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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-eighth session

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

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. 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/38COM/>

All state of conservation reports are also available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1982 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

(cf. Document CLT 82/CH/CONF.015/8)

"[...] they considered that the situation of this property corresponds to the criteria mentioned in the ICOMOS note and, in particular, to criteria (e) (significant loss of historical authenticity) and (f) (important loss of cultural significance) as far as "ascertained danger" is concerned, and to criteria (a) (modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection), (b) (lack of conservation policy) and (d) (threatening effects of town planning) as far as "potential danger" is concerned. [...]"

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1982)

Total amount approved: USD 100,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: approximately USD 5,000,000 (since 1988)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2004: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; from September 2005 to May 2008: 6 experts missions within the framework of the elaboration of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem; February-March 2007: special World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission sent by the Director-General of UNESCO for the issue of the Mughrabi ascent; August 2007, January and February 2008: missions for the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism; March and December 2009: World Heritage Centre missions ; December 2013: project mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Natural risk factors;
- Lack of planning, governance and management processes;
- Alteration of the urban and social fabric;
- Impact of archaeological excavations;
- Deterioration of monuments;
- Urban environment and visual integrity;
- Traffic, access and circulation.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/>

Current conservation issues

A report was provided to the World Heritage Centre by the Israeli Permanent Delegation to UNESCO on 31 January 2014. A joint report was provided by the Jordanian and Palestinian Permanent Delegations to UNESCO on 30 January 2014; an edited version of this joint report was received on 12 March 2014. These reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/documents/>.

I. Report from the Israeli authorities

It is to be noted that since 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem “*is de facto administered by*” the Israeli authorities. The report underlined that it refers only to new actions taken or ongoing processes in the areas inside the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem – *intra muros* sites. The report presents a wide range of activities. Most of them are similar to those mentioned in the 2013 report and the previously reported activities are therefore not reported in the present document. Updates are summarized hereunder:

a) Overall plans and development

Regarding town planning, the report indicates that the Local Plan for the Old City is a derivative of the strategic plan and previous planning initiatives that determines the methods and terms of preservation and restoration of the Old City monuments and of the public realm. The Plan recommends to list 600 Monuments in the Old City, and to establish a professional team to examine applications submitted in the Old City and to advise the local authorities on their approval. The report also mentions that the Local Planning Committee, recently re-appointed, is resuming its discussion of the plan, with a view to consolidate municipal opinions regarding deposited files. Concerning residential block plans, the report mentions that 23 residential blocks exist in the Old City, excluding the Jewish quarter. It further indicated that local plan AM/9 for the Old City of Jerusalem adopted in 1976 is still valid in most parts of the Old City. Six residential blocks were selected for the first phase of planning. The plans implement policies and guidelines for the safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Old City, the conservation and rehabilitation of historic assets, and facilitate the issuance of building permits in these blocks. Furthermore, two residential local plans are being prepared for submission to the planning committees. The report mentioned that a new Comprehensive Local Plan for the Jewish Quarter in the Old City is being developed. The programmatic brief for the plan was approved, and currently, several spatial building alternatives are being produced to be presented to the steering committee in the coming months. The report from the Israeli authorities also provides a list of detailed schemes in the Old City, including notably: the Tifferet Israel Synagogue as well as the Building addition to Armenian Church which have been deposited for public review as well as for review by the Local Planning Committee; the scheme for the Liba (core) House has been deposited, objections have been heard, and the plan will be discussed in the Regional Planning Committee again shortly. A zoning plan application was submitted regarding the Addition of housing units to an existing residential building.

Concerning the lighting plan, a tender for the design and production of exclusive Old-City street lamp was published and is at the evaluation stage. The infrastructure and streetscape improvement project along Hagai (El Wad) street including landscaping, infrastructure renewal and provision of accessibility proceeds, is to be completed in 2014. Preparations to initiate the next phase will commence with the renovation of Damascus Gate plaza Works and will continue throughout 2014 for the infrastructure and streetscape improvement project in the Bab Huta neighborhood, including landscaping, infrastructure renewal and provision of accessibility. The Street Improvement plan for the Christian

Quarter has reached the final design phase and this project includes the renewal of water utilities, the renovation of the Muristan plaza and the routes to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as the improvement of accessibility for the disabled. The survey of the Old City's commercial street facades has been conducted and public funding is provided for the renovation of facades in compliance with storefront design guidelines. An outdoor sport field has been constructed in the Sons of Alquds Community Centre in the Moslem Quarter and a Public Participation Unit for East Jerusalem residents has been established. Regarding maintenance and site management, the report mentions that a new local governance unit for public participation in East Jerusalem was established, enhanced cleaning and maintenance services in the Old City is provided.

Concerning traffic and transportation, a traffic plan intended to minimize vehicular movement through the Lions Gate and the New Gate is being prepared. Public Transportation Services improve with the operation of new regular shuttles circulating within the Old City with park and ride facilities. Concerning tourism infrastructure, five tourist routes and seven public restrooms facilities compliant with accessibility requirements for the disabled are in progress.

b) Archaeology on the Temple Mount

The report submitted by the Israeli authorities indicates that conservation works on the Temple Mount Compound including preservation of mosaics and marble tiles at the Dome of the Rock, are being undertaken as well as the replacement of one of the wooden doors of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It reports that repair of water utilities are in progress. At the Al Omariya School, located at the northern face of Temple Mount, complex stabilization and reconstruction of the walls of the school are carried out. The report further indicates that at the Solomon's Stables, conservation work of the seventh and eighth vaults continued. All these works are conducted by the Waqf under the inspection of Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). At the Eastern Wall, conservation works on the Eastern side of the Wall were completed and restoration works resumed, including the replacement of worn stones.

c) Conservation activity

Western Wall Compound

The report mentions that, at the Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue the construction of a permanent support structure and floor casting was completed. Furthermore the report mentions that Strauss building-rescue excavation was conducted at the construction site of an additional wing.

Western Wall Tunnels

Concerning the Western Wall tunnels, ongoing conservation and structural stabilization work was undertaken in several rooms along the passage and the installation of wood platforms enables the use of the Northern rooms. At the Mahkamah building, the reports mentions ongoing conservation works, bordering the Western Wall plaza, including the treatment of deteriorated stones and structural stabilization.

Restoration and preservation of the Old City Walls

The report mentions that the Walls Conservation Project has been carried out for several years and the conservation and structural works on the Warrior Cell above the Lions Gate facade has been completed.

d) Conservation works in the Old City

The report further mentions conservation works at several places in the Old City, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre with construction, restoration and maintenance works at St. Abraham convent, by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy in Jerusalem, the Alexander Nievsky Church, the House of the Maghreb heritage, the Steps Pool, the Jewish Quarter - Remains of a Miqwe. At the Bab Huta neighbourhood upgrading of the infrastructure as well as at Hagai (el-Wad) Street took place. At Sabil Hamam el Ain conservation works were conducted including cleaning and stabilizing components of the architectural monument. At the Sons of Alquds community centre an outdoor sport fields was finalized in 2013 avoiding any damage to the Old City walls. At the Citadel the removal of the excavation spoil continued in 2013 and landscape development began. The Hamam underneath the Jaffa Gate was cleaned and options for the site's rehabilitation are being considered. For Zedekiyah's Cave, a project focuses on safety requirements. At Haldiah-el Kirmi new cracks appeared in September 2013 and measures were taken. The Waqf, under professional supervision, is preparing a structural and conservation plan for the compound.

e) Archaeological excavations in the Old City and along the walls

The report mentions various archaeological excavations including research excavations in Jerusalem Archaeological Park, notably on the Herodian drainage canal; an excavation along the foundations of the Western Wall as well as excavations at the Ophel. The reports also underline that in the course of 2013, several rescue excavations conducted by IAA archaeologists were undertaken prior to implementation of civil infrastructure and rehabilitation works. These salvage excavations concerned notably the Tifferet Israel Synagogue, the "Musa Affendi residence", the Theodor House", the "Hadad family residence", the Damascus Gate St. #20 as well as "The Grand Bazaar". The report also mentions construction works in the Archaeological Park and notably, at the Northwestern corner of the Archaeological Park, a platform installed to expand the plaza for the benefit of prayers. The report indicated that the platform is made of lightweight materials and was installed with no damage to antiquities.

f) Site management and other issues

According to the report, a new local governance unit for public participation was established to coordinate public engagement processes and mediate between Old City's communities and the authorities. The contract for enhanced cleaning and maintenance services in the Old City has been renewed. Furthermore, a GIS based database for the Old City was established to facilitate access to data collected in the course of planning, renewal and preservation initiatives in the Old City, including maps, documents and plans. Finally, the report provides a list of tourism and cultural events that were organized.

