat to its OUV and further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to address this threat, including by:*
 - a) *Building on existing collaboration between the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama to address international illegal fishing within the framework of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Corridor cooperation and other appropriate regional mechanisms, concentrating around the four natural marine World Heritage properties located in this region,*
 - b) *Strengthening collaboration with other States Parties whose fishing vessels are found to be operating illegally within the property, or are illegally targeting migratory species that are part of the property's OUV;*

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

86. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late finalization of the mission report)

87. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 350,000 (for management planning, installation of mooring buoys for diving boats, working with local communities, capacity building, public use planning and improved stakeholder understanding of legal protection measures)

Previous monitoring missions

January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
- Management systems/management plan (delayed implementation of the Management Plan)
- Marine transport infrastructure (planned construction of a naval base)
- Legal framework (absence of clear regulations)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Human resources (insufficient management capacity)
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and additional information on 31 January 2018. Both documents are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/> and provide the following information:

- Removal of feral livestock from Coiba Island has continued. Horses and cows are stated to no longer be present and the remaining numbers of buffalos are estimated at 30-40 animals. The livestock removal programme is expected to be completed by April 2018;
- The Board of Directors of Coiba National Park approved the operationalization of the Coiba Fund through the Waters, Protected Areas and Wildlife Trust in September 2017;
- A Public Use Plan (PUP) was elaborated for the property in accordance with the provisions of the Management Plan and was approved by the Board of Directors of Coiba National Park in January 2018;
- In consultation with the fisheries sector, new fisheries regulations were prepared for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP), based on the Sustainable Fishing Use Plan of Coiba National Park and taking into account the recommendations of recent Reactive Monitoring missions. The regulations were approved by the Commission for the Sustainable Management of Fisheries in the SZMP on 26 January 2018 and are expected to be approved by the Board of Directors of Coiba National Park in May 2018. The main changes introduced to the regulations compared to the earlier version relate, among others, to industrial fishing and the proposed zonation, including elimination of the previously proposed seasonal fishing zone where longline tuna fishing would be allowed during certain periods, and to establishing restrictions on the maximum size of fishing boats. The regulations will be re-evaluated within 3 years to assess progress achieved.

On 16 February 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarifications with regards to third party information raising concerns about plans to construct airport infrastructure on Coiba Island. The State Party responded to this letter on 14 and 27 March 2018 clarifying that a public tender process was open for the study, design, rehabilitation and maintenance of the Central Camp Landing Strip on Coiba Island, which is foreseen in the Management Plan of Coiba National Park. Currently the conditions of the landing strip do not meet the minimum civil aviation safety requirements.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation that the removal of feral livestock from Coiba Island has continued and is expected to be successfully completed in 2018 should be welcomed. However, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to establish a follow-up monitoring programme to ensure that the successful removal of livestock can be confirmed over the longer-term.

A review of the PUP reveals that it follows the zonation adopted in the Management Plan for Coiba National Park and does not propose any changes in this regard; however, it proposes some significant expansions of existing infrastructure within the property, including different types of accommodation facilities, which might go beyond the scope of improving existing facilities used by park staff and visitors. It is also unclear if an assessment has been undertaken of potential negative impacts of such infrastructure expansion and the associated increase in visitor numbers, and how the carrying capacity proposed for certain places and activities has been estimated, as the PUP notes that no plans or programmes for monitoring of tourism impacts currently exist for the property. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to suspend the implementation of the PUP until an assessment of the potential negative impacts of its provisions on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has been undertaken and to submit such an assessment, prior to its final adoption, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. The proposed restoration of the Central Camp Landing Strip will also require a specific assessment of any potential impacts on the OUV of the property, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will need to be prepared for the project and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to initiating works. Furthermore, it should be considered that such restoration should be aimed strictly at improving the facilities to meet safety requirements and not to facilitate increased passenger air traffic to Coiba Island.

While the previously proposed seasonal industrial tuna fishing zone has been excluded from the current version of the fisheries regulations for the SZMP, the previously foreseen establishment of a marine reserve around Isla Montuosa is replaced with a zone of restricted access around this island. Overall, the regulations still provide for commercial fishing of a wide range of species and it remains unclear how they would guarantee the preservation of the property's OUV. Furthermore, a study on the health of coral reefs in the property annexed to the State Party's report notes a degradation in the state of corals, potentially attributing it, in addition to global threats, to local and regional changes in ecosystems, particularly to a decline of herbivorous fish species, some of which are of commercial interest in the region. It should also be recalled that the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that if issues related to fisheries management within the property cannot be resolved by the end of 2018 in a manner that will ensure the long-term preservation of the OUV in the marine portion of the property, then the

inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger should be considered by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019. Specific requests for seasonal closures recommended by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission have also not been implemented. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to further revise the regulations for the SZMP in line with previous requests of the Committee to establish no-take zones and seasonal closures of critical areas, in order to ensure that they are aligned with the existing regulations in place for Coiba National Park and guarantee the preservation of the property's OUV, and to ensure the provisions of adequate resources for the efficient enforcement of fisheries regulations throughout the property. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to establish a monitoring system to assess progress with the establishment and enforcement of regulations within the marine component of the property, as recommended by the 2014 and 2016 missions.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 41st session (Kraków, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the continued progress made by the State Party in removing feral livestock from Coiba Island, and requests the State Party to establish a follow-up monitoring programme to confirm the successful removal of feral livestock from the island in the long term;*
4. *Notes with serious concern that the Public Use Plan (PUP) foresees expansion of existing infrastructure and that potential negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have not been properly considered when developing the plan, and therefore urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *suspend the implementation of the PUP until an assessment of the potential negative impacts of its provisions on the OUV of the property, based on rigorous scientific data, is completed and submitted by **1 December 2019** to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,*
 - b) *ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the airport infrastructure project is elaborated, in line with the IUCN World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessments, and submitted by **1 December 2019** to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to beginning works on the project,*
 - c) *establish a comprehensive programme to monitor tourism impacts on the property in order to inform the elaboration of any future tourism-related plans and programmes;*
5. *Also takes note of the revised fisheries regulations for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) of the property, but also notes with serious concern that it remains unclear how these regulations would guarantee the long-term preservation of the OUV of the property, and also urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *further revise the regulations for the SZMP in line with previous Committee requests to establish unequivocal no-take zones and seasonal closures of critical areas, in order to ensure that they are aligned with the existing regulations in place for Coiba National Park and guarantee the preservation of the property's OUV,*
 - b) *ensure the provision of adequate resources for the efficient enforcement of fisheries regulations throughout the property,*

- c) *establish a monitoring system to assess progress with the establishment and enforcement of regulations within the marine component of the property, as recommended by the 2014 and 2016 Reactive Monitoring missions;*
6. ***Recalls** the conclusion of the 2016 mission that if issues related to fisheries management within the property cannot be resolved by the end of 2018 in a manner that will ensure the long-term preservation of the OUV in the marine portion of the property, consideration should be given to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger during its 43rd session in 2019;*
7. ***Also requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in protecting the property from unsustainable fisheries, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

88. Pitons Management Area (Saint-Lucia) (N 1161)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 19,950

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Renewable energy facilities (geothermal energy exploration)
- Absence of strict development control process (issue resolved)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property and on 22 February and 12 March 2018 additional information regarding a potential geothermal project, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>. The State Party provides the following information:

- A recent assessment revealed that there was 40% success with the eradication of alien invasive plant species activities undertaken in 2015. The next phase of eradication activities is being

- planned and the outcomes will contribute to the development of more effective long-term measures for management and eradication;
- The integration of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study into the legal and regulatory frameworks was launched with the intention to seek financing from Saint Lucia's geothermal energy development initiative through the World Bank for its implementation. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) developed in 2015 for drafting the LAC Regulations were reviewed by the World Bank with no objections, and the final output is expected by mid-2018;
- Demarcation of the boundaries of "policy areas", as well as the establishment of buffer zones to protect other vulnerable areas from potential future development, is ongoing, and the final outcomes will be delivered to the World Heritage Centre;
- The work on the Freedom Bay Development Project has been slowed since 2016 as the developers continue to be engaged in a dialogue with the Department of Physical Development in order to ensure that the development is within the parameters of the LAC study. Some amendments to the project have been proposed in light of this cooperation;
- Another Landscape Viewpoint Monitoring exercise was undertaken and concluded that changes that have occurred since inscription have not altered the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- ToRs for the review of the Management Plan for the property have been developed and funding is being sought to support this review;
- The proposed geothermal energy project is currently in an exploratory phase and is following all necessary protocols, and the State Party reiterates its intention to ensure that the project will not produce any negative impact to the property.

The draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Saint Lucia Geothermal Resource Exploration Project, the ToRs for the ESIA, and the Pre-Feasibility Study of a proposed Geothermal Project submitted by the State Party provide the following information:

- Three broad areas with geothermal potential (Areas 1a, 1b and 2) were initially identified through a geoscientific study. One of them partially overlaps with the property and therefore was excluded from further consideration. In the remaining two areas, three preliminary target areas were identified at the pre-feasibility stage, and within those several specific potential drilling locations. While none of the proposed drilling locations overlap with the property, two are located within the "green buffer" area as defined by the LAC study;
- Impacts from the exploration project on landscapes and views are considered minor and temporary, and the project areas would not be seen from the established tourist viewpoints.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Recalling that the LAC study defines appropriate levels of development in different zones or "policy areas" established within the property, it is of concern that its integration into the regulatory framework of Saint Lucia has not yet been completed, and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that the LAC Regulations are developed and approved as a matter of priority, and to submit the completed Regulations to the World Heritage Centre. The ongoing dialogue between the developers of the Freedom Bay project and the Department of Physical Development in order to ensure that the development is within the parameters of the LAC study is noted and should be continued. However, no information has been provided by the State Party regarding the Sugar Beach development project, which has also previously been examined by the Committee. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information regarding all existing project proposals that are currently being considered for implementation and ensure that they are fully compliant with the LAC framework.

