



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

AMENDMENT

Item of the Agenda	42 COM 8B
Amended Draft Decision	42 COM 8B.28
Amendment submitted by the Delegation of....	<u>Burkina Faso</u>
Date	<u>29</u> June 2018

TEXT

Draft Decision: 42 COM 8B.28 The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/18/42.COM/8B and WHC/18/42.COM/INF.8B1,
2. ~~Defers the examination of the nomination of Inscribe~~ the Historic Urban Ensemble of Nîmes, France, to the World Heritage List, ~~in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and to the World Heritage Centre~~ ~~er if requested, to develop a thorough comparative analysis on the Roman buildings of the city of Nîmes to bring into focus whether potential significance can be identified and, if a robust case can be made, reconsider the scope of the nomination on this basis;~~ on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv).;
3. ~~Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;~~

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (provisional) :

Brief summary

Nîmes is a leading example of an urban ensemble recurrently patterned after an ancient heritage that is still present and reinterpreted today. That relationship is not merely a matter of quoting or copying stylistic motifs, but attests to the very early emergence of the awareness of a specific memory and artistic heritage that still anchors Nîmes' architectural, urban and cultural practices in reference to Antiquity. An ancient Roman colony, Nîmes conserves a major monumental ancient ensemble testifying to Roman civilisation's importance during the early Empire period. The amphitheatre, Maison Carrée, Temple of Diana (Augusteum) and Tour Magne, associated with the remains of the city walls and gates, are so iconic that as early as the 16th century European travellers and learned men perceived Nîmes as a city worth visiting for its "antiquities". In a recurring exercise of memory and inspiration, Nîmes has organised its

public spaces and architecture around them based on that identity since at least the 17th century. Preserved, re-used and repurposed over the course of centuries, they have been the bedrock of Nîmes' urban identity at every stage of its history while undeniably influencing its architecture since the Middle Ages.

Criterion (ii)

With its architecture and urban planning periodically sourced from the prestigious ancient models in its midst, Nîmes is a leading example of the impact that classical art and architecture have had on Western art to the present day. That influence is characterised not by the survival of re-used and repurposed ancient buildings or urban street plans, but by the new ways, at different points in its history, in which the local population and elites looked to the monumental vestiges as a source of inspiration to renew the city's modernity.

Criterion (iv)

The monuments and group of preserved or rediscovered ancient urban and domestic remains have been so influential that Nîmes has a particular, strong urban identity where memory serves modernity, prefiguring the contemporary heritage city as early as the 18th century. Public and private buildings and urban developments have resulted in an ensemble where references to the past are raised to an urban and collective value by adopting an architectural language based on Antiquity or setting off landmarks dating from that period.

Nîmes conserves the source of that identity, a monumental ancient ensemble particularly evocative of Roman civilisation during the early Empire period. The Maison Carrée is the oldest and best-preserved ancient temple dedicated to the imperial dynastic cult and one of the most intact buildings in the entire Roman world. The Augusteum is amongst the earliest of its kind in the Roman West and the amphitheatre one of the most complete. The city wall, paid for by the first emperor, Augustus himself, still has its gates and the Tour Magne.

Integrity

The property proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List features a high degree of integrity insofar as it includes all the features necessary to meet the definition of outstanding universal value. The Roman monuments, amphitheatre, Maison Carrée, Diana's Temple (Augusteum) and Tour Magne are still standing and in a remarkable state of conservation. Moreover, associated with the most eloquent local examples of neoclassical architecture, stylistic motifs and quotations, of which they are the direct model, and with urban compositions that set them off to their best advantage, the Roman monuments structure a city built and arranged in reference to antiquity on the scale of an urban complex exemplary for the unity and continuity of its architectural and urban expression. The many still present, current and complete attributes significantly attest to that.

Authenticity

Considered on the scale of the cityscape, the built heritage — Roman monuments and numerous examples of neoclassical architecture — has been preserved in its original material condition. In addition, the property has kept its ability to inspire and integrate contemporary new expressions that blend in with the city's architecture, influenced by the ancient monuments since at least the eloquent testimony of the tympanum of Saint Castor's cathedral.

Management and protection requirements

The property is subject to French heritage, environment and urban planning codes and regulations. In addition to protection as historic sites or monuments whose environs cover the entire property, a Remarkable Heritage Site, requiring strict monitoring by the State and City, was created in the oldest quarters in 1985. This Remarkable Heritage Site is currently being expanded. The National Commission approved the new boundaries in December 2015, tripling its size, which concerns the entire property. Its preservation and development plan is undergoing revision.

In full complementarity with the management of the buffer zone, the City of Nîmes has begun revising its Local Master Plan to deepen the heritage segment. Related measures such as a colour charter also demonstrate the city's commitment to high management standards. Since 2009, a Roman monument restoration plan under the State's scientific and technical control has allowed the work necessary for the proper conservation of the amphitheatre to go forward, after the complete restoration of the Maison Carrée from 2006 to 2011. To that end, a strengthened partnership with the Fondation internationale des monuments romains de Nîmes

has resulted in increased funding.

A convention renewed in 2014 ensures continuous archaeological monitoring with the Institut national de la recherche archéologique (INRAP). The presence of a heritage and architecture activity department as part of the “City of Art and History” label obtained in 1986, and the creation of the Musée de la Romanité showcasing the very rich local archaeological collections, foster genuine mediation with residents and visitors. The museum’s scientific and cultural project commits the city to scientific cooperation with French and foreign museums and universities.

Chaired by the mayor and prefect, the local World Heritage Commission coordinates managers working on various committees, each according to his or her competences and level of intervention — operational, scientific or civic. It is their responsibility to implement the 2014-2020 action plan based on a realistic timetable and adequate budget. Most of the actions are nevertheless already in the multiyear intervention programmes managed by the municipal departments and their partners.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

a) ~~Reconsidering the location~~Display the utmost vigilance with regard to of the ~~Palais-Centre~~ des Congrès and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment before any development project into the historic core of the city,

~~b) Giving pre-eminence to archaeological considerations in any new development proposal. The approval process should be rearranged for projects that will impact potential archaeological remains, archaeological investigations should be executed early in the planning process so that their findings can inform any decision to approve a development,~~

~~be) Undertaking~~Pursue the an active conservation program ~~to improve~~by improving the condition and setting of the Porte d’Auguste and the Porte de France while reducing the factors that can affect them negatively, especially vehicular traffic,

~~cd) Preparing a~~Deepen the tourism management plan to ~~actively~~ manage tourism and address the potential deleterious effects of tourism upon the proposed property,

~~de) Improving the monitoring program in order to focus on preservation of the built heritage~~

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on implementation of the aforementioned recommendations by 1 December 2019 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th meeting in 2020.