II. Report from the Jordanian authorities

The report received from the Permanent Delegation of Jordan states that it has been prepared partly in consultation with the Permanent Delegation of Palestine to UNESCO. It provides information based on the observations and report of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and the Jordanian Committee for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. It presents activities undertaken by the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and information on the Israeli measures in the Old City, reiterating the concern of the Government of Jordan on these matters. The report refers notably to the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention which has been ratified by both Jordan and Israel, and to the 1994 Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel.

a) Report on the activities carried out by the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf at the Haram ash-Sharif

Among the activities presented and undertaken by the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf are the following, most of them already reported in the report to the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013):

- Continuing the restoration works of the stucco and mosaic ornamentation inside of the Dome of the Rock, as well as of the interior walls marble cladding;
- Conducting studies and preparing tender documents for the ventilation system as well as completing the study of, and plans for, the external lighting project of the Dome of the Rock;
- Completing the restoration of the historic tiles (Qashani) for the Dome of the Chain (Qubbat Al-Silsilah) adjacent to the Dome of the Rock;
- Re-gilding the crescent of the Dome of the Rock and restoring parts of the underground water pipes around the Dome of the Rock Plaza;
- Starting restoration work on mosaic ornamentation; continuing the restoration of the stucco and glass windows and of the wooden tie beams between the main columns of Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as replacing two wooden gates and work on the ventilation;
- Continuing with the laying of lead sheeting over the roofs of the buildings of the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound as well as restoration of the Khanthaniyyah School and library below the Mosque;
- Continuing the restoration of the outside of the Eastern wall and completing the restoration of the Southern wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque;

- Continuing the restoration of the mortar lining of the ceilings of the sixth and seventh colonnades of the Al-Marwani Mosque as well as restoration of the rainwater channels over and conducting studies and preparing tender documents for the construction of a canopy for the entrance of the Mosque;
- Finishing the restoration and maintenance of the Mamluk Jawliyyah School (part of the Omariyyah School);
- Partial tiling of the Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound.

The report also mentions the cooperation with UNESCO for the rehabilitation of the Manuscript Conservation Laboratory and for the refurbishment of the Islamic Museum, and the appointment by the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of four additional staff members for the Museum and five for the Manuscript Centre. It also indicates that the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf has recently appointed five trainees at the Manuscript Restoration Center, funded by a UNESCO grant; and that UNESCO retained a museum expert to develop a conceptual design for the Islamic Museum of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

b) Report on the actions undertaken by the Israeli authorities

The report provides a list of the obstructions to the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf's work at the Haram ash-Sharif, including the restoration of the columns of the Marwani Mosque, the installation of the lighting and firefighting and sound system, the restoration of the Ghadiriyya School, and the renovation of the Golden Gate, as well as, notably, obstructions to the restoration of medical emergency rooms at Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa; execution of the ventilation system for the Dome of the Rock and the tiling of the pathways of Al-Aqsa Mosque Plazas; the construction of a canopy for the entrance of the Al-Marwani Mosque and the restoration of the external pediment of the Western upper roof of Al-Jami' Al-Aqsa.

In addition, the report mentions the measures preventing the employees of the Jordanian Awqaf to access their workplace and sites as well as those preventing access to Muslim and Christian worshipers to their holy sites. The report also mentions the establishment of surveillance cameras at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and at the Dome of the Rok and the damages to the historic gates of Al-Jami' Al-Aqsa. In addition, the report notes damages against the Nabi Dawud Compound and Mosque, including attempts to transform the authenticity and spiritual values (e.g. inscription panels, converting functions and use).

The report further mentions concerns regarding debates held at the Knesset on the status at the Haram ash-Sharif.

The report also expresses concern at the plans to change the character and features of the Old City, including the alteration of the authenticity of the Walls, the converting of the Old City Gates into artificial parks (Damascus Gate, Lions' Gate and Herode's Gate), the removal of remains of the Magharbeh Quarter during the excavations on the Western Wall/Al Buraq Plaza, the construction of "Beit Haliba" (referred to as Liba House in the report of the Israeli authorities above), the demolition of a building and arches on the Western Wall/Al Buraq Plaza in order to build the Strauss House at the northwest corner of the Plaza which will affect the view of the Dome of the Rock.

The report makes reference to the activities undertaken by the Israeli authorities regarding the planned construction of a Centre for Human Dignity and a Museum of Tolerance on part of the Mamilla Cemetery, a Muslim cemetery located to the West of the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Several letters of complaints have been received by UNESCO from NGOs, from the Permanent Delegation of Palestine regarding this matter, as well as from the Chairperson of the Executive Board, H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Amr, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Group to UNESCO. The Secretariat transmitted to the Israeli authorities a letter on this matter and requested additional information on 21 February 2014. At the time of the preparation of this report, no answer was received from the Israeli authorities.

In January 2014, UNESCO has received reports from a Israeli NGO on recent activities regarding excavation and construction work in and around the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls. The Secretariat requested the Israeli authorities to provide additional information in particular related to the construction activity for the "Giv'ati Parking Lot", the construction of "Beit Haliba", which overlooks the Western Wall area, the ongoing works in the Southern part of the tunnel, as well as the wooden platform at the Western Wall Area for the "Women of the Wall Prayer Site". At the time of the preparation of this report, no answer was received from the Israeli authorities.

c) Report on archaeological excavations undertaken by the Israeli authorities

A large part of the report relates to the archaeological excavation and tunnelling undertaken in and around the Old City¹, in particular in the areas of the Southern wall of the Marwani Mosque and Western Wall Plaza and in Silwan, causing damage to buildings on the ground level and affecting the structural integrity of the areas around and under the Haram ash-Sharif. The report states that more than 100 excavations are ongoing in the Old City and on both sides of the Old City Walls. Of particular concern to the Jordanian authorities are the tunnels connecting Al Wad Street with the Western Wall and the Kittan Cave/Suleiman Cave, the tunnels connecting Silwan to the Western Wall/Al Buraq Plaza, excavations and tunnelling at the site of the Omar bin Al-Khattab yard close to Hebron Gate.

The report provides a list of 13 tunnels and excavations undertaken by the Israeli authorities since 1967 in the Old City, which could have a direct effect on the structural condition of the Haram ash-Sharif, such as the Western Wall tunnels and underground synagogue, the Ohel Yitzhak tunnels, the Magharbeh Gate/Hasmonaean tunnel, the Bab Al-Qataneen tunnel, the Bab Al-Ghawanmeh tunnel, 70 m under the Haram ash-Sharif, the tunnel and excavations under the Western Wall Plaza.

III. The Mughrabi Ascent

Since its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee has repeatedly requested “the World Heritage Centre to facilitate the professional encounter at the technical level between Israeli, Jordanian and Waqf experts to discuss the detailed proposals for the proposed final design of the Mughrabi ascent, prior to any final decision”. Two such meetings took place in Jerusalem on 13 January and 24 February 2008.

UNESCO convened a technical meeting at its Headquarters on 18 April 2012. Jordanian and Waqf experts participated in this meeting, with representatives of the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS. The Permanent Delegate of Israel informed the World Heritage Centre verbally that Israeli experts would not participate in the meeting, as he considered that it is the responsibility of the parties concerned to reach an agreement on the design of the Mughrabi Ascent. Due to the absence of the Israeli experts, neither examination nor discussion of the Israeli proposal took place. Therefore, the situation has remained unchanged as the objective of the meeting was to review both proposals in order for the parties to reach a consensus on the design of the Mughrabi Ascent.

At the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), Decision **36 COM 7A.23.II**, reiterating the terms of the Executive Board decision, was adopted by consensus among the concerned parties.

A note verbale from the Permanent Delegation of Jordan to UNESCO, dated 9 October 2012, informed UNESCO that the Israeli authorities had resumed work on the Mughrabi Ascent since 22 May 2012, thus disregarding previous decisions of the Executive Board and of the World Heritage Committee requesting that “no measures, unilateral or otherwise, shall be taken on the site”. The note verbale highlights the great concern of the Government of Jordan about these actions “which have adversely altered the site’s characteristics, integrity, authenticity and Islamic cultural heritage” and which “hinder the efforts to finally settle the Mughrabi Gate Pathway dispute in a manner consistent with UNESCO’s consensus decisions and acceptable by all relevant parties”. Two additional notes verbales, dated 4 and 14 February 2013 as well as a letter dated 2 April 2013 reiterated this matter.

The report of the Jordanian authorities, dated 25 February 2013, reiterates the above and the deep concern of the Government of Jordan that the actions undertaken by the Israeli authorities would alter the “status quo” and may lay the foundations for erecting a permanent bridge or annexing the levelled areas to the Plaza.

¹ The issue of the archaeological excavations carried out since 1967 by the Israeli authorities in the Old City of Jerusalem is also the subject of consideration by the Governing Bodies of UNESCO. These archaeological campaigns are in contradiction with article VI. 32 of the 1956 New Delhi *Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations, related to excavations in an occupied territory*.

Finally, the report calls on UNESCO to request its Advisory Bodies, ICCROM and ICOMOS, to comment on the Jordanian design submitted in May 2011, in order for UNESCO to approve it.

The report of the Israeli authorities, dated 26 February 2013, states that in February 2012, work was commenced to stabilize the temporary wooden bridge and that work has started in the area where the new Mughrabi Ascent is to be built, including the removal of unstable walls, filling of underground spaces with dirt, stabilizing ancient walls, removal of layers of dirt, and stabilizing dirt cuts.