It is further noted that ToRs for the review of the Management Plan for the property have been developed and that funding is being sought to support this review. It is recommended that the Committee encourage again the State Party to fully reflect the conclusions of the LAC study in the planned revision of the Management Plan, as well as the clarification of boundaries and buffer zones, and request that the revised Management Plan is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, once completed.

The information that the proposed drilling areas for the Saint Lucia Geothermal Resource Exploration Project are located outside the property, and that impacts from exploration activities on landscapes and viewpoints are considered minor and temporary, is noted. The State Party's decision not to consider one of the broad areas with geothermal potential which partially overlapped with the property is welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the property remains

off-limits for any future geothermal development activities, including exploration and exploitation. It is further noted that the conclusions of the ESIA apply only to the exploration phase of the project, and that a new ESIA, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the property's OUV, will be required in case the project proceeds to the exploitation phase.

It is noted that two of the proposed drilling areas for the project are located within the "green buffer" area established by the LAC study. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to accelerate the demarcation of the policy area boundaries defined by the LAC study, to formally establish a buffer zone for the property and to clarify the types of activities permitted in this buffer zone. It is recommended that, once established, the buffer zone be officially recognized under the *World Heritage Convention* through a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with the provisions of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B;*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);*
3. *Takes note of the initiation of the integration of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study into the legal and regulatory frameworks of Saint Lucia, urges the State Party to ensure that the LAC Regulations are developed as a matter of priority and requests the State Party to submit the completed LAC Regulations to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available;*
4. *Notes the ongoing dialogue between the developers of the Freedom Bay project and the Department of Physical Development regarding the compatibility of the development within the parameters of the LAC study and also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on this and any other projects being considered for implementation, including the Sugar Beach development project, and ensure that they are fully compliant with the provisions of the LAC study;*
5. *Reiterates its request to fully reflect the conclusions of the LAC study in the planned revision of the Management Plan, and to submit the revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, once available;*
6. *Welcomes the State Party's decision not to consider any proposed geothermal drilling areas within the boundaries of the property and further requests the State Party to ensure that the property remains off-limits for any future geothermal development activities, including exploration and exploitation, and that a new Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is completed, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, in the event that the project proceeds to the exploitation phase;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to:*
 - a) *Accelerate the demarcation of the policy area boundaries defined by the LAC study to protect the integrity of the property from visual impacts,*
 - b) *Formalize the status of the buffer zone of the property as a formal World Heritage buffer zone through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines,*

- c) *Clearly define the types of activities permitted in this buffer zone, ensuring their compatibility with the conservation of the property's OUV;*
8. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

AFRICA

89. Okavango Delta (Botswana) (N 1432)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2012-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 27,080

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 150,000 from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2017-2019)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Transboundary management of water resources
- Lack of wildlife monitoring programme
- Animal sanitation and diseases
- Mining exploration licenses overlapping with the buffer zone
- Management and governance
- Engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/>, and reports the following:

- All prospecting licences (petroleum and metals) in the buffer zone have been relinquished. In return, seven alternative licenses, located to the southwest of the panhandle, would be renewed in January 2018. The State Party will continue to monitor the activities;
- The Okavango Delta Management Plan review process has been initiated with International Assistance and the State Party's own funds. It will address the majority of the Committee requests, namely, the integration of wildlife monitoring protocols in the systematic wildlife monitoring programme, management effectiveness, governance, access, cultural rights and benefit sharing;
- The Community Based Natural Resource Programme continues and tourism is promoted through community concession areas;
- The Wildlife Conservation Research Strategic Plan (2014-2020) is being implemented but the annual aerial survey could not be undertaken due to financial constraints. The data of the surveys undertaken by private concessionaires will be integrated into a wildlife monitoring database expected to be functional at the beginning of 2018;
- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the veterinary cordon fences has not yet been conducted due to lack of funds;
- Biological control of the invasive *Salvinia* weed is continuing, and boats and fishing gear are regulated to prevent spread;

- The States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia are collaborating through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) to ensure any proposed major developments within the watershed are subject to an EIA. Notably, OKACOM has commissioned guidelines on the implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on shared watercourses, and initiated a study on the status of the wider Cubango-Okavango river basin;
- In March 2017, the construction of a 1.16 km cable-stayed bridge and the hardening of the associated 3 km approach road at Mohembo began based on a 2009 EIA. The project aims to provide a more reliable transport route to the existing motorised pontoon, to connect villages to public services and to attract visitors.

On 16 February 2018, the State Party submitted additional information regarding the EIA of the Mohembo bridge, including a sketch plan and pictures of the proposed bridge, a revised chapter on the hydrological studies, and a response from the Department of Roads.

Lastly, with the support of the UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust cooperation and UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, the COMPACT grant-making programme will be initiated within the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is welcomed that all prospecting licences in the buffer zone will be relinquished and that the State Party commits to monitor the activities outside of the buffer zone. However, the alternative concession zones adjacent to the buffer zone and the property raise some concerns. It is therefore important to ensure that an EIA, including an assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property is undertaken before any exploration activities are initiated.

The tripartite collaboration through OKACOM is appreciated, especially as regards the commitment to undertake an EIA for proposed major developments as per Decision **40 COM 7B.78** and to develop guidelines to assist with the implementation of the SADC Protocol. The guidelines should offer a coordinated mechanism at a basin-wide scale for the three riparian states to provide prior notification on planned activities that could cause transnational impacts. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that any development in the Okavango watershed which would lead to water abstraction is highly likely to impact the OUV of the property. Given the complexity and the extent of the basin, the impacts should be assessed at the strategic level and at the landscape scale through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, rather than EIAs looking at individual projects.

It is noted with appreciation that the State Party has initiated the International Assistance project to review the Management Plan of the property. The efforts to control invasive alien species and to promote community engagement are also noted and should be continued. The reported lack of funding to undertake an EIA for the veterinary cordon fences and aerial wildlife survey is of concern, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to increase funding for the conservation of the property.

The EIA for the proposed Mohembo Bridge predates the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and the project was not mentioned at the time of nomination. Due to the Ramsar status of the Delta, hydrological impacts have been assessed in the EIA and the identified mitigation measures should be implemented. Recommendations such as the need to undertake an EIA for all borrow pits and new quarries for construction material are strongly supported. As confirmed by the State Party in its letter of 16 February 2018, considering the newly acquired World Heritage status, additional assessments and mitigation measures are necessary to ensure specific protection of OUV attributes. For example, greater consideration should be given to wildlife movements, seasonality of biotic and abiotic factors, invasive alien species, as well as disturbance from construction and use of the bridge. The State Party's intention to liaise closely with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in developing the revised EIA is noted with appreciation.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.5** and **40 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions, respectively,
3. Welcomes the cancellation of all petroleum and metals prospecting licenses in the buffer zone and the State Party's commitment to continue monitoring the activities, but noting the location of the alternative licensing zones close to the buffer zone and the property, requests the State Party to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including an assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, is undertaken before any exploration activity is initiated, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
4. Appreciates the collaboration between the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) to ensure any proposed major development within the Okavango watershed is subject to an EIA, and that there is a coordinated mechanism to notify each State Party of activities that can have transnational impacts;
5. Taking into account the potential impact on the property's OUV of any development leading to water abstraction within the watershed and the complexity and the extent of the basin, urges the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia to assess impacts of any development at the strategic level and at the landscape scale through a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
6. Notes with appreciation the initiation of the review of the Okavango Delta Management Plan in order to reflect the property's World Heritage status, to improve the effectiveness of the institutional arrangements and to address outstanding conservation and management issues, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts to:
 - a) Expand and strengthen programmes, which accommodate traditional resource use for livelihoods, user access rights, cultural rights and access to opportunities to participate in the tourism sector, in keeping with the property's OUV,
 - b) Address a range of other protection and management issues including governance, stakeholder empowerment, management planning, management capacity, and control of invasive alien species;
7. Notes with concern that an EIA for the veterinary cordon fences and aerial wildlife surveys could not be undertaken due to financial constraints, and also requests the State Party to provide further financial support to the conservation of the property;
8. Further noting that the construction of a cable-stayed bridge across the panhandle area of the property and hardening of the associated approach road has begun at Mohembo based on a 2009 EIA, considers that the measures identified in the EIA are insufficient as they do not take into account the property's World Heritage status, and further requests the State Party to revise the EIA, in line with the IUCN Advice Note, prior to continuing the work, in order to include an assessment of the potential impacts of the construction and use of the bridge and the road on the property's OUV, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.*

90. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 84,700

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 60,000, UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; USD 263,700 from Franz Weber Foundation (2012 to 2017) and USD 600,000 in the framework of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) (2017 to 2019)

Previous monitoring missions

March 1998: UNESCO monitoring mission; June 2006, December 2009, February-March 2012 and November-December 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of approval and implementation of management plan
- Agricultural and forest encroachment
- Mining exploitation project close to the property (issue resolved)
- Industrial agriculture in the buffer zone
- Threats exerted by commercial hunting and deforestation around the property
- Mékin hydroelectric dam
- Poaching

