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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Compendium on the Statements of Significance and of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and discussed for in-Danger listing

SUMMARY

This document presents, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (see Decision **32 COM 7B.129**), a compendium on the Statements of Significance and of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and discussed for in-Danger listing.

Out of the thirty World Heritage properties in Danger, one presents a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, two a Statement of Significance, seven a clear definition of the criteria for inscription and twenty none of these elements.

Out of the eight World Heritage properties discussed for in-Danger listing, one presents a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, one a clear definition of the criteria for inscription and six neither of these elements.

I. PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

No Statement is available for this property.

2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

No Statement is available for this property.

3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) (N 155 bis)

No Statement is available for this property.

4. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Statement of Significance (Decision 31COM 8B.74)

Virunga National Park is notable for its chain of active volcanoes and the greatest diversity of habitats of any park in Africa: from steppes, savannas and lava plains, swamps, lowland and Afromontane forests, to the unique Afroalpine vegetation and icefields of the Ruwenzori mountains, which culminate in peaks above 5000m. The site includes the spectacular Ruwenzori and Virunga Massifs, including Africa's two most active volcanoes. The great diversity of habitats harbors an exceptional biodiversity, including endemic as well as rare and globally endangered species, such as the mountain gorilla.

Criterion (vii): Virunga National Park presents some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in Africa. The rugged Ruwenzori mountains with their snowcapped peaks and steep slopes and valleys and the volcanoes of the Virunga Massif, both with Afroalpine vegetation with giant heathers and Lobelias and densely forested slopes, are areas of exceptional natural beauty. The active volcanoes, which erupt every few years, form the dominant landforms of the exceptional scenery. The park contains several other spectacular landscapes such as the erosion valleys of the Sinda and Ishango areas. The park also contains great concentrations of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo and Uganda kob, and the highest concentration of hippopotamus in Africa, with 20,000 individuals on the shores of Lake Edward and along the Rwindi, Rutshuru and Semliki rivers.

Criterion (viii): Virunga National Park is situated at the heart of the Albertine Rift sector of the Great Rift Valley. In the southern section of the park, tectonic activity resulting from crustal extension of this area gave rise to the Virunga Massif, composed of eight volcanoes, of which seven are situated or partly situated in the park. These include Africa's two most active volcanoes, Nyamuragira and the neighbouring Nyiragongo, which alone account for two-fifths of the historical volcanic eruptions on the African continent. They are especially notable because of their highly fluid alkaline lavas. The activity of Nyiragongo is globally significant for its demonstration of lava lake volcanism, with a quasi-permanent lava lake at the bottom of its crater, periodic draining of which has been catastrophic to the local communities. The northern section of the park includes around 20% of the Ruwenzori Massif, the largest glaciated area in Africa and the only truly alpine mountain range on the continent, and adjoins the Ruwenzori National Park World Heritage Site in Uganda, with which it shares Mount Margherita, the third highest peak in Africa (5109m).

Criterion (x): Due to its variation in altitude (ranging between 680m and 5109m), rainfall and soils, Virunga National Park contains a very high diversity of plants and habitats, resulting in the highest biological diversity of any national park in Africa. More than 2000 higher plants have been identified, of which 10% are endemic to the Albertine Rift. Approximately 15% of the vegetation are Afromontane forests. The Albertine Rift has also more endemic vertebrate species than any other region of

mainland Africa, an important number of which can be found in the park. The park harbors 218 mammal species, 706 bird species, 109 reptile species and 78 amphibian species. The park is home to 22 species of primates, including three great ape species (mountain gorilla *Gorilla beringei beringei*, eastern lowland gorilla *Gorilla beringei graueri* and eastern chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthi*), with one third of the remaining mountain gorilla population in the world. The savanna areas of the park are home to a diverse population of ungulates, with one of the highest biomass densities of wild mammals ever recorded on Earth (314 tonnes/km²). Ungulates include the rare Okapi (*Okapi johnstoni*), endemic to the DRC, and the Ruwenzori duiker (*Cephalophus rubidus*), endemic to the Ruwenzori mountains. The park contains significant wetland areas, particularly important as wintering grounds for Palearctic bird species.

5. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

No Statement is available for this property.

6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

No Statement is available for this property.

7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

No Statement is available for this property.

8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)

No Statement is available for this property.

9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

No Statement is currently available for this property.

However, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 20 January 2008 and is currently being reviewed by IUCN.

10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

No Statement is available for this property.

11. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

No Statement is available for this property.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

12. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

No Statement is available for this property.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

13. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)

No Statement is available for this property.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

14. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C144)

No Statement is currently available for this property.

However, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 19 May 2009 and is currently being reviewed by ICOMOS.

ARAB STATES

15. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

No Statement is available for this property.

16. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2003), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **27 COM 8C.45**):

Criterion (iii): Founded in the 3rd millennium BCE, the most important role of Ashur was from the 14th to 9th century BCE when it was the first capital of the Assyrian empire. Ashur was also the religious capital of Assyrians, and the place for crowning and burial of its kings;

Criterion (iv): The excavated remains of the public and residential buildings of Ashur provide an outstanding record of the evolution of building practice from the Sumerian and Akkadian period through the Assyrian Empire, as well as including the short revival during the Parthian period.

17. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (Decision 31 COM 8B.23)

The ancient capital of Samarra dating from 836-892 provides outstanding evidence of the Abbasid Caliphate which was the major Islamic empire of the period, extending from Tunisia to Central Asia. It is the only surviving Islamic capital that retains its original plan, architecture and arts, such as mosaics and carvings. Samarra has the best preserved plan of an ancient large city, being abandoned relatively early and so avoiding the constant rebuilding of longer lasting cities.

Samarra was the second capital of the Abbasid Caliphate after Baghdad. Following the loss of the monuments of Baghdad, Samarra represents the only physical trace of the Caliphate at its height.

The city preserves two of the largest mosques (Al-Malwiya and Abu Dulaf) and the most unusual minarets, as well as the largest palaces in the Islamic world (the Caliphal Palace Qasr al-Khalifa, al-Ja'fari, al Ma'shuq, and others). Carved stucco known as the Samarra style was developed there and spread to other parts of the Islamic world at that time. A new type of ceramic known as Lustre Ware was also developed in Samarra, imitating utensils made of precious metals such as gold and silver.

Criterion (ii): Samarra represents a distinguished architectural stage in the Abbasid period by virtue of its mosques, its development, the planning of its streets and basins, its architectural decoration, and its ceramic industries.

Criterion (iii): Samarra is the finest preserved example of the architecture and city planning of the Abbasid Caliphate, extending from Tunisia to Central Asia, and one of the world's great powers of that
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period. The physical remains of this empire are usually poorly preserved since they are frequently built of unfired brick and reusable bricks.

Criterion (iv): The buildings of Samarra represent a new artistic concept in Islamic architecture in the Malwiya and Abu Dulaf mosques, in the form of a unique example in the planning, capacity and construction of Islamic mosques by comparison with those which preceded and succeeded it. In their large dimensions and unique minarets, these mosques demonstrate the pride and political and religious strength that correspond with the strength and pride of the empire at that time.

Since the war in Iraq commenced in 2003, this property has been occupied by multi-national forces that use it as a theatre for military operations.

The conditions of integrity and authenticity appear to have been met, to the extent evaluation is possible without a technical mission of assessment. After abandonment by the Caliphate, occupation continued in a few areas near the nucleus of the modern city but most of the remaining area was left untouched until the early 20th century. The archaeological site is partially preserved, with losses caused mainly by ploughing and cultivation, minor in comparison with other major sites. Restoration work has been in accordance with international standards.

The boundaries of the core and buffer zones appear to be both realistic and adequate. Prior to current hostilities, the State Party protected the site from intrusions, whether farming or urban, under the Archaeological Law. Protective procedures have been in abeyance since 2003 and the principal risk to the property arises from the inability of the responsible authorities to exercise control over the management and conservation of the site.

18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

No Statement is available for this property.

19. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

No Statement is available for this property.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

20. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2002), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **26 COM 23.2**):

Criterion (ii): The innovative architecture and decoration of the Minaret of Jam played a significant role in the development of the arts and architecture of the Indian sub-continent and beyond.

Criterion (iii): The Minaret of Jam and its associated archaeological remains constitute exceptional testimony to the power and quality of the Ghurid civilization that dominated its region in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Criterion (iv): The Minaret of Jam is an outstanding example of Islamic architecture and ornamentation in this region and played a significant role in their further dissemination.

21. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2003), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **27 COM 8C.43**):

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Criterion (i): The Buddha statues and the cave art in Bamiyan Valley are an outstanding representation of the Gandharan school in Buddhist art in the Central Asian region.

Criterion (ii): The artistic and architectural remains of Bamiyan Valley, and an important Buddhist centre on the Silk Road, are an exceptional testimony to the interchange of Indian, Hellenistic, Roman, Sasanian influences as the basis for the development of a particular artistic expression in the Gandharan school. To this can be added the Islamic influence in a later period.

Criterion (iii): The Bamiyan Valley bears an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition in the Central Asian region, which has disappeared.

Criterion (iv): The Bamiyan Valley is an outstanding example of a cultural landscape which illustrates a significant period in Buddhism.

Criterion (vi): The Bamiyan Valley is the most monumental expression of the western Buddhism. It was an important centre of pilgrimage over many centuries. Due to their symbolic values, the monuments have suffered at different times of their existence, including the deliberate destruction in 2001, which shook the whole world.