During the discussions at the 190th session of the Executive Board, Member States expressed their concern as regards the lack of progress in implementing the decisions of the Board and of the World Heritage Committee. A meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board was convened by the Chairperson on 7 and 8 March 2013, requesting the Director-General to deploy her efforts to achieve progress on this matter. At the 191st session, a consensus was finally reached among the concerned parties for an experts meeting to take place in May 2013, as acknowledged in Decision 191 EX/5.

The meeting was foreseen to take place at the World Heritage Centre on 27 May 2013, and the Jordanian and Palestinian authorities had designated their experts. However, failing on agreement on the Terms of Reference of the mission (see below, VI), the Israeli authorities considered the meeting to be premature and it therefore has not taken place at the time of the drafting of the present document.

At its 37th session, the World Heritage Committee reiterated the need for the parties concerned to cooperate on all related aspects of this issue [Mughrabi ascent] and regrets Israel's refusal to fulfil World Heritage Committee Decision **36 COM 7A.23.II**, Executive Board Decision 191 EX/5 (I) and related UNESCO Resolutions and Decisions.

In response to the request by UNESCO for additional information regarding the constructions work undertaken at the beginning of the ramp leading to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities informed, by letter dated 31 January 2014 that "all the ongoing construction works are carried out with full cooperation and coordination between the Waqf authorities, the Municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Antiquities Authority".

The information provided by Jordan and Palestine contains a chronological list of reported "extensive aggressions" against the Mughrabi Gate Pathway since 1967 to 2013 underlining a "continued disregard of all UNESCO decisions regarding the Mughrabi Gate Pathway (MGP) and banning the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf from performing their duties to restore the MGP area for the 10th consecutive year". In the report, the Government of Jordan expressed his deep concern about Israeli acts prohibiting the entrusted National Authority from performing emergency restorations and stabilization measures to the Umayyad / Ottoman / Mamluk Walls at the site of the Mughrabi Gate Pathway. It underlines that these historic treasures have recently been removed or covered with concrete and new walls by the Israeli authorities. Furthermore, the report mentions the demolishing and erasing part of the Mughrabi Gate Pathway in order to expand the Jewish women's prayer area, the leveling and lowering large areas of the Mughrabi Gate Pathway as well as the enforcement of a new Jewish prayer platform for American Reform Jews.

At its 194th session, the Executive Board of UNESCO recalled previous decisions regarding "the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem" and decided to include this item on its agenda for the 195th session in the fall of 2014.

IV. UNESCO operational projects

In 2008, within the framework of the UNESCO Action plan for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, the A.G. Leventis Foundation decided to contribute to a project for the restoration of the lower part of the Church of St. John the Baptist, also known as St. John Prodromos. The overall state of conservation of the underground part of this Church, which is one of the most ancient in Jerusalem, was considered critical since no serious restoration and maintenance works have been undertaken for decades. The project aimed at solving structural problems and making the lower church accessible to the resident community and visitors. In 2011, after the removal of a modern floor, in-depths archaeological research was completed. In 2012 the overall programme for the structural consolidation and project proposals was prepared. However, the available funds were not sufficient to undertake a full restoration project and therefore the works were limited to key priorities. A project officer from the World Heritage Centre conducted a mission to Jerusalem in November 2013 for the closure of the operational project on the Church of St. John the Baptist. Based on the study and project design for the restoration of the Church produced by

UNESCO, the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate shall cooperate to implement the restoration works and acknowledging UNESCO's role thereon.

The third phase of the project for the establishment of the Centre for the Restoration of Manuscripts of the Haram ash-Sharif, funded by Norway, started in September 2011 and is progressing well. Five additional staff members have been recruited and four sessions of courses on conservation and restoration techniques have already been held.

Within the framework of the project "Safeguarding, Refurbishment and Revitalization of the Islamic Museum of the Haram ash-Sharif and its Collection", funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the premises of the Islamic Museum have been repaired and the necessary equipment has been purchased. The four permanent staff members recruited by the Jordanian authorities were trained in conservation and museum management. The artefacts are being cleaned and conserved, the electronic and photographic inventory is nearly completed. The museological/museographical phase started in September 2012 and subsequently, the Director of the Museum of Islamic Art within the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, selected by UNESCO as coordinator, proposed a plan of action and the scientific conception of the museum. The interior design of the museum has been submitted by the selected architect. An audience development team produced a report on the expectations of the public and the restoration of the artefacts to be exhibited has started. The implementation of the plan of action for the conception of the museum will start as soon as it is approved by the local authorities.

V. Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism

The "Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism", requested by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 176th session and by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), has been applied to the Mughrabi Ascent since then. Consequently, nine reports were prepared by the World Heritage Centre and forwarded to the concerned parties and the members of the World Heritage Committee. At its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), the World Heritage Committee decided to expand the mechanism to the entire Old City of Jerusalem and, thus, four reports were prepared respectively in December 2011, March 2012, February 2013 and March 2014 and distributed to the members of the World Heritage Committee and the concerned parties.

VI. Reactive monitoring mission

The World Heritage Committee requested at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively, "a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as referred to in the *Operational Guidelines* to assess and advise on progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and, in cooperation and consultation with the concerned parties, to identify appropriate operational and financial mechanisms and modalities to strengthen technical cooperation with all concerned parties in the framework of the Action Plan". At the 191st session of the Executive Board, a consensus could finally be reached among the parties concerned for the mission to take place in May 2013, as acknowledged in Decision 191 EX/9.

The mission was scheduled to be carried out from 20 to 25 May 2013. However, no agreement could be reached between the concerned parties on the Terms of Reference of the mission.

At its 37th session, the World Heritage Committee deplored "the continued Israeli failure to cooperate and facilitate the implementation of the World Heritage Committee Decision **34 COM 7A.20**, which requests a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls and despite its own letter to the Director-General of UNESCO dated 23 April 2013 accepting the mission as reflected in the agreement reached at the 191st session of the Executive Board and as stipulated in the Executive Board 191 EX/Decision 9", and asked "Israel to refrain from any new preconditions in order not to obstruct the implementation of the above mentioned agreement".

By Decision 194 EX/5 (D) adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO in April 2014, the Executive Board requested to implement paragraph 11 of Decision **34 COM 7A.20** adopted by the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia at its 34th session as follows:

- **(a) Phase I:** the dispatch, upon an agreed date prior, at least 10 days, to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring

mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls to assess, as a first phase, the 18 sites included in the Action Plan as pilot sites,

– **(b) Phase II:** the dispatch, upon an agreed date, of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, to assess, as second phase, the major monumental complexes designated in the Action Plan (i.e. the Haram-ash-Sharif, the Citadel, the Western Wall, the Holy Sepulchre and the City walls);

The Executive Board invited all concerned parties to participate in the experts meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent, to be held at UNESCO upon an agreed date prior, at least 10 days, to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, and requested that the report and recommendations of the mission as well as the report of the technical meeting on the Mughrabi Ascent in Paris, be presented to the concerned parties before the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The Secretariat will be reporting on such a meeting to the World Heritage Committee accordingly, either through an Addendum or orally at the time of the discussion of the agenda item.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.4

The Draft Decision will be presented to the World Heritage Committee during the session.

6. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1981-2001)

Total amount approved: 156,050 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

10,000 USD from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

March and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the King Faisal Street project; April 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poor state of conservation;
- Inappropriate restoration techniques;
- Lack of a buffer zone;
- Lack of a management plan.
- Development projects threatening the significant historic fabric.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria including the six World Heritage properties, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents>. The report indicates that mortar shelling damaged the western facade of Umayyad Mosque, the western facade of the Citadel's eastern gate, the northern wall of its Royal Hall, and the facade of the Great Madrasa Al-Adliya. The State Party also notes that targeted explosions and/or bombing have damaged several historic buildings including the Maryamieh Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch in Bab Tuma, and the Armenian Orthodox Church in Bab Sharqi. It further reports on the fire that damaged several structures in the districts of Sarouja and Qanawat. The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) has already restored the damaged Byzantine mosaic of the Omayyad Mosque's western facade.

Media have reported heavy shelling in the Midan historical district, but no detailed information is available at this stage to ascertain extent of damaged caused. This information has yet to be confirmed by the State Party.

Following the request of the DGAM, the World Heritage Centre organised on 19 December 2013 an emergency meeting with ICOMOS, ICCROM and Interpol to discuss the planning and implementation of immediate preventive measures, by the DGAM and the Municipality Directorate for the Old City of Damascus (Maktab Anbar), in light of the possible escalation of armed conflict in the area of the Old City of Damascus. The identified technical recommendations and risk mitigation measures focused on safeguarding heritage in times of conflict. they included the rehabilitation of existing shelters, infrastructural networks, fire prevention and firefighting, securing archival materials and valuable movable items, protecting decorative elements and heavy movable items in situ, blocking access to minarets or belfries and awareness raising initiatives, among others.

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

See item 12 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: See draft Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

7. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2001)

Total Amount approved: 51,250 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal constructions following the start of the conflict
- Damage of historic buildings due to the conflict

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria including the six World Heritage properties; the report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents>. The report indicates that in addition to the damage of the Mabrak El-Naqa building reported in 2013, damages due to the armed conflict have occurred at the Nymph Temple, the Omari Mosque, the Saint-Serge Cathedral, Al-Fatemi Mosque, Madrasat Abu Al-Fidaa as well as other historical structures. No further details are provided on the extent of the damage given the difficulties to access these areas. The State Party also notes that illegal excavations and illegal constructions are currently affecting the property, although the rate and extent of these factors could also not be assessed at this stage.