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>, providing the following information in response to the recommendations of the 2015 mission:

- The anti-poaching combat efforts have been intensified and the Dja Faunal Reserve (DFR) currently has 93 guards. The staff has benefited from numerous capacity-building training sessions concerning the use of the SMART monitoring tool (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool), the positioning of camera traps, military training and procedures relating to wildlife crimes;
- Strengthened cooperation between the DFR and the different administrations has brought 44 cases to court, of which 29 are still under investigation. In December 2017, the guards arrested a trafficker in possession of 216 ivory tusks. His case was referred to the judiciary;
- The efforts of the patrols have enabled the seizure of 27 firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, the closure of 300 poachers' camps and the dismantling of 700 traps;
- The placing of 40 camera traps has strengthening surveillance and monitoring of wildlife in the property. In total, 32 species of mammals have been detected, including the western lowland

gorilla, elephant, leopard and pangolin. This data proves that the DFR remains an important habitat for the conservation of large wildlife despite commercial hunting, and that the forest remains intact;

- The concertation framework for the DFR stakeholders is operational and continues its awareness-raising activities for the local communities;
- The Directorate of the Hydro-Mékin dam project is taking measures to limit the impacts on the populations, notably by paying out compensation. Technical studies are ongoing to evaluate the environmental aspects of the dam. In 2017, numerous contracts were signed with various bodies to conduct these studies;
- Concerning the rubber plantation, in 2015 the Sud Cameroon Hévéa Society obtained an additional concession of 13,000 hectares. It has also planned the construction, in 2018, of a latex treatment facility based in the southern concession; located in the periphery of the property. It is foreseen that in total staff at the plantation will number 30,000 persons.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In the light of the information provided, it is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for its efforts to strengthen surveillance and ecological monitoring, as well as the anti-poaching combat with financial support from the European Union – ECOFAC 6 Programme (Conservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems Support Programme) and the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI), with technical support from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). Whilst acknowledging that the number of guards remains insufficient, the seizure of 216 ivory tusks in December 2017 is one of the most important in the last few years in Central Africa and is to be commended. It is recommended that the Committee strongly encourage the State Party to continue these efforts and requests strict enforcement of the law in the domain of wildlife crime.

Despite incessant poaching, confirmation of the presence of large wildlife is encouraging. An inventory, foreseen for May/June 2018, will be fundamental for the wildlife assessment, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to transmit this data to the World Heritage Centre to enable an evaluation of the state of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

With regard to the extension by 13,000 hectares of the concession, granted to the Sud Cam Hévéa Company and the envisaged installation of a latex treatment facility, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the State Party on 14 February 2017, requesting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) of these projects. In the framework of a mission for the CAWHFI project in March 2018, the World Heritage Centre met with the Cameroon authorities to discuss these new developments that remain worrying and continue to threaten the OUV of the property. The mission also visited the DFR where it met with technical staff of the rubber plantation. It noted that the ESIA had been carried out and had not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and made no reference to the OUV of the property. The mission also proposed that the national authorities receive an advisory mission in the framework of the project to conduct an independent evaluation of the impact of the agro-industrial project on the property. Representatives of the Company indicated their willingness to cooperate with the World Heritage Centre and indicated that they would take into consideration the recommendations proposed by this advisory mission to limit damage caused by their activities to the DFR.

Concerning the Mékin dam, the mission for the CAWHFI project recalled that the current ESIA is not in conformity with the standards for a World Heritage property, and it is expected that the Company submit, as soon as it is available, the ongoing studies: socio-economic to measure the impact of the impoundment of the dam on the local populations, and environmental to evaluate its impact on the state of conservation of the DFR. The Company has undertaken some measures, but they remain insufficient to curb the degradation of the habitat in the western part of the property.

During the CAWHFI mission, the team was informed of other projects under study located in the periphery of the property that could have an impact on its OUV (e.g. roads, mines and dam). It is recommended that the Committee express its concern as to the new developments and recalls the importance of avoiding acceptance of any new project that could aggravate the existing threats because, despite the progress accomplished in the management of the property, the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger still remains an eventuality should further infrastructures be added. It is recommended that the Committee grant an additional year to the State Party before considering this option, in order to obtain the results of the Advisory mission and the inventories.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts in strengthening surveillance and technical capacities and equipment for the guards, as well as the increased patrol efforts, appreciates the support of donors and technical partners for their support in the conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts to reinforce the number of guards;
4. Notes with concern the seizure of 216 ivory tusks in December 2017, one of the most important in recent years in Central Africa, and also congratulates the State Party for the rigorous enforcement of the law as concerns wildlife crime;
5. Takes note of the indications that confirm the presence of large wildlife in the property, and also requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre the data of the 2017 inventory, as soon as it is available, to enable an evaluation of the state of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Expresses its utmost concern as regards the extension of the rubber agro-industrial project, and regrets that no Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre before this extension was decided and that the current study does not respond to the international standards applied to World Heritage properties;
7. Again expresses its concern as regards the damage caused to the local communities, their plantations and on the forestry ecosystem due to the partial impoundment of the Mékin dam, and urges the State Party to urgently implement the Environmental and Social Management Plan (PGES) ensuring that mitigation measures regarding the negative impacts of the dam on the property and the populations are being implemented;
8. Reminds the State Party of the importance of avoiding acceptance of any new project that could aggravate the existing threats and compromise the progress achieved in the management of the property, and reiterates that all projects must be the subject of an ESIA prior to approval, including a specific evaluation of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment;
9. Also takes note of the willingness of the State Party to welcome an advisory mission to assess the impacts of the agro-industrial projects on the property and enable the State Party to undertake the necessary measures to limit these impacts on its OUV;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned measures and those contained in its Decision 40 COM 7B.79, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

91. 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 1996-2017

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

- Major declines of the Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations and of other large mammals
- Loss of biodiversity
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property
- Impacts of road construction through the property

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1978 to 2013)

Total amount approved: USD 323,171

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 (2012-2015) in support of community conservation programme with co-financing from Global Environment Fund (GEF) and development of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy (UNESCO-Spain-Funds-in Trust and UNESCO-Netherlands-Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2006 and 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Road construction through the property
- Power transmission line affecting exceptional natural beauty and conditions of integrity
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property and crop cultivation in the property
- Growing resource-dependent, economically poor population around the national park
- Overgrazing by livestock
- Human-wildlife conflict, including fatal leopard attacks, livestock predation and crop-raiding
- Declining populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species
- Poaching in remote areas, including of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf
- Impacts and risks associated with tourism development and visitation
- Management suffering from scarce human and financial resources
- Limited local participation in management and governance
- Pending Significant Boundary Modification to recognize the substantial expansion of the national park
- Uncommon precipitation and temperature patterns over recent years attributed to climate change

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents>, providing the following information:

- The removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2017 was marked jointly with the high-level celebration of the National Park's 50th anniversary;
- Funding from the German Government (KfW) has been secured to further address the impacts of the relocation of the Gich community and to support park management, to be implemented by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in cooperation with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation

Authority (EWCA), according to an action plan being developed. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), a long-standing partner, renewed its commitment to support the property and its surroundings;

- EWCA is planning an independent study to confirm the population status of the three flagship mammals – Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and gelada – and is considering the development of comprehensive monitoring protocols;
- The Ethiopian Wolves Conservation Project is continuing, with research activities underway to understand behavior and impacts of habitat change;
- The approved livelihood restoration strategy and programme aim to address the vulnerability of the voluntarily relocated Gich community, having to transform from rural to urban lifestyles and livelihoods;
- The construction of the road re-alignment from Mekane Birhan to Dilyibza is almost completed, and the related Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The re-alignment of the power transmission line will follow the completion of the alternative road;
- The development of four additional lodges along the park's border is facing delays, and to date, only one project proponent has submitted an EIA to EWCA, which will be shared with the World Heritage Centre;
- Implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy has already resulted in the recovery of vegetation in some areas, but the strategy is expected to be revised by late 2018 to make the work plan more realistic;
- Task forces at various governance levels have been strengthened to improve community participation and benefit-sharing;
- The existing draft nomination to formalize the requested Significant Boundary Modification will be further elaborated in parallel to the development of the new General Management Plan (GMP) for the park and its buffer zone by the end of 2019.

On 5 March 2018, the State Party submitted three supporting documents: Regulation no. 337/2014 designating the new boundaries of the Simien Mountains National Park, a 2013 draft proposal for a boundary modification; and a map displaying the current boundaries of the National Park and a surrounding buffer zone.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The high-level celebration organized to mark the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the anniversary of the national park constitutes an impressive re-affirmation, on the part of the Ethiopian authorities, of the iconic status of the Simien Mountains and the Walia ibex in Ethiopia. The renewed donor interest is similarly encouraging and can make a decisive contribution to address the well-documented challenges Simien continues to face. It is therefore encouraged that the related project documents and operational plans be shared with the World Heritage Centre. While appreciating progress made, continued efforts are required to secure effective management and conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), guided by the Committee's requests and the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission.

Acknowledging the challenges surrounding the relocation of the Gich community, the KfW-funded efforts to fulfill all commitments, including implementing the livelihood restoration strategy and programme, should be continued, taking care to apply the highest standards, especially in support of vulnerable households and individuals.