22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2004), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **28 COM 14B.55**):

Criterion (ii): Bam developed at the crossroads of important trade routes at the southern side of the Iranian high plateau, and it became an outstanding example of the interaction of the various influences.

Criterion (iii): The Bam and its Cultural Landscape represents an exceptional testimony to the development of a trading settlement in the desert environment of the Central Asian region.

Criterion (iv): The city of Bam represents an outstanding example of a fortified settlement and citadel in the Central Asian region, based on the use mud layer technique (Chineh) combined with mud bricks (Khesht).

Criterion (v): The cultural landscape of Bam is an outstanding representation of the interaction of man and nature in a desert environment, using the qanats. The system is based on a strict social system with precise tasks and responsibilities, which have been maintained in use until the present, but has now become vulnerable to irreversible change.

23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)

No Statement is available for this property.

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

Statement of Significance (Decision 32 COM 8B.73)

The Ifugao Rice Terraces epitomize the absolute blending of the physical, socio-cultural, economic, religious, and political environment. Indeed, it is a living cultural landscape of unparalleled beauty.

The Ifugao Rice Terraces are the priceless contribution of Philippine ancestors to humanity. Built 2000 years ago and passed on from generation to generation, the Ifugao Rice Terraces represent an enduring illustration of an ancient civilization that surpassed various challenges and setbacks posed by modernization.

Reaching a higher altitude and being built on steeper slopes than many other terraces, the Ifugao complex of stone or mud walls and the careful carving of the natural contours of hills and mountains to make terraced pond fields, coupled with the development of intricate irrigation systems, harvesting water from the forests of the mountain tops, and an elaborate farming system, reflect a mastery of engineering that is appreciated to the present.

The terraces illustrate a persistence of cultural traditions and remarkable continuity and endurance, since archaeological evidence reveals that this technique has been in use in the region for 2000 years virtually unchanged. They offer many lessons for application in similar environments elsewhere.

Maintenance of the living rice terraces reflects a primarily cooperative approach of the whole community which is based on detailed knowledge of the rich diversity of biological resources existing in the Ifugao agro-ecosystem, a finely tuned annual system respecting lunar cycles, zoning and planning, extensive soil conservation, mastery of a most complex pest control regime based on the processing of a variety of herbs, accompanied by religious rituals.

Criterion (iii): The rice terraces are a dramatic testimony to a community's sustainable and primarily communal system of rice production, based on harvesting water from the forest clad mountain tops and creating stone terraces and ponds, a system that has survived for two millennia.

Criterion (iv): The rice terraces are a memorial to the history and labour of more than a thousand generations of small-scale farmers who, working together as a community, have created a landscape based on a delicate and sustainable use of natural resources.

Criterion (v): The rice terraces are an outstanding example of land-use resulting from a harmonious interaction between people and their environment which has produced a steep terraced landscape of great aesthetic beauty, now vulnerable to social and economic changes.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

25. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

No Statement is currently available for this property

However, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 June 2009 and is currently being reviewed by ICOMOS.

26. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2004), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **28 COM 14B.40**):

Criterion (ii): The Dresden Elbe Valley has been the crossroads in Europe, in culture, science and technology. Its art collections, architecture, gardens, and landscape features have been an important reference for Central European developments in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Criterion (iii): The Dresden Elbe Valley contains exceptional testimonies of court architecture and festivities, as well as renowned examples of middle-class architecture and industrial heritage representing European urban development into the modern industrial era.

Criterion (iv): The Dresden Elbe Valley is an outstanding cultural landscape, an ensemble that integrates the celebrated baroque setting and suburban garden city into an artistic whole within the river valley.

Criterion (v): The Dresden Elbe Valley is an outstanding example of land use, representing an exceptional development of a major Central-European city. The value of this cultural landscape has long been recognized, but it is now under new pressures for change.

27. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)¹ (C 724)

No Statement is currently available for this property.

However, a draft Statement of Significance was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2008 and is presented to the World Heritage Committee in Document *WHC-09/33.COM/8E*.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

28. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2005), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **29 COM 8B.51**):

Criterion (ii): The development of the saltpeter industry reflects the combined knowledge, skills, technology, and financial investment of a diverse community of people who were brought together from around South America, and from Europe. The saltpeter industry became a huge cultural exchange complex where ideas were quickly absorbed and exploited. The two works represent this process.

Criterion (iii): The saltpeter mines and their associated company towns developed into an extensive and very distinct urban community with its own language, organisation, customs, and creative expressions, as well as displaying technical entrepreneurship. The two nominated works represent this distinctive culture.