Additional information sources suggest the bombing of the Saint-Serge Cathedral, and the use of the Bosra Citadel - which surrounds the Roman Amphitheatre - for military purposes. This information has yet to be confirmed by the State Party.

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

See item 12 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: See draft Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

8. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1989-2005)

Total amount approved: 81,250 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict
- Lack of a management plan

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria, including the six World Heritage properties, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents>. The report indicates that clashes in the area, particularly in the palm groves near the Temple of Bel have resulted in several damages including:

- Holes from shells and bullets in the southern and eastern walls of the Temple, and in the wall of the wood warehouse adjacent to the guesthouse;
- The collapse of two columns of the southern portico of the Temple;
- Bullet and shelling traces on the southern, western and northern walls of the Temple, and the column in the north-eastern corner of the portico of the fence of the Temple;
- Traces of burning on the southern and eastern walls, on the lintel of the eastern portico, and the southern window.

The report also notes that extensive illegal excavations are occurring in the Valley of the Tombs and in the Camp of Diocletian, some even undertaken with heavy equipment, and that looting of several stone sculptures from the unexcavated tombs has been reported, as well as the looting and/or destruction of the archaeological warehouse's contents.

The additional information sources suggest that the Citadel overlooking the property is being used for military purposes and that the complete archaeological site is being used for movements of military vehicles. It is understood that a tank has been positioned in the archaeological area and heavy artillery in the Camp of Diocletian and near the tower-tombs. Reports also suggest the excavation of a new road across the archaeological area and the building of new walls surrounding it. This information has yet to be confirmed by the State Party.

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

See item 12 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: See draft Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

9. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 21)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: 5,250 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict
- Lack of definition of the properties and of the buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/>

Current conservation issues

Due to the tremendous escalation of the armed conflict, the Ancient City of Aleppo has been severely damaged since 2013, and is undergoing regular destructions due to bombardments, targeted explosions and fire. On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria including the six World Heritage properties available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents>. The report indicates that at least 121 historical buildings have been damaged or destroyed, in addition to 30 to 40% of the property's building stock including than 1500 shops of the medieval Old Suq. The report also indicates that the 11th century Minaret, the prayer hall and the main gate of the Great Umayyad Mosque were destroyed and that its courtyard and all its decorative elements have suffered severe damage, as did all of the mosque's surrounding neighbourhood, and that an armed group disassembled the wooden Minbar and claimed its transfer to a safer location. Furthermore, the report notes that the armed conflict has caused additional damage to the Aleppo Citadel's 13th century gate, and damaged the gates of the city wall, including Bab al-Hadid, Bab Qinnasrin, Bab Antakeya and Bab al-Nasr, to some of the most important Islamic architecture buildings, including Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Khan Al-Wazeer, Khan al-Gumruk, Khan al-Saboun, Hammam al-Sarraj and Hammam Bab al-Hadid, and to most historic houses of the Jdeideh quarter, including Beit Wakil, Beit Ghazaleh (where decorative elements were also stolen), and Dar Zamaria (which was totally destroyed). The State Party also reports that artefacts were looted from the Museum of Popular Traditions (Beit Ashiqbash) and from the Aleppo museum and that the Waqifiyya Library was set on fire and all its collections burned. Information is also included on damage, illegal excavation and looting at archaeological sites surrounding Aleppo.

Additional information sources suggest a very serious alarm about the ongoing clashes in and around the Citadel that is being used for military purposes, and bombs placed in underground tunnels in the area surrounding it, causing violent explosions and destroying several buildings which hold strategic military positions placing the Citadel itself and its surroundings are at high risk of total destruction. Finally, it is understood that the very high-value private collection of the Poche house was also looted. This information has yet to be confirmed by the State Party.

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

See item 12 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: See draft Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

10. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1229)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2003)

Total amount approved: 35,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

2.46 million Euros by the European Union

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict
- Lack of definition of the properties and of the buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment
- Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/>

Current conservation issues

The Crac des Chevaliers was occupied by armed groups since the summer of 2013; around three hundred persons were posted within the property; during this period, the media reported several bombardments of the property.

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria including the six World Heritage properties; the report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents>, referred to information from social networks only. It indicated that in the Crac des Chevaliers, the south-east tower was bombarded and a vault in the Soldier's Hall collapsed, in addition to other damages including in the mosque (the former chapel); it also indicated that no damages have been recorded in Qal'at Salah El-Din.

On 20 March 2014, the Syrian government gained back control over the property. On 25 March 2014, the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) undertook a field assessment mission and published a damage assessment report with pictures on their website, listing the following damages (the names used in the damage assessment do not fully correspond to the ones used in the Nomination dossier):

- "The total destruction of the main staircase inside the Crac des Chevaliers.
- Partial damage of the Hall of the Knights' main façade.
- Damage to the decorations and arches of the Hall of the Knights.
- Traces of fire behind the Church.
- Damage in the Library hall opposite the Leader's Tower, and of the staircase leading to the roof of the Library Hall.
- Damage of the façade of the King's Daughter tower.
- Partial destruction in the wall located between the King's Daughter tower and the roof of the Church.
- Partial destruction at the entrance to the stairs in front of the Qalawun tower; damage and destruction of the tower itself.
- Damage in one wall of the warehouses next to the main offices overlooking the courtyard.
- The partial destruction of a pillar supporting the ceiling of the Library Tower opposite the Tower of the Knights.
- Severe damage in the office of the Ottoman House as well as the administration offices.
- Partial damage and destruction of some walls in several unspecified locations.
- Minor damage in the outer wall of the castle".

The DGAM is preparing a detailed state of conservation report of the Crac des Chevaliers and an action plan for its conservation. The World Heritage Centre will organise end of May 2014, in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM, a technical meeting dedicated to the Crac des Chevaliers to advise the State Party on the protection measures of the property from further damage and on emergency consolidation and conservation actions.

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

See item 12 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: *See draft Decision 38 COM 7A.12*

11. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 2007)

Total amount approved: 30,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 202,917 (2001-2010: Technical and Financial Assistance from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture in the framework of France-UNESCO Cooperation.

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

200000 USD by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

170000 USD by the Flemish Government

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to the Syrian World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes;
- Lack of human and financial resources;
- Development or infrastructure projects that may affect the integrity of the property;
- Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria including the six World Heritage properties, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents>. The report provides detailed information collected through field surveys by the regional offices of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) of Idlib and Aleppo. It notes the following damages:

- Bullet impacts, intentional destructions and theft in Al-Bara,

- Extensive targeted illegal excavations and looting at Kafr Aqab, Banassra and Kfeir resulting in collapses and damages to the sites' churches, as well as illegal excavations within the religious complex dedicated to Saint Simeon Stylites,
- Extensive illegal occupation of the structures and the rock-hewn tombs by refugees, extraction of archaeological materials for construction in Sheikh Barakat and Jabal Zawia,
- Selling of Byzantine stones for new constructions, and illegal constructions in the perimeter of the property,
- Deliberate damage to stone statues in Al-Qatora village in Jabal Sam'an and to the interior facades of the monastery and the church of Simeon Castle,
- Broken sarcophagi, theft and vandalism across the site, including Jabal Wastani, Jabal Al-A'la, Jabal Zawia and Jabal Simeon,
- The interior facades of the Saint Simeon monastery and church have been damaged and the property illegally excavated.

Furthermore, the report indicates that Saint Simeon and other unnamed locations have been transformed into military bases, equipped with heavy artillery, and into training camps. The DGAM indicates that the refugees occupying the sites have agreed to protect them from vandals and thieves and that limited actions are being implemented in this respect.

Additional information sources suggest tank shelling at Shinshara, as well as the destruction of historic structures to allow for new construction to accommodate the numerous refugee families at the location. They also suggest sanitary problems due to the accumulated solid waste and to domestic animals. This information has yet to be confirmed by the State Party.

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

See item 12 of this Document (General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic).

Draft Decision: *See draft Decision 38 COM 7A.12*

12. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic

Current conservation issues

The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and has constantly escalated leading to significant violence and degradation of humanitarian conditions. Since the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2013, the destruction of Syria's exceptional archaeological, urban and architectural heritage has risen significantly and has continued to affect all six inscribed properties as well as the twelve sites inscribed on the Tentative List.

The State Party has sent two letters to the Director-General of UNESCO, dated 4 December 2013 and 6 March 2014, to express the concern of the Syrian authorities about the destruction of cultural heritage and requesting UNESCO's assistance. The UNESCO Director-General has issued several appeals calling on all parties to the conflict to stop the destruction of cultural heritage and to refrain from using cultural heritage sites for military purposes. She also requested the countries bordering Syria to reinforce the fight against the illicit trafficking of Syrian cultural property and wrote to the members of the UN Security Council ahead of the Geneva 2 conference in January 2014 to plead for the protection of Syrian heritage and for an international ban on trade in Syrian cultural objects. She reiterated this again in February 2014 to draw attention to the danger of the use of cultural heritage sites for military purposes in Syria, in respect of international obligations of all parties involved in the conflict, notably the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of

Armed Conflict, and in consistency with customary international humanitarian law. On 12 March 2014, the Director-General also issued a joint statement with the UN Secretary-General, and the UN and Arab League Special Representative on the situation of cultural heritage in Syria.