The revision of the General Management Plan (GMP) presents the first opportunity to determine priorities at the scale of the substantially enlarged national park and establish a buffer zone in the adjacent areas. Key objectives of management should continue to focus on effective reduction of overgrazing, while promoting alternative livelihoods and meaningful local participation in management and governance, along with tourism management. The reported recovery of the vegetation resulting from the implementation of the existing Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy is welcomed, and the commitment to further develop this strategy is appreciated. The updated grazing strategy should be incorporated into the next GMP. Clear monitoring protocols for the populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and gelada need to be agreed upon as soon as possible and should also be integrated in the GMP as part of a systematic long-term monitoring programme.

The State Party's commitment to a Significant Boundary Modification to align the boundaries of the property and the National Park is highly welcomed, and the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are prepared to provide advice to complete the draft nomination dossier to be submitted for adoption by the

Committee. The State Party should take advantage of this process to simultaneously formalize the buffer zone and to harmonize the currently differing names of the national park and the property.

While noting progress made to complete the overdue alternative road aiming at reducing disturbance caused by the existing main road traversing the park, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to complete the works and to submit the EIA for the part of the new road crossing the national park. It is appreciated that the State Party is committed to re-align the power transmission line, which currently affects the property's natural beauty and its conditions of integrity, upon completion of the new road. As recommended by the 2017 mission, the management of all road and energy infrastructure should be specified in the upcoming GMP. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7A.13**, and that no new lodges are foreseen in the current GMP and that they are prohibited in national parks according to Regulations No. 163/2008, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that all new lodge developments are located outside the boundary of the National Park and that EIAs for these projects are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7A.43** and **41 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for organizing a major event to mark the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the 50th anniversary of Simien Mountains National Park, thereby demonstrating its strong political commitment to conserving the property, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to secure effective management and conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Appreciates the renewed interest on the part of donors and non-governmental partners to support the property and its surroundings, and encourages the State Party to share the related project documents and operational plans with the World Heritage Centre;
5. Welcomes the follow-up to previous Committee decisions and to the 2017 mission recommendations, and also requests the State Party to implement the outstanding decisions and recommendations, in particular to:
 - a) Finalize the new General Management Plan (GMP), to be applied to the enlarged national park and its buffer zone, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review,
 - b) Give management priority to realistic, fundable and socially acceptable responses to overgrazing, the promotion of alternative livelihoods and enhanced tourism management, and integrate related objectives and plans as part of the GMP,
 - c) Agree upon clear, systematic and long-term monitoring protocols for the populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and gelada as soon as possible and integrate them in the GMP,
 - d) Strengthen the participation of local communities in the management and governance of the property;
6. Also welcomes the ongoing support to the livelihoods and well-being of the relocated Gich community with funding from the German Government, and further requests the

State Party to continue these efforts in application of the highest standards, especially in support of vulnerable households and individuals;

7. Reiterates its longstanding request to the State Party to finalize and submit a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification for the entire Simien Mountains National Park and its buffer zone, as legally defined today, and requests furthermore the State Party to simultaneously formalize the buffer zone and harmonize the currently differing names of the National Park and the property, and also encourages the State Party to request technical advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as needed;
8. Noting that the alternative road aiming at reducing disturbance of the existing main road in important afro-alpine habitats has been almost completed, urges the State Party to complete this overdue project, and to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the part of the new road crossing the National Park to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, as per Decision **41 COM 7A.13**;
9. Appreciates the State Party's commitment to re-align the power transmission line, which currently affects the property's exceptional natural beauty and conditions of integrity, upon completion of the alternative road;
10. Also noting that four new lodges are being considered along the border of the Simien Mountains National Park, requests moreover the State Party to ensure that all new lodge developments are located outside the boundary of the national park and to submit the EIAs for any new lodge projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, as per Decision **41 COM 7A.13**, as soon as they become available;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

92. Lake Turkana National Park (Kenya) (N 801bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (viii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 35,300

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012 and April 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of the Gibe III dam and the Kuraz project

- Other planned hydro-electric developments and associated large-scale irrigation projects in the Omo region
- Oil exploration
- Wildlife populations and pressure from poaching and livestock grazing
- Impacts of the larger development vision for Northern Kenya
- Management capacity of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
- Redesigning the boundaries of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2017, the State Party submitted a progress report and on 1 December 2017, a status report, followed by a more comprehensive report on 4 January 2018 (a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/documents/>). The State Party reports as follows:

- Revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) have been finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and Kenyan representatives for the Joint Ethiopia-Kenya Technical Experts Panel (JTEP) have been appointed to oversee the development of the SEA. The Joint Technical Experts Committee (JTEC), established under the Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission, will subsequently manage the SEA;
- The SEA consultancy tender document has been finalized but has not proceeded to the international bidding process due to funding constraints. On 23 June 2017, the State Party requested an extension of the 1 February 2018 deadline to complete the SEA;
- Assistance was sought from the World Heritage Centre to enhance the collaboration with UNEP in developing the SEA;
- An ornithological survey has been undertaken by the National Museums of Kenya in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service, but a wildlife census has not been conducted;
- The scope of the “Cross-border Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation” is limited to fostering peace and security between the people of Borana and Marsabit County in Ethiopia and Kenya respectively, and is beyond the scope of World Heritage;
- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Lake Turkana Wind Farm project, conducted in 2008, has now been submitted.

In May 2017, the State Party of Ethiopia transmitted two letters to the World Heritage Centre, which noted that the artificial flow releases from the Gibe III reservoir had led to a relatively constant water level between October-November 2016, and which decreased in December 2016 as per seasonal fluctuations. It noted that the impacts of the Gibe III dam on the property will be assessed in the SEA, which will also propose mitigation measures.

Additional details of the Kuraz project were provided in the State Party of Ethiopia’s report on Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia), available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/>, reporting that the scale of the project has been reduced to four sugar factories, two of which are operational with planned cultivation of 100,000 ha. A November 2017 EIA scoping report was annexed to the report.

On 18 January 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested details from the State Party of Kenya on the implementation of the 2012 and 2015 mission recommendations, an update on the current status of the multiple projects in the Basin, and a complete response on how it is ensuring adequate water flow from the Omo River. No response has been received.

Details of the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSSET) Corridor project were shared with the January 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to Lamu Old Town.

On 28 February 2018, the State Party of Kenya submitted a draft revised Management Plan 2018-2028 for the property, which proposes to strengthen ecological monitoring, community involvement, and tourism programmes.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While the collaboration between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, including the progress made towards establishing JTEP, is noted, it is of utmost concern that the implementation of the SEA, which the Committee requested to be completed by 1 February 2018 (Decision **39 COM 7B.4**), has not started. At the request of the State Party of Kenya, the World Heritage Centre approached UNEP for potential

funding for the SEA, but recommended that the States Parties seek additional sources to urgently move ahead with the SEA. It should be noted that the cost of undertaking the SEA is minor in comparison to that of the development projects.

It should be recalled that the States Parties had agreed with the Committee that the SEA would be the mechanism to assess impacts, identify mitigation measures and set a timeframe to implement it. With the SEA still pending, the Gibe III dam is moving into operation, and the Kuraz irrigation project continues. As a result, it is unlikely that appropriate mitigation measures can still be taken to ensure a sufficient and seasonally varied waterflow into Lake Turkana, which is needed to conserve its biodiversity and ecosystem processes. It seems therefore likely that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) could degrade quickly.

The dam's impacts on the lake water levels are already becoming evident. Although Ethiopia reports stable water levels except for seasonal changes, the data provided shows an overall rapid decline in water levels since January 2015 when the impounding of the Gibe III reservoir commenced, and that seasonal fluctuation patterns have been heavily disrupted. As already noted by the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, the disruption of the natural flooding regime is likely to have a negative impact on the fish population in Lake Turkana, which may in turn affect the balance of the ecosystem, the livelihoods of the local fishing communities and the floodplains, which support herbivore species.

The EIA scoping report for the Kuraz project does not assess potential downstream impacts on the property, such as reduced water flow and contamination from fertilizers and pesticides. Although the scale of the project has been reduced, it is likely to increase water consumption from the Omo River. Furthermore, like an SEA, an EIA should be conducted before activities commence, not afterwards. It is recommended that the Committee strongly urge the State Party of Ethiopia to halt all activities in relation to the Kuraz project until the EIA has been completed and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Given the potential irreversible loss of the property's OUV caused by impacts of these developments on the water flow, the Committee has considered inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger on three previous occasions since 2012. In light of the transpiring changes in the water flow and the ecosystem, the lack of the SEA, adequate EIAs and mitigation measures, the property's OUV continues to be subject to serious potential danger, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is therefore recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to alert the international community of the situation, which can help secure the much-needed funding for the SEA.

It is of concern that the LAPSSSET project proposes major developments in the vicinity of the lake, including an oil pipeline and a resort city. The SEA for LAPSSSET should be revised to include a specific chapter on the impacts on the potentially impacted World Heritage properties, and clarify how mitigation measures are implemented and monitored. Before any specific proposals for resort cities can be considered, strong guidelines for tourism are additionally needed to protect the OUV of the properties concerned.

The progress made with the draft Management Plan for the property is appreciated, and the planned activities to strengthen the ecological monitoring of the property can address the 2012 mission recommendations, such as establishing a wildlife monitoring programme, assessing the feasibility of reintroducing Grevy's zebra, and involving local communities. The State Party should finalize and implement the Management Plan without delay. Despite numerous Committee requests, it is regrettable that there has been no comprehensive update on the implementation of the outstanding 2012 and 2015 mission recommendations.