Criterion (iv): The saltpeter mines in the north of Chile together became the largest producers of natural saltpeter in the world, transforming the Pampa and indirectly the agricultural lands that benefited from the fertilisers the works produced. The two works represent this transformation process.

29. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

No Statement is available for this property.

30. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)

No Statement is available for this property.

II. PROPERTIES DISCUSSED FOR IN-DANGER LISTING

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

¹ **Note:** The Secretariat was informed by the Legal Advisor that "The UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement be achieved".

1. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199)

No Statement is currently available for this property

However, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 19 May 2009 and is currently being reviewed by IUCN.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

2. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

No Statement is available for this property.

At the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2004), the criteria for inscription were defined as follows (see Decision **28 COM 14B.5**):

Criterion (ix): The Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra represent the most important blocks of forest on the island of Sumatra for the conservation of the biodiversity of both lowland and mountain forests. This once vast island of tropical rainforest, in the space of only 50 years, has been reduced to isolated remnants including those centered on the three nominated properties. The Leuser Ecosystem, including the Gunung Leuser National Park, is by far the largest and most significant forest remnant remaining in Sumatra. All three parks would undoubtedly have been important climatic refuge for species over evolutionary time and have now become critically important refuge for future evolutionary processes.

Criterion (vii): The parks that comprise the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra are all located on the prominent main spine of the Bukit Barisan Mountains, known as the 'Andes of Sumatra'. Outstanding scenic landscapes abound at all scales. The mountains of each site present prominent mountainous backdrops to the settled and developed lowlands of Sumatra. The combination of the spectacularly beautiful Lake Gunung Tujuh (the highest lake in southeast Asia), the magnificence of the giant Mount Kerinci volcano, numerous small volcanic, coastal and glacial lakes in natural forested settings, fumaroles belching smoke from forested mountains and numerous waterfalls and cave systems in lush rainforest settings, emphasise the outstanding beauty of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra.

Criterion (x): All three parks that comprise the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra are areas of very diverse habitat and exceptional biodiversity. Collectively, the three sites include more than 50% of the total plant diversity of Sumatra. At least 92 local endemic species have been identified in Gunung Leuser National Park. The nomination contains populations of both the world's largest flower (*Rafflesia arnoldi*) and the tallest flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*). The relict lowland forests in the nominated sites are very important for conservation of the plant and animal biodiversity of the rapidly disappearing lowland forests of South East Asia. Similarly, the montane forests, although less threatened, are very important for conservation of the distinctive montane vegetation of the property.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

3. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

No Statement is available for this property.

4. Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

No Statement is available for this property.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

5. Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca (Malaysia) (C 1223)

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (Decision 32 COM 8B.25)

Melaka and George Town, Malaysia, are remarkable examples of historic colonial towns on the Straits of Malacca that demonstrate a succession of historical and cultural influences arising from their former function as trading ports linking East and West. These are the most complete surviving historic city centres on the Straits of Malacca with a multi-cultural living heritage originating from the trade routes from Great Britain and Europe through the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and the Malay Archipelago to China. Both towns bear testimony to a living multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, where the many religions and cultures met and coexisted. They reflect the coming together of cultural elements from the Malay Archipelago, India and China with those of Europe, to create a unique architecture, culture and townscape.

Criterion (ii): Melaka and George Town represent exceptional examples of multi-cultural trading towns in East and Southeast Asia, forged from the mercantile and exchanges of Malay, Chinese, and Indian cultures and three successive European colonial powers for almost 500 years, each with its imprints on the architecture and urban form, technology and monumental art. Both towns show different stages of development and the successive changes over a long span of time and are thus complementary.

Criterion (iii): Melaka and George Town are living testimony to the multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, and European colonial influences. This multi-cultural tangible and intangible heritage is expressed in the great variety of religious buildings of different faiths, ethnic quarters, the many languages, worship and religious festivals, dances, costumes, art and music, food, and daily life.

Criterion (iv): Melaka and George Town reflect a mixture of influences which have created a unique architecture, culture and townscape without parallel anywhere in East and South Asia. In particular, they demonstrate an exceptional range of shophouses and townhouses. These buildings show many different types and stages of development of the building type, some originating in the Dutch or Portuguese periods.

The integrity of the nominated areas in both towns is related to the presence of all the elements necessary to express their Outstanding Universal Value. The properties have retained their authenticity; listed monuments and sites have been restored with appropriate treatments regarding design, materials, methodologies, techniques and workmanship, in accordance with conservation guidelines and principles.

The protective measures for the properties are adequate. Both towns exhibit a generally acceptable state of conservation, although efforts are required to ensure the conservation of shophouses. The management plans and structures are adequate, and can be enhanced through the continuing conservation programs of the State Party.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

6. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

No Statement is available for this property.

7. Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation) (C 540)

No Statement is available for this property.

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

No Statement is available for this property.