These efforts have led to a greater awareness of the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria at the level of the United Nations and to the adoption of resolution 2139 by the Security Council on 22 February 2014, which “calls on all the parties to immediately [...] save Syria’s rich societal mosaic and cultural heritage, and take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of Syria’s World Heritage Sites”.

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of all cultural heritage sites in Syria including the six World Heritage properties; available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/38COM/documents>.

This report represents an official statement from the Syrian authorities and collates available information from the branches of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and from social media. However, it notes that ground access in Syria is extremely limited for heritage experts, and the full extent of the damage to World Heritage properties cannot be assessed in detail at this time. Therefore, the report does not provide first-hand information on several sites, in particular the Old City of Aleppo and the Ancient City of Bosra, to be able to gauge the extent of damage to the properties. For the preparation of the state of conservation reports, additional information was sought from civil society organisations, international organisations, local experts and the media to supplement official data.

The State Party highlighted the destruction and identified damages at the World Heritage properties due to their use for military purposes and as military training areas, and from direct shelling, targeted explosions, extensive illicit excavations, intentional destruction, construction violations, and temporary human occupation. The report also stresses the positive role of local communities to safeguard heritage and fight illegal excavations. It stresses the day-to-day work carried out by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, within the existing limitations, to assess the damage, monitor the World Heritage properties and undertake emergency conservation and risk mitigation actions whenever possible.

Actions implemented by the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO

Since the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013), UNESCO has intensified its activities to monitor the situation of Syrian heritage, raise awareness on its protection, and undertake emergency actions to safeguard it. On 29 August 2013, the UNESCO Director-General convened a high-level technical meeting with the participation of the UN and Arab League Joint Special Representative, the Director-General of the DGAM, ICOMOS, ICCROM, ICOM, Interpol, the World Customs Organisation and the European Union, where an Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage was adopted. Based on this Action Plan, UNESCO elaborated a project entitled “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage”.

Following Decision **37 COM 7B.57**, which requested the Director-General of UNESCO to consider the creation of a Special Fund aimed at the conservation of the World Heritage properties in Syria, the World Heritage Centre successfully raised funds for the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage, including:

- the European Union-funded “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” project (2.46 million Euros). Started on 1 March 2014 for a duration of 3 years, the project, which is implemented in partnership with ICOMOS and ICCROM, addresses the safeguarding of built, movable and intangible heritage, through awareness-raising, monitoring and damage assessment, capacity building and technical assistance;
- the Flemish Government-funded project for the organisation of an International Experts Meeting on Syria and for Emergency Assistance Measures (170 000 USD); and
- the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (Category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO) financial support to the World Heritage Centre for the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage (200 000 USD). Taking into account the experience of the Special Fund for Mali, it was concluded that earmarked projects provided more chances for successful fundraising than the establishment of a Special Fund.

The World Heritage Centre has maintained regular communication with the DGAM and heritage specialists throughout Syria to document the situation on the ground and assist where possible, and

has worked with the UNESCO staff in charge of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and Interpol to fight illicit trafficking and block illegal selling of Syrian cultural property on a day-to-day basis. Since October 2013, the World Heritage Centre has engaged with national and international professionals working on Syrian heritage to map and coordinate international efforts, and to avoid duplication of activities; it also elaborated Damage Assessment Sheets that are regularly filled-in by heritage professionals in Syria to document damage, and established the following webpage dedicated to Syrian Cultural Heritage :

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/emergency-actions/syria/>.

The World Heritage Centre also organised, at the request of the State Party, an emergency meeting with ICOMOS, ICCROM and Interpol, to provide technical recommendations and risk mitigation measures for the Old City of Damascus. Another such meeting is foreseen in May 2014 for the emergency measures to protect the Crac des Chevaliers.

UNESCO is also organising an International Experts Meeting for the Preservation of the Syrian Cultural Heritage (26-28 May 2014) and actively fundraising for further actions to protect World Heritage properties and the sites inscribed on Syria's Tentative List. Finally, UNESCO has also sounded the alarm on the destruction of Syrian heritage at numerous occasions in the media and through press conferences at UNESCO and the UN Headquarters in New York.

ICOMOS and ICCROM have contributed to awareness raising regarding the state of cultural heritage in Syria through several releases on their web pages and participation in international experts meetings. They also held, in cooperation with the DGAM, a new e-learning course for the protection of cultural heritage in Idlib Governorate, Syria, on 21 August 2013. This course follows on from an earlier course held in Damascus in January 2013. Course activities focussed on potential measures to safeguard and protect cultural heritage during conflict situations, and on first aid and emergency responses to damaged sites and collections. The course had over 100 participants, including DGAM staff and experts on cultural heritage, curators from Idlib Museum, and representatives of cultural heritage NGOs, as well as first aiders from the Red Crescent. ICOMOS and ICCROM are working on providing practical guidelines in Arabic and English for salvaging and securing damaged cultural heritage. Further documentation on the initiative is available at:

<http://icomos.org/en/what-we-do/disseminating-knowledge/newsletters/649-protection-of-cultural-heritage-in-idlib-governorate-syria-icomos-iccrom-e-learning-course-for-syrian-cultural-heritage-professionals-in-times-of-armed-conflict>

The ICCROM and ICOMOS Guidelines for First Aid Training courses were translated into Arabic by the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Centre and shared with the DGAM to support their conservation actions.

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

The armed conflict situation in Syria and its continued escalation has affected the six World Heritage properties and has limited the capacities to adequately sustain and protect their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The properties are increasingly threatened by a specific and proven imminent danger, in particular the Old City of Aleppo which has been extensively destroyed and which runs the risk of further irreversible destructions, including its Citadel.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee commend the DGAM and all heritage professionals in Syria and local communities for their sustained efforts to protect cultural heritage and to monitor it closely.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue to support the State Party in the identification of the necessary corrective measures and in the development of a Desired state of conservation for the properties, as soon as the situation allows for an assessment mission to be carried out.

Furthermore, it is recommended that systematic documentation of all damage incurred at the World Heritage properties be duly undertaken whenever the situation allows, and the World Heritage Committee may urge the State Party to safeguard damaged property through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation work until the situation allows for the development of comprehensive conservation actions that respond to international standards.

Until conditions improve, It is further recommended that the World Heritage Committee call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Syria to refrain from any action that can further damage the heritage of the country, in particular World Heritage properties and all sites inscribed on the Tentative List, and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage including the evacuation of World Heritage properties used for military purposes, and the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee also thank the European Union, the Flemish Government, and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage for their financial contributions for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage. It is also worth bringing to the attention of the World Heritage Committee that earmarked projects have proven to be a successful fundraising strategy for the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58, 36 COM 7B.58, 37 COM 7B.57 and 37 COM 8C.1**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,*
3. *Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;*
4. *Takes note of the report provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List and expresses its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties;*
5. *Launches an appeal to the neighbouring countries and to the international community to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria;*
6. *Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and those included in the Tentative List;*
7. *Also urges the State Party to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;*
8. *Further urges the State Party to safeguard damaged property through minimal first aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation work until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation actions that respond to international standards;*
9. *Reiterates its suggestions to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;*
10. *Commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), and all the heritage professionals and the local communities in Syria who are working on*

monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, for their sustained efforts amidst difficult conditions;

11. Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties whenever conditions allow, to inform the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties;
12. Recalls the request to UNESCO to establish a Special Fund for the conservation of World Heritage properties in Syria and welcomes the establishment of earmarked projects as an appropriate means to raise funds for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage;
13. Expresses its thanks to the European Union, the Flemish Government and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage for their financial contributions to the earmarked funds;
14. Calls upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds;
15. Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as the security conditions allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Syria to assess the state of conservation of the properties and elaborate, in consultation with the State Party, a prioritised action plan for their recovery;
16. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
17. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
18. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
19. **Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
20. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
21. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
22. **Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

20. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning;
- Erosion
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zone;
- Absence of a conservation and management plan;
- Encroachments and urban pressure;
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-1993)

Total amount approved: 76,800 USD

For details, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2001: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission. February 2014: ICOMOS advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning;
- Erosion;
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zone;
- Absence of a conservation and management plan;

- Encroachments and urban pressure;
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo);
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party invited, in February 2014, an ICOMOS advisory mission to assist the State Party in the finalisation of the assessment of current conditions and in the preparation of a conservation emergency plan (the mission report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents>).

Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 28 January 2014, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents>. The report provides an overview on the present state of conservation at the different component parts of the property and the proposed plans to address existing threats. It also includes the Emergency Plan in the annexes as well as cartography. Actions implemented are reported as follows:

- UNESCO Heritage Management Plan: this plan was formally adopted via Institutional resolution 186 DNPH. A Panama UNESCO Heritage office has been established.
- The Emergency Plan has been finalized and formally adopted in March 2014 via Resolution 62 DNPH from the *Instituto Nacional de Cultura*.
- Stabilisation of the slope adjacent to the Santiago fortifications, an area affected after the massive landslide of 2010: Actions included the construction of a gabion retaining wall, the construction of drainage systems and reforestation.
- Condition and risk assessments including proposal of urgent measures were carried out. A comprehensive photogrammetric and condition survey of the cannons located at different component parts has also been completed.
- Actions including vegetation control, improved fencing and signage at different sectors.
- Outreach and awareness raising activities were undertaken.
- Improvement of road network is foreseen, which includes mitigation provisions in case of culturally sensitive areas.

The advisory mission to the property noted that the UNESCO World Heritage Management Plan in Panama was only partially implemented throughout 2013, given that resources had not been allocated. The mission also underscored that boundaries for the component parts of the property and the buffer zone had not been defined or approved, nor had the necessary regulatory measures been defined to adequately control pressures from urban growth. The mission highlighted the fast rate of decay of the historic fabric that continues to threaten the integrity and authenticity of attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and deficiencies in current management arrangements.

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

The finalisation and adoption of the Emergency Plan is a crucial step to begin addressing the extensive decay of the historic fabric of the property. The plan is an important tool that provides extensive assessments and a clear identification of priority actions to ensure conservation and stabilization of the different component parts. It is therefore recommended that financial resources need to be immediately allocated to commence implementation.

Regarding the management structure, progress has been achieved with the setting up of the Technical Office and the Patronato but adequate staffing and resources have yet to be secured so that it becomes fully operational and can implement actions in a consistent and sustained manner, in accordance to the provisions made in the Emergency Plan. Until this occurs, the component parts of the property will continue to decay and could potentially reach a stage where damage would be irreversible. A potential issue that might hinder implementation, and that would warrant consideration by the State Party, are the limited capacities in terms of conservation expertise. In this respect, opportunities for international cooperation should be explored and capacity building at the local level should be prioritised.

Besides the fabric decay being a considerable concern, other factors have also remained unaddressed, such as lack of control of encroachments and urban pressure. As requested by the Committee, priority should be given to the definition of boundaries and buffer zones for each component part of the property and to the establishment and enforcement of regulatory measures to address these threats. As proposed by the State Party, the development of a land use plan is also a crucial measure in this respect. These planning tools should be complemented at a further stage with the specific development, in collaboration with local communities and municipalities, of policies imbedded in territorial and urban development plans for the long-term protection and conservation of built heritage at San Lorenzo and Portobelo. Efforts need also to be made to better integrate tourism development projections with conservation and issues that affect not only heritage sites but also the local communities, such as problems with waste management, sewage systems and environmental degradation.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.36** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to fund and organize the advisory mission conducted in 2014 and encourages it to implement the recommendations contained in the mission report;*
4. *Welcomes the development and adoption of the Emergency Plan for the property and urges the State Party to secure the necessary resources to commence the immediate implementation of the identified priority conservation and stabilisation measures;*
5. *Expresses its concern about the findings of the mission regarding the continuing deterioration of the historic fabric and erosion of the conditions of authenticity and integrity and also urges the State Party to prioritise implementation of the following provisions of the UNESCO World Heritage Management Plan and of the Emergency Plan for the property:*
 - a) *Update the legislative and regulatory measures to ensure the protection of the property and its terrestrial and maritime setting and to legally define the functions of the Patronato Portobelo-San Lorenzo,*
 - b) *Strengthen management arrangements and establish a technical office for conservation, with specialised staff, at the local level to guarantee high quality interventions at the component parts,*
 - c) *Define the boundaries of the component parts of the property and their buffer zones, including regulatory measures for their management and submit the revised boundaries as a minor boundary modification for consideration by the World Heritage Committee,*
 - d) *Develop a land use plan for Portobelo and San Lorenzo and include provisions and measures to control urban development and relocation of families occupying the inscribed property;*
 - e) *Promote international and interdisciplinary collaboration for the implementation of conservation actions and define a capacity building strategy to ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts,*

- f) *Define, in collaboration with local authorities, measures to address environmental degradation and deficiencies in infrastructure services that are impacting cultural and natural heritage assets and constitute public health concerns,*
 - g) *Carry out the necessary scientific studies in relation to deterioration processes to better inform decision-making regarding conservation options;*
6. Requests that technical details of proposed major interventions be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making commitments to their implementation;
 7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.
 8. **Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2005 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004, 2005 and 2010;
- Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Proposed in the draft Decision below

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1603>; updates proposed in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1603>; updates proposed in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage) for the planning, implementation and subsequent publications of participatory workshops and meetings with artisans and civil society in Coro and La Vela.

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to assessment of the state of conservation; April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Serious deterioration of materials and structures;
- Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property;
- Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;
- Absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007;
- Flooding and water damage.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. It reports is available at the following address <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents> and progress on the following:

- *Management arrangements:* an Office for strategic projects and design of heritage areas of Coro, La Vela and areas of protection (OPEDAP) has been created to oversee the conservation and management of the property. The office promotes active participation from civil society in decision-making for heritage endeavours and is also responsible for the development and enforcement of regulations and sanctions regarding conservation and control of new development. To assist in the implementation of actions, the previously approved Conservation Plan (PLINCODE) was used as a basis to identify areas for intervention. The State Party also reports that coordination between local government, the municipalities and community organizations has been enhanced in relation to the implementation of actions at the property, particularly regarding the authorization of permits. OPEDAP is charged with the development of the management plan. A preliminary outline of the plan was included in the report and considers the sustainable conservation of the property and the balancing with the needs of an active economic heritage city. The enclosed document considers some goals for the property and identifies a series of actions to be implemented within the 2014-2016 timeframe.
- *Conservation interventions:* a number of restoration projects were carried out throughout 2013 at significant buildings thanks to the sustained resource allocation by the State Government of Falcon through the Tourism Corporation. Funding is expected to continue to support further interventions. Traditional know-how systems have been integrated into conservation practices and units of social community councils are actively engaged in conservation and management programmes and capacity building. A comprehensive drainage system design has yet to be developed.
- *Other issues:* the State Party submitted, within the framework of the retrospective inventory, the revised cartography for the property, identifying the inscribed areas and buffer zones at the component parts. However, it is not in conformity with the nomination file and clarifications have been requested from the State Party. It also reports that architectural surveys to establish a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the property, with technical files on buildings and interventions, have been developed. Archaeological research is being carried out in collaboration with the School of Anthropology from the Central University of Venezuela. Outreach and awareness raising actions have also continued.

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

Considerable effort has been made by the State Party in improving the conditions at the property that led to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Through major interventions, landmark buildings at the property have been restored and given new functions that will facilitate their maintenance in the future. The State Party should be recognised for its efforts in integrating and supporting traditional knowledge as part of the conservation system, which will ensure the continuity of these practices. Notwithstanding, although many of the significant buildings have been attended to, the updated data sheets still indicate that a large number of traditional or domestic buildings continue to be in poor to irregular state of conservation; some even are noted as ruins. Reversing these

conditions will require sustained and comprehensive efforts and need to be prioritised as a next step to ensure that all attributes of the property are adequately conserved and protected.

Regarding management, progress has also been made in setting up an operational unit to enhance decision-making, cooperation and streamline actions at the property. The active inclusion of different social groups in management and conservation endeavours will be crucial to ensure the sustainability of the system and promote active maintenance of domestic and traditional buildings. However, the Management Plan has yet to be fully developed and adopted to inform a sustained and articulated course of action for all attributes at the property. Conservation guidelines and other regulatory measures for new development and rehabilitation, such as zoning municipal ordinances, also need to be adopted to ensure the adequate protection of the property and to sustain its conditions of authenticity and integrity. Of particular importance will be the thorough development of a disaster risk preparedness plan, with a particular focus on the vulnerability to flooding, and the comprehensive design of a drainage system to prevent large-scale impacts.