The EIA for the Turkana Wind Farm project satisfactorily assesses potential impacts on biotic and abiotic factors concerning the Lake, and it appears that potential impacts to the property can be mitigated, provided that all the mitigation measures proposed in the EIA are implemented.

Considering the continued critical situation, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Kenya to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its current state of conservation and review the impacts of the development projects in Ethiopia and Kenya on the property and the progress made in implementing the past mission recommendations, and to develop, in consultation with the State Party, a proposed set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 43rd session in 2019. The mission and the definition of the

corrective measures and DSOCR should also actively seek engagement of the State Party of Ethiopia regarding those elements that rely on transboundary action to protect the integrity of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.4** and **40 COM 7B.80** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the collaboration between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia towards establishing the Joint Ethiopia-Kenya Technical Experts Panel to oversee the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts of development projects in the Lake Turkana Basin;
4. Deeply regrets that the SEA, which should have been completed by 1 February 2018, has still not been commissioned;
5. Notes with utmost concern that the preliminary hydrological data for the Gibe III dam show that the seasonal fluctuation patterns of Lake Turkana have already been heavily disrupted, and urges the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to undertake the long-overdue SEA without further delay in order to assess the cumulative impacts of the multiple developments in the Lake Turkana Basin on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the affected properties, and to identify urgently needed mitigation measures;
6. Also notes with utmost concern that the Kuraz Sugar Development Project is operational, and also urges the State Party of Ethiopia to halt all activities in relation to the project until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a comprehensive assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property, has been completed, and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. In light of the transpiring impacts on water flow and the lake ecosystem, and continuation of works on the Gibe III dam and the Kuraz project in Ethiopia, without respecting the Committee's request to undertake the necessary impact assessments prior to the works, including an SEA and implementation of mitigation measures, considers that the property's OUV is increasingly subject to potential danger in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. **Decides to inscribe Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
9. Notes with concern that the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Project may have potential impacts on the property's OUV, and requests the State Party of Kenya to revise the SEA for the project to include a specific chapter on the potential impacts on World Heritage properties, clarify how mitigation measures are implemented and monitored, and to develop strong tourism guidelines for potentially affected World Heritage properties before any decisions are made regarding the development of resort cities;
10. Appreciates the progress made with the draft Management Plan 2018-2028 for the property, which includes a wildlife monitoring programme, feasibility assessment for the reintroduction of Grevy's zebra and the involvement of local communities to address

livestock grazing inside the property, and also requests the State Party of Kenya to finalize and implement the management plan without delay;

11. *Also regrets that a comprehensive update on the implementation of the outstanding 2012 and 2015 mission recommendations has not been provided, and reiterates its request to the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to provide a consolidated response as well as an update on the current status of the impounding of the Gibe III reservoir, and any mitigation measures being implemented;*
12. *Further requests the State Party of Kenya to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the property's state of conservation, and review the impacts of the development projects in Ethiopia and Kenya on the property and the progress made to implement the past mission recommendations, and to develop, in consultation with the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, a proposed set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;*
13. *Requests furthermore the State Party of Kenya to ensure that all the mitigation measures proposed in the EIA for the Turkana Wind Farm project are implemented, and to provide a report on progress made to mitigate impacts on the property;*
14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019.*

93. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (N 289)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)



94. Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa) (N 1007bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004, extension in 2015

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive species
- Fires
- Climate change
- Need to finalize a property-wide integrated management plan
- Strengthen governance arrangements to improve coordination
- Ensure adequate financial resources for the property's management

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/documents/>, and provides an update on the previous Committee Decision as follows:

- Budget allocations for the three management authorities of the property are sufficient, as confirmed by the results of the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT);
- Since 2016, the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meetings are attended by the Chief Executive Officers of the three management authorities thereby improving coordination, efficiency of decision-making and mobilization of funds;
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) has been developed and funding secured. The EMF will assist in determining the effectiveness and potential additions to the buffer zone for each of the 13 clusters, and will act as a tool to inform the development of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF);
- Management plans for all protected areas forming part of the 13 clusters of the serial property will be completed by 31 December 2019, after which an overarching Integrated Management Plan (IMP) will be developed.

In April and June 2017, the World Heritage Centre transferred 3rd party information to the State Party regarding concerns for a proposed temporary relocation area of communities inside the property, reportedly in a sensitive vegetation area. The State Party has responded that it is engaging with all relevant stakeholders to explore alternative land to accommodate housing needs, and confirmed that the World Heritage Centre will be continuously updated on the outcomes.

In a letter dated 21 February 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested comments from the State Party regarding reports that water extraction from the Table Mountain Group Aquifer may have potential impacts on the property's OUV. At the time of writing this report, a response from the State Party had not yet been received.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The sufficient allocation of financial and human resources is critical for the successful management of the property, and the Committee noted the need to address the longstanding shortfalls in financial resources in its Decision **39 COM 8B.2**. The State Party's update that budget allocations are sufficient is therefore noted, and it is welcomed that the governance arrangements have been strengthened to improve the coordination of the JMC. It is important to ensure that there is a continued and sufficient allocation of funds to enable effective management, including in response to any changing management needs.

It is appreciated that the ToR for the EMF are now available and funding secured; however, progress has been slow. Although the 2015 IUCN Evaluation report mentioned that the EMF would function as an IMP for the property, it appears that the scope of the EMF has now changed, with the IMP now identified as a separate product to assess the effectiveness and possible additions to the buffer zone and inform the development of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF). This may be workable, but as noted in IUCN's Evaluation report, the development of the IMP to provide a property-wide management strategy is urgently required. The delay until 31 December 2019 to start on the IMP, only once all of the protected area management plans have been completed, is therefore of concern. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to speed up the processes to the extent possible.

The State Party's efforts to identify alternative land to accommodate housing needs through stakeholder engagement are noted. Given the fragile nature of the Fynbos vegetation and the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, it is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that no land within the property is used for relocation projects, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of these discussions.

The reported plans for water extraction from the Table Mountain Group Aquifer, which may have potential impacts on the property's OUV, are noted with concern. While acknowledging the seriousness of the water shortage in the region, it is recommended that the Committee also urge the State Party to enforce a moratorium on drilling in the high sensitive areas and to assess the impacts of water extraction on the OUV of the property in all proposed areas adjacent to the property before deciding to go ahead with these plans.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.2**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes that the governance arrangements have been strengthened through the participation of the Chief Executive Officers of all three management authorities since 2016, to improve the coordination of the Joint Management Committee;*
4. *Noting that the current budget allocations for the management of the property are reported to be sufficient, requests the State Party to ensure that sufficient funding will continue to be secured for the effective management of the property;*
5. *Notes with appreciation that some progress has been made towards developing an Environmental Management Framework, which will assess the effectiveness and possible additions to the buffer zone and inform the development of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF);*
6. *Also noting that protected area Management Plans for all 13 clusters of the property will be completed by 31 December 2019, but considering that a property-wide management structure was identified to be an urgent requirement in 2015, urges the State Party to accelerate the process to develop an Integrated Management Plan for the property to the extent possible;*
7. *Notes that through stakeholder engagement, the State Party is working to identify alternative land to accommodate housing needs, and also urges the State Party to ensure that no land within the property is used for relocation projects and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of these discussions;*
8. *Notes with concern the reported plans for water extraction from the Table Mountain Group Aquifer, which may have potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and further urges the State Party to enforce a moratorium on drilling in highly sensitive areas and to assess the impacts of water extraction on the OUV of the property in all proposed areas adjacent to the property before deciding to go ahead with these plans;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

95. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2004

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1995-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 116,739

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2003: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Staffing and budgetary deficiencies (issue resolved)
- Degradation of buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Climate change
- Management systems/ management plan
- Impacts of tourism
- Fires

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents>, which reports the following:

- A chimpanzee survey in the property was conducted in 2016, which estimated a population size of 231 individuals. An elephant census is anticipated for 2019/2020 subject to availability of funds;
- No mineral exploration or mining exists within the property, and any future proposals will undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- A new General Management Plan for the property has been in place since 2016;
- Insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has not allowed for coordinated patrols between the States Parties, but the State Party of Uganda has been undertaking patrols along the border with the army and the police;
- In October 2015, the States Parties of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda signed a Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration Treaty on Wildlife Conservation and Tourism Development (GVTCT) to coordinate the conservation of biodiversity and to develop tourism in the Greater Virunga Landscape, in which the property is located;
- The 2013-2018 sustainable financing project is underway, and the Rwenzori Landscape Marketing Strategy has been developed to further increase the number of visitors through proposals to develop new trails, mountain huts, visitor centres, a cable car, and to habituate chimpanzees;

- Two hydropower projects – Sindila (5MW) and Nyamwamba (9.2MW) – located outside of the property are at advanced stages of construction, and potential impacts on the property are being closely monitored;
- Other ongoing efforts by the State Party include: review of the Uganda Wildlife Act, staff training and provision of equipment, enforcement of tourism infrastructure, livelihood and community engagement projects, habitat and infrastructure restoration of flood-hit areas, activities to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, notably crop-raiding, and monitoring of climate change impacts.

On 12 December 2017, the State Party reported that it has cancelled the license that had been awarded to Tibet Hima Limited for the proposed exploration and mining of copper at Kilembe Mine.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The increased transboundary cooperation between the three States Parties of Uganda, DRC, and Rwanda through GVTCT is appreciated. Continued insecurity in DRC has precluded the organization of coordinated patrols along the DRC/Uganda border, which is of concern, but the GVTCT could nevertheless provide a mechanism to strengthen their collaboration.

It is noted that the Kilembe Mine license has been cancelled, which is positive, considering that its subterranean mining shafts could have extended underneath the property, possibly contaminating water downstream, thereby posing a risk to Virunga National Park World Heritage property in DRC. It is recommended that the World Heritage Centre be kept informed of any new developments with regards to the mine. The two new hydropower projects are located in the downstream foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains outside of the property. According to the reports published through the GET FiT Uganda Programme, which oversees the work, both projects are of run-of-river hydroelectricity design without associated water storage, and hence environmental impacts are likely to be small. Nevertheless, close monitoring during the construction and operational phases are considered necessary, and it is recommended that the World Heritage Centre be kept informed of these developments.

The finalization and implementation of the 2016-2026 General Management Plan, as well as the overall investments made by the State Party with its partners in improving the management and conservation of the property are appreciated. However, the plan to construct a cable car inside the property is of concern as it could have a negative visual impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as recognized under criterion (vii), as well as criterion (x) through the potential ecological impacts of construction works. It is recommended that the project's pre-feasibility report be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and that an EIA be undertaken on the potential impacts of the project on the property in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment before any decision is taken.

Although the 2016 chimpanzee census is appreciated in principle, it is regrettable that the census used direct chimpanzee sighting, rather than the standard line transects using nest counts as per the 2011 census. The data are therefore uncomparable, and another census should be undertaken to assess the population status. It is critical to emphasize that all future chimpanzee population censuses must use the line transect methodology, unless a population has been habituated, to ensure data are comparable across the years. Monitoring of other key large mammal species in the property has not yet been undertaken, and hence the State Party should be encouraged to secure funding to undertake a census of elephants in 2019/2020 as planned.

An increasing number of projects and initiatives are being undertaken and planned within and close to the property, with potential impacts on the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of the property, including the threat arising from the various tourism-related and other development projects on the OUV of the property, and to provide recommendations for its effective conservation and management.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.82** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Appreciates the signing of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration Treaty on Wildlife Conservation and Tourism Development (GVTCT) by the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda, in order to coordinate biodiversity conservation and tourism development in the Greater Virunga Landscape, and encourages the States Parties of DRC and Uganda to continue to strengthen their collaboration in organizing coordinated patrols along the international border between the property and Virunga National Park World Heritage property in DRC;
4. Notes that the State Party cancelled the license that had been awarded to Tibet Hima Limited to reopen the Kilembe copper mine with potential impact on the property and Virunga National Park in DRC, downstream from the mine's proposed location, and requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new developments with regards to the mine;
5. Appreciates the finalization of the 2016-2026 General Management Plan and overall investments made by the State Party with its partners in improving the management and conservation of the property;
6. Also welcomes the State Party's efforts to undertake the 2016 chimpanzee census, but also notes that the 2016 data are not comparable with the previous 2011 data due to the use of different methodologies, and therefore urges the State Party to ensure that all future chimpanzee censuses adopt the standard line transect methodology using nest counts;
7. Expresses its concern on the proposed cable car project inside the property, which could impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and also urges the State Party to submit the cable car pre-feasibility report to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken, and to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, including a specific assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property;
8. Further notes the two run-of-river hydropower projects (Sindila and Nyamwamba) located outside of the property, which are at advanced stages of construction, and also requests the State Party to closely monitor potential impacts on the property and keep the World Heritage Centre updated on these developments;
9. Also encourages the State Party to secure the necessary funding to undertake the elephant census anticipated in 2019/2020, and to assess the population trends for other key large mammal species in the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of the property, including the threat arising from the various tourism-related and other development projects on the OUV of the property, and to provide recommendations for its effective conservation and management;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

96. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989 - 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 59,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential impacts of a hydro-electric project in Kenya
- Reduced and degraded water resources
- Water infrastructure
- Potential impact of optical cables' installation
- Air transport infrastructure
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Illegal activities, including poaching

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents>, with the following information:

- Anti-poaching operations across the Serengeti ecosystem have been strengthened through joint patrols by the States Parties of Tanzania and Kenya. Between 2014/15 and 2016/17: the number of elephants poached decreased from 16 to 8; no poaching of rhinos was reported; the number of patrol vehicles and light aircrafts for aerial surveillance and the number of poachers apprehended increased (from 845 to 1,028);
- According to research reports, several factors may have contributed to the movement of elephants from the Mara into Serengeti, including the water availability in Serengeti, and increasing habitat loss and fencing in the Mara;
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan was finalized and the plan approved. Currently the plan does not propose extensive developments in the property;
- Stakeholder consultations have examined annexing Speke Gulf; the proposal is being reviewed by relevant Ministries before submission to the Parliament;
- The development of the feasibility study and preliminary design for the Serengeti Southern Bypass road has been initiated and will be completed by September 2018, with a draft Route Option Selection Report already available;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the road surfacing options for Naabi Hill–Seronera road through the property will be undertaken once further progress has been made with the road surfacing through Ngorongoro Conservation Area World Heritage property;
- Tanzania and Kenya are investigating the possibility of a joint Management Plan for the Mara River Basin;
- The EIA for the extension of the Mugumu Airport was revised and approved, but implementation has not begun due to financial constraints.



On 16 March 2018, the State Party submitted the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Mugumu airport (dated July 2014) and the proposal for annexing Speke Gulf.

In its letter of 2 May 2017, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the States Parties of Kenya and Tanzania on a series of proposed dams in both countries, upstream of the property, which might affect the Mara River. On 13 February 2018, the State Party of Kenya confirmed that Norera and Mugango Dams on Amala and Nyangores Rivers have preliminary EIAs. An EIA for the Ewaso Ng'iro cascade of dams has been conducted.

On 27 September 2017, the World Heritage Centre sent an IUCN analysis of the project brief for the proposed construction of Belabela tourist lodge inside the property to the project proponent and to the State Party.

On 2 November 2016 and on 15 January 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested comments from the State Party on the bidding process for the construction of the Arusha-Musoma highway traversing the northern part of the property.

On 5 December 2017, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to confirm the availability of a new Management Plan for the property, following the expiration of the 2006-2016 General Management Plan and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre.

To date, Tanzania has not yet provided responses to the above-mentioned requests.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The success in addressing the poaching of elephants and rhinos is welcomed. It is of critical importance that effective collaboration with the State Party of Kenya on the Mara basin be further strengthened and that a joint Management Plan for the basin be developed to sustainably manage the water resources that maintain the Serengeti ecosystem and the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The proposed dams for hydroelectricity generation and irrigation upstream of the property in Kenya are of considerable concern, as they could affect water flow. Potential impacts of the dams on Lake Natron in Tanzania could have indirect impacts on the integrity of the Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage property in Kenya. All available preliminary and full EIAs for these dams should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decisions are taken.

Noting that the SEA and the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan have been completed, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request (Decision **40 COM 7B.83**) to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review.

The progress made on the feasibility study and a preliminary design for options for the Southern Bypass route is appreciated. The Route Option Selection Report and the feasibility study and preliminary design, including a map of the proposed alignments, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review as soon as they become available. As construction on the road from Mbo wa Mbu to Loliondo has reportedly started, it is important that the Committee remind the State Party of its commitments made in 2011 to maintain the stretch of 53 km from Kleins Gate to Tabora B traversing the property as a gravel road under Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) management, and reserved mainly for tourism and administrative purposes (Decision **35 COM 7B.7**), and in 2014 to abandon the construction of the proposed north road traversing the property (Decision **38 COM 7B.94**).

The proposal to build a permanent tourist lodge inside the 'low-use zone' of the property close to a wildebeest migration route appears incompatible with the 2006-2016 General Management Plan (GMP), and should be subject to an EIA in line with IUCN Advice Note and submitted for review. The status of the outdated GMP should be confirmed, and the new Management Plan submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The proposal for annexing Speke Gulf is welcomed as it will add an ecologically important area to the property. Acknowledging the possible socio-economic costs of the extension, proper compensation should be ensured for any affected communities that were legally residing in the proposed area. The World Heritage Centre should be kept informed on the progress for the extension, which would require a request for boundary modification.

The upgrade of the Mugumu airport has been downsized from the initial plans to construct an international airport and will no longer pose a significant threat to the OUV of the property. Should the project move forward, the State Party should monitor and mitigate any potential indirect impacts on the property.