Although progress has been made, to date significant challenges remain to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that this will require sustained commitment and efforts. The Desired state of conservation and the corrective measures have been revised to provide a clear roadmap and timeframe for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.39** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in addressing the state of conservation of the property and progress on implementation of recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee and the monitoring missions to the property;*
4. *Takes note of the submission of the revised cartography for the component parts of the property and proposed buffer zone and requests that it be finalized within the framework of the retrospective inventory process;*
5. *Adopts the revised Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as follows:*
 - a) *Traditional civil, religious and domestic architecture has been conserved in accordance to clear conservation principles that ensure that conditions of authenticity and integrity continue to be met. Conservation interventions are based on a prioritised and comprehensive strategy and plan that ensures continued actions,*
 - b) *The participatory management arrangements for the property are sustained through adequate resource allocation and staffing and guided by the adopted Management Plan, which includes provisions and regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones,*
 - c) *The disaster risk preparedness plan is fully operational and a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been implemented,*
 - d) *The legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development;*

6. Also adopts the revised corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as follows:
- a) Measures to be implemented within one year:
 - (i) Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts,
 - (ii) Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,
 - (iii) Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions,
 - (iv) Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term,
 - (v) Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization,
 - b) Measures to be implemented within two years:
 - (i) Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that a coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property,
 - (ii) Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy,
 - (iii) Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with,
 - (iv) Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,
 - (v) Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding,
 - (vi) Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

24. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1990 -2005; 2012 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Occupation of the site by armed groups,
- Absence of management,
- Destruction of 9 of the 16 mausoleums of the property and 2 mausoleums of the Djingareyberre Mosque, as well as the western door of the Sidi Yahia Mosque.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2012)

Total amount approved: 187,449 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 100,000 USD from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; UNESCO Emergency Fund: 55,000 USD

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009 and 2010 joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO Emergency missions to Mali. June 2013: UNESCO assessment mission to Timbuktu

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of management structure at the site;
- Armed conflict.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of Timbuktu on 22 March 2014. This report is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>. The following activities established in the framework of the *UNESCO Action Plan* adopted on 18 February 2013, following Decision **37 COM7A.19**, are contained in this report:

- The reopening in July 2013 of the offices of the Timbuktu Cultural Mission and resumption of the daily management activities of the World Heritage property.
- The creation by the Ministry of Culture on 31 May 2013 of the National Committee for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage in the northern regions of Mali, and a technical support unit for the implementation of the Action Plan of 6 August 2013 (Decision No. 000138). These two bodies now provide technical support to the National Directorate of Cultural Heritage and the Timbuktu Cultural Mission.
- The organization of several joint missions of national and international experts to gather historical, anthropological and architectural data on the mausoleums of saints destroyed at Timbuktu (August and October 2013) as well as on the libraries of manuscripts (November 2013).
- The organization at Mopti (December 2013) of a training workshop for masons from Timbuktu, Gao, Djenne and Bandiagara to enable an exchange on different construction and maintenance techniques.
- The preparation of a strategy document on the reconstruction of mausoleums, in close consultation with the imams of the World Heritage mosques, the chief masons and the families responsible for the management of the mausoleums. This strategy document shall be transmitted to ICOMOS for comment and to the World Heritage Committee for approval at its 38th session (Doha, 2014).
- The commencement of the reconstruction work of the mausoleums, 14 March 2014, that first of all concerned the two mausoleums Sheik Babadjer and Amadou Fulani, alongside the outer west wall of the Djingareyber Mosque.

The State Party's report also makes mention of an attack on 28 September 2013, at the military camp of Albakaye Kounta located 200m from the Djingareyber Mosque. This suicide attack caused major damage to the three mosques of the town and to numerous surrounding buildings and houses. Urgent consolidation work has been carried out thanks to financial support from UNESCO.

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

In addition to the information provided by this report, efforts undertaken to raise funds through UNESCO and Mali should be mentioned and 3 million dollars, of the required 11 million USD for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Mali's cultural heritage affected by the crisis, including Timbuktu, have been raised from the following donors: Switzerland, European Union, International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Norway, The Netherlands, Kingdom of Bahrain, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Croatia, Andorra and Mauritius.

The very many positive actions implemented by the State Party with the aim of ensuring the reconstruction of the mausoleums without risking loss to the Outstanding Universal Value should be noted. The various historical and architectural studies carried out will provide a better understanding of the cultural significance of these elements, document the degree of destruction and better envisage the logical choice of reconstruction for each of the mausoleums. The importance of the work of gathering all documentation on each of the mausoleums should also be recalled, given the character and unique specificity of each one of them. The need to provide a detailed justification of the technical choices resulting in their respective reconstruction should also be noted. The State Party is encouraged to accomplish the documentation work begun in June 2013, as well as all the studies and diagnostics which are still required to define the different technical choices for reconstruction, and the physical state to which each of these mausoleums will be reconstructed.

It is recommended that the Committee take note with satisfaction of the preparation of a restoration and reconstruction strategy of the damaged cultural heritage of northern Mali, that details the reconstruction method of the destroyed mausoleums and in particular appreciates the important place accorded to the role of the communities and especially to the responsible families and the corporation of masons in this process. The approach which consists of proceeding by stages, first with the two mausoleums of the Djingareyber Mosque and in documenting daily this reconstruction to better understand the organization of the construction work, the working relations between the masons and the owner families and the planning of the reconstruction of the remaining mausoleums, is also welcomed. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee recommend to the State Party to initiate the revision of the conservation and management plan of the property. The gradual return of the communities displaced due to the conflict is also a positive indicator enabling the sustainable maintenance and conservation of the architectural elements of the property.

Finally, it is also recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to Timbuktu, to evaluate the reconstruction work of the mausoleums, the restoration of the mosques and the overall conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Congratulates the State Party for having accomplished significant progress enabling the commencement of the reconstruction of the mausoleums on 14 March 2014;
4. Notes with satisfaction the preparation of a restoration and reconstruction strategy for damaged cultural heritage in northern Mali detailing the reconstruction method for the destroyed mausoleums, and appreciates the place accorded to the role of the communities, the responsible families and the corporation of masons in this process;
5. Warmly welcomes the reconstruction of the two mausoleums alongside the outer west wall of the Djingareyber Mosque (Sheik Babadger and Amadou Fulani), as well as the daily documentation work undertaken throughout this reconstruction so as to better understand the organization of the work, the working relations between the masons and the owner families and planning the reconstruction of the remaining mausoleums;
6. Recalls the importance of the work concerning the constitution of documentation provided for each of the mausoleums, taking into account the character and unique specificity of each of them, and encourages the State Party to accomplish the documentation work, begun in June 2013, as well as all the studies and diagnostics that are still required to define the different technical reconstruction solutions, and the physical state to which each of the mausoleums should be restored and to submit the results for examination;
7. Thanks all the countries and institutions that have contributed financially to the UNESCO and Mali Action Plan, adopted on 18 February 2013 in Paris, and more particularly Switzerland, the European Union, the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Norway, The Netherlands, the Kingdom of Bahrain, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Croatia, Andorra and Mauritius;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the reconstruction of the mausoleums and the restoration of the mosques, and prepare all the corrective measures as well as a Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;

11. **Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

25. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Following the coup d'état in March 2012, the town is occupied by Islamist groups. This situation led to the absence of maintenance and management of the site although it is threatened to collapse

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2012)

Total amount approved: 53,333 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 40,000

Previous monitoring missions

May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako. February 2014: UNESCO assessment mission to Gao

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of site management
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Tomb of Askia on 22 March 2014. The Report is available at the following Internet link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>. This report mainly concerns the activities carried out in the framework of the *UNESCO Action Plan* adopted on 18 February 2013, following Decision **37 COM 7A.20**. The State Party informs the Committee that the return of the administration to Gao has not been easy as the town remains under the terrorist threat from armed groups that continue to carry out sporadic attacks. The resumption of activities of the Gao Cultural Mission, the body responsible for the management of the Tomb of Askia, has also been hindered. But during this period of insecurity, the communities of Gao, through the actions of young patriots and the Management Committee, have continued to protect the site. Following the liberation of the town by the French and Malian troops in January 2013, the Management Committee has undertaken maintenance work using their own

resources, thus enabling the property to withstand the bad weather in August 2013, despite the absence of the annual work that was always carried out in times of peace.

In spite of the absence of the Gao Cultural Mission, the property has continued to be administered by the National Directorate of Cultural Heritage and its Technical Support Cell created on 6 August 2013 (Decision No. 000138). A joint UNESCO- Mali mission organized on 11 February 2014 took place in this slightly improved security context, with logistical support from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). On completion of the mission, the experts noted that the efforts of the population were temporary and the prayer halls of the mosque required important conservation work before the next rainy season. The mission therefore recommended that a mission of specialists in earthen architecture be dispatched to carry out a full diagnostic of the site prior to commencing the work. The mission also coincided with the nomination of a new manager of the Gao Cultural Mission, however, the nominee lacked the necessary work space and equipment.

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

In addition to the information provided in the report, the efforts undertaken by UNESCO and Mali to raise funds have already resulted in the collection of 3 million dollars of the 11 million dollars required for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of cultural heritage affected by the crisis, including Gao, from the following donors: Switzerland, European Union, International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Kingdom of Bahrain, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Croatia, Andorra, and Mauritius. This fund-raising activity will enable the commencement of the rehabilitation work at the property, once the diagnostic mission is completed.

The organization of a joint UNESCO-Mali evaluation mission, despite difficult security conditions, is noted with satisfaction. The urgency of beginning the more important conservation work before the next rainy season, security conditions permitting, is also noted. Further, it is urgent to carry out an in-depth architectural diagnostic to better identify all the weak structural points of the two mosques. To this end, the preparation of terms of reference for the execution of the full diagnostic, to also include soundings of the roof, is recommended. The need to carry out an assessment of the other components of the property, notably the Necropolis around the Prayer Hall, and the area for the great prayer at the Tabaski Feast (Feast of Sacrifice), is also recalled.

It should be furthermore noted with concern that the management plan prepared for the period 2002-2007 is still not updated and it is recommended that this issue be included as a priority in the urgent actions for the property. It is also recommended to the World Heritage Committee to express its deep concern with regard to the fact that the functioning of the Gao Cultural Mission is still not effective, despite the nomination of a new manager. It is particularly worrying that this person has no work space or equipment to enable him to work effectively.