In light of planned dam projects in the Mara basin, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which should also meet with representatives of the State Party of Kenya in order to assess threats posed by the series of proposed dams upstream of the property, and any other developments that may have potential impacts on the property. The mission should also follow up on previous decisions and mission recommendations and assess the current management and governance framework of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.94** and **40 COM 7B.83** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party on its anti-poaching efforts, contributing to further reduced elephant poaching and maintaining zero poaching of rhinos in the property;*
4. *Notes with utmost concern that a series of dams have been proposed upstream of the property in Kenya, which could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Serengeti National Park and Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage properties, and requests the State Party of Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre, without delay, all available preliminary and full Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to the World Heritage Centre for review;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Tanzania and Kenya to develop and implement a joint management plan for the Mara River basin to sustainably manage water resources, and also requests the State Party of Tanzania to inform the World Heritage Centre on the status of updating the 2006-2016 General Management Plan;*
6. *Appreciates that the State Party is undertaking a feasibility study and a preliminary design for two options for the Serengeti Southern Bypass route, and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review as soon as available:*
 - a) *The Route Option Selection Report and the feasibility study and preliminary design, including a map of the proposed alignments, upon completion by the end of September 2018,*
 - b) *The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to reaffirm its commitments to maintain the northern road traversing the property as a gravel road under Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) management and reserved mainly for tourism and administrative purposes (Decision **35 COM 7B.7**) and to abandon the construction of the proposed northern highway (Decision **38 COM 7B.94**);*
8. *Considers that the Belabela Lodge proposed within the 'low-use zone' of the property close to a wildebeest migration route could pose a potential threat to the property's OUV, and requests moreover the State Party to undertake an EIA of the proposed lodge, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review;*

9. Welcomes the proposal to include the ecologically important Speke Gulf into the property, which would require a request for boundary modification in line with the appropriate provisions in the Operational Guidelines, and encourages the State Party to ensure compensation for affected communities that were legally residing in the proposed area, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed;
10. Notes that based on the submitted EIA the proposed upgrade of the Mugumu airport has been significantly downsized from the initial plans to construct an international airport, also considers that it will no longer pose a significant threat to the property's OUV, but requests in addition the State Party to monitor and mitigate any potential indirect impacts should the project move forward;
11. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which should also meet with representatives of the State Party of Kenya, to assess threats posed by the dams proposed upstream of the property in Kenya, and any other developments that may impact the property's OUV;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

97. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe) (N 302)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1990-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 51,854

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching
- Oil exploration programme (issue resolved)
- Mining project
- Tourism development
- Management systems/ management plan



Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents/>, with the following information:

- The Vine Camp lodge is not yet fully operational but environmental monitoring and mitigation measures are being undertaken in line with the approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- The Anti-Poaching Strategy and the Elephant Management Plan for the Zambezi Valley are being implemented through various partnerships. The property benefits from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) programme on Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES). The Zambezi Valley Reactive Unit and Rhino Task Force have been established, and anti-poaching efforts have been increased, including through the adoption of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for better law enforcement monitoring, provision of ranger training and equipment, and stakeholder involvement;
- Four elephants have so far been equipped with satellite collars in the Zambezi Valley, with more being planned in order to monitor movements;
- Hunting has been suspended in the Sapi Safari Area, and the northern side of Chewore Safari Area since 2016 to encourage the population recovery of key species, revert the area to photographic tourism and to prepare for the reintroduction of the Black rhinoceros. A 25-year hunting suspension has been introduced for the buffer zone;
- The review of the General Management Plan is underway through funding from the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018;
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) is being finalized, and joint fortnightly river border patrols, intelligence sharing and joint meetings are being held between the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia. Discussions on a potential transboundary extension of the property to include Lower Zambezi National Park have also been initiated;
- The State Party of Zambia will follow up on the conclusions of the court case concerning copper mining in Kanganluwi;
- Habitat status is being monitored in the property through vegetation mapping, monitoring of invasive alien species and parasites, and establishment of exclusion zones;
- New tourism developments have been proposed far away from the Zambezi River in poaching hotspots, and will be subject to EIAs;
- UNDP has committed to support the Zambezi Valley through funding from the Global Environment Facility.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Considerable progress has been made to enhance the property's conservation with several initiatives underway, notably to strengthen anti-poaching efforts and to review the General Management Plan. The assistance provided by an increasing number of partners is greatly appreciated. The on-going MIKES programme supports the implementation of both CITES and the *World Heritage Convention*, as per Decision **41 COM 7**, and cooperation with UNDP provides important access to Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for the Zambezi Valley. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts through adequate resourcing and to report on progress made in implementing the Anti-Poaching Strategy, the Elephant Management Plan and other related action plans. To confirm that the reinforced efforts are translated into positive conservation results, data on poaching and other available conservation indicators should be provided.

Zimbabwe's decision to suspend commercial sport hunting in parts of the property to promote the recovery of wildlife populations is noted. However, the State Party should clarify the status of the buffer zone, as it has not been defined for the property in compliance with the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is welcomed that the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia have reinforced cooperation, and are considering nominating the Lower Zambezi National Park as an extension of Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas World Heritage property with a view to creating a transboundary property, as recommended by the Committee (Decisions **38 COM 7B.97** and **40 COM 7B.84**). The timely finalization of the MoU between the States Parties for the TFCA is encouraged as this would contribute to the property's conservation and facilitate the potential nomination. This process could simultaneously

be used to formalize the buffer zone for the property, and the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are prepared to provide advice as needed.

It is noted that satellite collaring of elephants has been initiated to track their movements, thereby contributing towards a better understanding of whether dispersal played a role in the decline of the population in Zambezi Valley reported by the 2014 aerial survey. This project and the habitat monitoring efforts are positive initiatives, and the World Heritage Centre should be kept informed.

No details are provided on the current status of the proposed Kangaluwi and Chisawa opencast copper mine inside the Lower Zambezi National Park. Recalling that there was an injunction by the High Court of Zambia and that it was awaiting final court proceedings, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party of Zambia to provide an update on the current status of the mine project which would be likely to seriously impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The State Party's confirmation that new tourism developments will be located away from the Zambezi River and subject to EIAs as per its previous commitment is welcomed. A map indicating the locations of the proposed developments should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It is appreciated that the State Party is committed to ensure regular monitoring of the effectiveness of the environmental management and monitoring plans of Vine Camp lodge, adopting an adaptive approach to its management as the lodge moves into full operation. The World Heritage Centre should be kept informed.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.97** and **40 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for its substantial efforts to enhance the property's conservation with several initiatives underway, notably to strengthen anti-poaching efforts, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts, in particular to:*
 - a) *Implement the Anti-Poaching Strategy and the Elephant Management Plan, and continue to report on progress made,*
 - b) *Complete the review of the General Management Plan, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre once it is available,*
 - c) *Report on the outcomes of habitat surveys and the elephant collaring project, as well as provide data on poaching and other available conservation indicators;*
4. *Appreciates the support by an increasing number of partners to the conservation of the property, including the CITES programme on Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES) in line with Decision **41 COM 7**, and support from UNDP funded by the Global Environment Facility;*
5. *Takes note of the decision to suspend commercial sport hunting in Sapi Safari Area, the northern part of Chewore Safari Area and the buffer zone to promote the recovery of wildlife species, and also requests the State Party to clarify the status and extent of the areas referred to by the State Party as the buffer zone, which have not yet been formally adopted by the Committee;*
6. *Welcomes the collaboration between the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia to strengthen transboundary conservation, including through regular joint border patrols, and to consider nominating Lower Zambezi National Park as an extension of the property, with a view to creating a transboundary property, as recommended by the*

Committee, and encourages again the two States Parties to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding for the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Trans-Frontier Conservation Area, and to request technical advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as needed;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Zambia to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the status of the decision regarding the proposed Kangaluwi and Chisawa opencast mine in Lower Zambezi National Park which could have serious impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
8. Also appreciates the State Party's confirmation that new tourism developments will be located away from the Zambezi River and that they will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with its previous commitment, and further requests the State Party to provide a map indicating the exact locations of the proposed tourism developments;
9. Further appreciates the State Party's commitment to ensure regular monitoring of the effectiveness of the environmental management and monitoring plans of the Vine Camp lodge, adopting an adaptive approach to its management as the lodge moves into full operation, and requests furthermore the State Party to continue to report on monitoring and mitigation activities;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2020** 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 45th session in 2021.

ARAB STATES

98. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 35 000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 150 000 in the framework of the World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2003, 2004, 2013: World Heritage Centre missions; 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of adequate management systems/ management plan
- Lack of management capacity and resources
- Illegal fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Mechanical shellfish harvesting
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Tourism and increased accessibility due to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road)
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Localized utilities
- Mining
- Oil and gas (Oil exploitation)
- Renewable energy facilities
- Ground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The official submission of the file requesting the designation of the property and its surrounding areas as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) is foreseen for February 2019;
- The involvement of the local communities in the management and conservation of the property continues;
- Oil mining exploration is ongoing by the 'Total EPM' Company in the sea Block C7 close to the property and has been the subject of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The Scientific Council of the Banc d'Arguin (CSBA) was involved in the preparation of the terms of reference for the said EIA. The development of the plan for the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) has been finalized;

- Establishment of a master plan to manage mobility in the Park;
- Launching of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the town of Chami, foreseen at the beginning of 2018;
- An EIA on the extension of phase 2 of the Tasiast gold mine extension was submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Traffic on the Nouamghar road crossing the property numbered 5,000 vehicles a year in 2015 and 2016;
- The launching, in November 2017, of a campaign for general clean-up in the villages of Nouamghar, R’Gueiba, Teichott and Iwik, and which will be extended to other parts of the property;

The State Party has continued to implement the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission, by:

- Strengthening the surveillance and control system, thus limiting illegal access by motorized boats to the Park;
- Monitoring of the Dorcas gazelle population in January 2016 revealed that this population has remained relatively stable over the last decade (80 individuals);
- Practical measures to protect threatened species, in particular marine turtles, the monk seals that have experienced an increase in the number of births, and sharks and rays; the signature of an agreement with local communities to respect the interdiction to target endangered fish species within the Park, and to begin the destruction of the wells for their treatment;
- The introduction of socio-professional cards to limit pressure on fishing linked to the immigration of non-resident communities coming to fish;
- The Mauritanian Coastal Area Management and Development Plan (PDALM) is responsible for the relocation of villages threatened by the effects of climate change. The implementation of this project is foreseen for 2018 to strengthen the resilience of the local communities in the face of climate change.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party has employed major efforts in responding to the decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the 2014 mission, notably the continued involvement of local communities in the management and conservation of the property, the strengthening of the surveillance and control system, the preparation of a master plan to manage mobility in the property and the establishment of a system to limit fishing by non-resident persons. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to pursue these efforts.

The efforts from the State Party concerning the designation of the property and its surroundings as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) are noted. The World Heritage Centre’s Marine Programme has provided a continuous assistance for the PSSA dossier, including cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the participation in the national stakeholder working meeting in November 2017. A technical study on the risks of international maritime traffic and the ways a PSSA and its associated protective measures could reduce this risk is first to be completed. The Committee could encourage the State Party to pursue, in cooperation with IMO, the technical feasibility study for a potential PSSA designation before submitting a final application dossier.

With regard to oil exploration, the EAS for the seismic study of Block C7 acknowledges the proximity of the property (10 km from Block C7 and 55 km from the seismic study zone) as well as its World Heritage status. Although a specific evaluation of the impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has not been carried out, no direct impact has been recorded within the property. However, the EAS highlights the probability of moderate impacts on some species of shellfish and proposes mitigation measures. The EAS also recognizes that the ocean currents have a tendency to pull the deep offshore waters back into the Gulf d’Arguin, which could present risks to the property if the project proceeds with exploitation. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure the enforcement of mitigation measures during the exploitation phase to avoid all indirect impact on the OUV of the property; in the event that the State Party progresses to the exploitation phase, a new EAS will be indispensable before beginning of the potential work.

Concerning the EAS for the extension of the Tasiast gold mine, dated March 2012, no evaluation on the impact on the OUV of the property has been undertaken, even although the property is located at 65 km from the mining site and less than 5 km from the pumping field that provides the water needs for the exploitation and drinking water for the mine. This EAS therefore does not represent an adequate information base to take decisions concerning the extension of the mine and it is recommended that the

Committee request the State Party to revise it, before taking any decision on the project, to evaluate the impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the IUCN Advice Note on World Heritage and environmental evaluation.

The measures undertaken to protect the threatened species are warmly welcomed. In particular, the commitment of the State Party to establish by 2020 a strict interdiction to fish shark and ray. A study annexed to the State Party report indicates that the proportion of shark and ray capture has decreased since 2013, now representing on average 27% of the overall fishing activity of the property. However, fishing of other species is on the increase.

Although the State Party reassures that the fisheries in and around the property are sustainable, pressure on fishing must be the subject of continued monitoring to ensure the sustainability and conservation of the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee takes note of the launching, foreseen in 2018, of the SEA for the town of Chami and that it reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that in addition to this SEA, prior to all development, the town of Chami is the subject of a rigorous EAS which is submitted to the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) for agreement, as recommended by the mission.

It is also recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party on the establishment and strengthening of a permanent concertation committee, that includes the administrative and municipal, regional and communal authorities. It is also recommended that the Committee express its concern as regards the relocation project of villages threatened by the effect of climate change, the implementation of which, in the framework of the PDALM, is foreseen in 2018, and for which the State Party has made no reference. Detailed information concerning this project is necessary.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Warmly welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to implement the decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission and requests the State Party to continue these efforts;*
4. *Also warmly welcomes the establishment and strengthening of a permanent concertation committee that includes the administrative and municipal, and regional and communal authorities, as well as the measures undertaken to protect the threatened species, notably the commitment of the State Party to set up by 2020, the strict interdiction of shark and ray fishing and requests the State Party to continue monitoring pressure on fishing, both inside and outside the property, to ensure the sustainability and conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
5. *Equally welcomes the organization of the PSSA national stakeholder working meeting, thanks the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for its support, and encourages the State Party to pursue, in cooperation with IMO, the finalization of the technical feasibility study of a potential PSSA designation before submitting a final application dossier;*
6. *Takes note of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the oil exploitation project (seismic study) of Block C7 adjacent to the property and its conclusion that no direct impact has been detected within the property and also requests the State Party:*
 - a) *to ensure the enforcement of mitigation measures to avoid all indirect impact on the OUV of the property during the exploration phase of the project,*

- b) *to undertake a new EIA in the event that the State Party progresses to the exploitation phase, and this before the potential work, taking into account the ocean currents that tend to pull the deep offshore waters back into the Gulf d'Arguin,*
 - c) *to submit the said EIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available for examination by IUCN;*
7. *Takes into account the location of the pumping fields for the Tasiast mine less than 5 km from the boundary of the property and the fact that the EIA for the mine extension project did not include any evaluation of the impacts on the OUV of the property, further requests the State Party to revise this EIA to evaluate the impacts of the projects on the OUV of the property, prior to any possibly irreversible decisions taken, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Notice and Environmental Evaluation;*
 8. *Also takes note of the launching, foreseen during 2018, of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the town of Chami, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that, in addition to the SEA, prior to any development in the town of Chami, a rigorous EIA be carried out and submitted for approval to the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA);*
 9. *Expresses its concern as to the relocation project for the villages threatened by the effects of climate change, the implementation of which is foreseen in 2018, in the framework of the Mauritanian Coastal Area Management and Development Plan (PDALM), and also urges the State Party to provide detailed information concerning this project;*
 10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

99. Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (Sudan) (N 262rev)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2010)

Total amount approved: USD 29,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Need to update the management plan for Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dugonab Bay to complete the preparation of an integrated management framework for the whole property
- Lack of high quality resolution maps that clearly define the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone
- Need to continue to increase financial resources and commit to maintain ongoing sustainable financing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/documents/>, and which reports the following:

- A draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the whole property has been produced, which replaces the previous management plans of both components of the property, and covers the 2017 to 2021 period. The development of the draft IMP has involved a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities;
- High quality maps have been developed and drafts were submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 5 December 2017;
- As part of the Sharks and Rays of Sudan programme, the project “Strengthening Marine Protected Areas and Marine Ecotourism Benefits in Sudan” is working towards the declaration of Sha’ab Rumi as Sudan’s third Marine Protected Area (MPA). The State Party considers that this area may potentially also have Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and intends to propose it for inclusion within the property in the future, after its declaration as an MPA. The declaration of Sha’ab Rumi as a MPA is currently in process at the Red Sea State Council, and may take several months;
- The budget for running costs of the property has been increased twofold from 5,000 SDG (USD 710) per month to 10,000 SDG (USD 1,421) per month in 2017. A request to increase this further to 15,000 SDG has been submitted by the Director of the property. In addition, 3 million SDG (USD 426,317) have been allocated for the property through a decision by the 1st Vice President of the Republic. Seventeen new personnel have been recruited, bringing the total staff number to 39;
- A concern is being raised about an increasing number of dive boats originating from Egypt, which are reported to cause problems by anchoring directly on top of dive sites, resulting in damage to coral reefs and disturbance of wildlife.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress achieved with the development of high quality maps and a draft IMP for the whole property should be welcomed, as should the increase in staffing levels and budget although these remain insufficient. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to commit to increased resources for the management of the property and to finalize, adopt and implement the IMP.

The activities undertaken to identify additional areas with potential OUV for proposed inclusion in the property are also appreciated and consistent with Decision **40 COM 8B.6** at the time of inscription. It is recommended that the Committee also encourage the State Party to continue this work, and to seek technical advice from IUCN, if required. It should be noted that any extensions to the property should follow the relevant procedures for boundary modification or re-nomination, as laid out in the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is noted that Sudanese dive operators follow an informal set of rules, including the practice to anchor dive boats on sand away from the actual dive sites. It is of concern that foreign dive operators are not following these same rules, causing damage to coral reefs and disturbance to wildlife, which is also reported to have an impact on visitor experience. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to establish, in close consultation with local dive operators and other stakeholders, a code of conduct including formal rules and regulations for all dive operators and ensure their enforcement, to reach out to foreign dive operators to raise awareness about these rules and regulations, and to establish appropriate mechanisms (such as fines and licensing systems) to avoid

violations. It is further recommended that the State Party ensure regular patrolling to monitor any vessels operating within either component of the property.

The World Heritage Centre is organizing a technical workshop in Port Sudan for July 2018, in view of bringing together key expertise from the UNESCO Marine World Heritage Network and contribute to building local capacities for the management of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.6**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the progress achieved with the development of high quality maps and a draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP), the recruitment of additional staff, and the increase in resources;*
4. *Requests the State Party to finalize, adopt and start implementing the IMP as soon as possible, and encourages it to provide further resources for the management of the property;*
5. *Noting with appreciation the activities undertaken to identify additional areas of potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the State Party's intention to propose such areas for inclusion as part of the property, recalls that any proposed extensions should follow the appropriate procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination as laid out in the Operational Guidelines, and also encourages the State Party to continue this work and to seek technical advice from IUCN if required;*
6. *Notes with concern the reported activities of foreign dive operators who cause damage to coral reefs, disturbance to wildlife, and negative impacts on visitor experience, and also requests the State Party to establish, in close consultation with local dive operators and other stakeholders, a code of conduct including formal rules and regulations for all dive operators and to ensure compliance, including by:*
 - a) *Reaching out to dive operators, both national and foreign, to raise awareness about these rules and regulations and encourage best practice in line with international standards,*
 - b) *Establishing appropriate mechanisms, such as, fines and a licensing system, to avoid violations,*
 - c) *Ensuring regular patrolling to monitor any vessels operating within either component of the property;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, 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 45th session in 2021.*

100. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add (pending receipt of new information)

II. OMNIBUS

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add