The preparation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy for the damaged cultural heritage of North Mali, that includes the rehabilitation of the Tomb of Askia, is noted with satisfaction. It is recommended that a reactive monitoring mission be fielded to the Tomb of Askia to assess the rehabilitation work of all the components of the property, and the global state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 37 COM 7A.20, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Commends the State Party for having organized the joint UNESCO/Mali mission of 11 February 2014, despite difficult security conditions;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the preparation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy for the damaged cultural heritage of North Mali, that includes the rehabilitation of the Tomb of Askia;*

5. Requests the State Party to undertake the necessary actions to enable the urgent detailed architectural diagnostic to take place, to better identify all the weak structural points of the two mosques, and urges the commencement of the necessary conservation work before the next rainy season, security conditions permitting;
6. Recalls the importance of the compilation of documentation provided on each of the mausoleums, taking account of the unique character and specificity of each of them, and also requests the State Party to accomplish the documentation work begun in June 2013, as well as all the studies and diagnostics that are still required to define the different technical reconstruction solutions, and the physical state to which each of the mausoleums will be reconstructed;
7. Expresses its concern that the management plan prepared for the period 2002-2007 has not yet been updated, and the activities of the Gao Cultural Mission have not yet recommenced, despite the nomination of a new manager, due to lack of work space and equipment;
8. Further requests the State Party to proceed with the revision of the 2002-2007 management plan in close consultation with the Management Committee of the property;
9. Thanks all the countries and institutions that have financially contributed to the UNESCO-Mali Action Plan adopted on 18 February 2013 in Paris, and more particularly Switzerland, European Union, International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Kingdom of Bahrain, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Croatia, Andorra and Mauritius;
10. Requests furthermore that the State Party invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in the rehabilitation of all the components of the property, prepare all the corrective measures, as well as a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report on the state of conservation of the property including the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
12. **Decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Fire that resulted in the destruction of part of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2010)

Total amount approved: 111,292 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 2011-2012: 68,365 USD from the Japanese FIT for an Expert Appraisal Mission; 2013-2015: 650,000 USD from the Japanese FIT for the project: Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2010, August 2011, November 2011, and August 2013: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Destruction by fire of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/documents>. This addressed the requests of the World Heritage Committee at its last session as follows:

- *Revised timelines for the Kasubi Tombs reconstruction project:* The State Party reported that timelines are being updated and will be ready as soon as the fundraising activity for the project has been carried-out in March 2014. No further details have been provided on technical details, revised timelines nor proposed benchmarks for the reconstruction of the property, all of which were requested. However, the report details the work started on the steel roof structures for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and states that the roof will be complete by May 2014.
- *Revision of the master plan and submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:* Although the State Party states that the Technical team has compiled information on different components of the property, which has informed phases of the draft master plan related to conservation of structures, no revision of the Master Plan has been submitted or appears to have been undertaken to cover issues such as urban encroachment, and un-regulated urban development.
- *Re-structuring capacity building as recommended by the 2011 mission:*
 - *Develop a fully-fledged capacity building strategy for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review:* The State Party reports that urgent capacity building efforts have been undertaken but, for now, no further capacity building work is being undertaken until the fund-raising strategy is completed. Furthermore there appears to have been no development of a capacity building strategy or a re-structured approach to capacity building, as requested.

- Develop the second phase of an interpretation and public awareness programme on the restoration of the property: the State Party reports that the first phase of a public awareness programme has been undertaken and that a second phase has yet to be finalized.
- *Invite an ICOMOS advisory mission to the property to provide technical advice on the reconstruction project and appropriate monitoring arrangements:* An ICOMOS advisory mission has been invited to the property in May 2014 for technical advice through the UNESCO-Japanese Funded Project.

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

The strong commitment of the State Party towards the re-construction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and the overall restoration and conservation of the property is noted. However, it is of concern that most of the detailed requests of the Committee have not been addressed over the past three years.

Even though fund-raising for the wider property is clearly a priority, the provision of detailed strategies and timelines should have been undertaken for the whole property in order to prioritise work and detail resource and capacity building needs. It is recommended that the Committee reiterates its request for these crucial details to be provided.

As final reconstruction drawings for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga have not been provided, there remains uncertainty over the planned progress of the re-building of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga; specifically how it will be achieved, and within what time frame. Work has now started, without seeking ICOMOS technical advice and without clear approaches to capacity building, interpretation and public awareness as well as the follow up to the recommendations of the 2011 mission. Although a restoration strategy has been agreed-upon for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, this needs to be augmented with details of the precise work to be undertaken and a timeframe for its implementation, as requested by the Committee in 2011, 2012 and 2013; and these should have been provided to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for review before the detailed re-building work commenced. There has been no progress on the second phase of the interpretation and public awareness programme on the restoration of the property, which needs to be seen as an essential support for the re-building project.

It is recommended that the Committee express concern at this lack of dialogue and detailed feedback on this most critical restoration project.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 37 COM 7A.21 adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Welcomes the continuing commitment of the State Party to pursue the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and the restoration of the wider property;*
4. *Expresses concern that detailed information on the planned work, and timelines for the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga have still not been provided, even though work on the supportive framework for the building has been undertaken;*
5. *Reiterates once again its request for details and revised timelines for the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga project to be provided, as well as a critical path with proposed benchmarks for the reconstruction of the property, and urges the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;*
6. *Also reiterates its recommendation that the master plan be revised to address wider issues than the restoration project, such as urban encroachment and unregulated urban development that can pose additional threats to the property, and to include*

appropriate regulations, guidelines, and a work plan and timeframe for its implementation; and requests that these documents be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to address the recommendations of the 2011 mission in relation to developing a capacity building strategy and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Urges the State Party to develop the second phase of the interpretation and public awareness programme on the restoration of the property, as an essential support for the re-building work;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the technical details of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga re-building project and its timelines and implementation, related capacity building requirements, the revision of the Master Plan, appropriate monitoring arrangements and the second phase of the interpretation and public awareness programme on the restoration of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. Decides to retain the **Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

NATURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

33. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996 -2007; 2011 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Illegal logging;
- Illegal occupation;
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure
- Reduced capacity of the State Party;
- General deterioration of law and order and the security situation in the region.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4439>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1982-1996)

Total amount approved: 198,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 80,000 (in addition to approximately USD 100,000 of in-kind technical assistance) under the management effectiveness assessment project "Enhancing our Heritage".

Previous monitoring missions

2000: IUCN monitoring mission; 2003 and 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring missions; 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal settlements;
- Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural encroachment;
- Illegal logging;
- Illegal commercial fishing;
- Poaching;
- Alien invasive species;
- Management deficiencies;
- Potential impacts from hydroelectric development projects Patuca I,II and III;

- Lawlessness;
- Lack of law enforcement;
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure and access to natural resources;
- Deforestation.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2014, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents> and lists the following:

- A management plan for the Biosphere Reserve was updated in 2013, including an ambitious conservation plan that identified conservation objectives, threats and strategies. However, management effectiveness of the Biosphere Reserve is still considered relatively low;
- The clarification of the boundaries of the property has not progressed. The State Party refers to the International Assistance n°2570 submitted in December 2012. After evaluation, IUCN recommended that the request be revised and submitted under Preparatory Assistance, for the preparation of either a minor boundary modification or a re-nomination. This evaluation was transmitted to the State Party in June 2013 and no further progress has been reported.
- Systematic monitoring to identify encroachment and land use changes has increased and several illegal occupants have been removed. However, considerable illegal deforestation within the property and the buffer zone still poses a threat;
- The procedure of land titling was officially published in the Honduran Gazette in 2012 and several indigenous communities have received community land titles over their ancestral lands inside the property. Additional arrangements were implemented that allowed local communities without land titles to use the natural resources legally.
- Steps have been taken to strengthen stakeholder coordination through the reinforcement of an *ad-hoc* inter-ministerial committee for the conservation of the Biosphere Reserve. Currently, a stakeholder analysis is being undertaken to explore options for future formal co-management arrangements with a range of relevant government institutions and civil society.
- The State Party submitted a draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) on 6 May 2014, which is currently being reviewed by IUCN.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party that some progress is being made with regard to several of the corrective measures is well noted, particularly in terms of systematic monitoring, land titling and the formalization of resource use agreements. The State Party's intention to minimize potential negative environmental impacts of hydropower projects, and its commitment to avoid construction of dams with a capacity higher than 15 MW and to implement mitigation measures for the existing constructions should also be emphasized. However, the State Party does not provide more information on the status of the Patuca III dam and its potential downstream impacts, including indirect and long-term impacts on the property, which were not adequately assessed in the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of this project. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to assess such potential impacts in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

There has also been some progress in strengthening the interministerial ad-hoc committee and the development of opportunities for a formal co-management arrangement in the future. Nevertheless, indigenous co-management regimes require further strengthening. In addition, the updated management plan and the ambitious associated conservation plans are encouraging steps towards improved management planning. However, it is considered that the property continues to face a shortage of human, financial and material resources, which is likely to be a significant factor in the property's overall low management effectiveness, as reported by the State Party. This is of particular concern in light of the increasing negative impacts on the property and its wider region from drug trafficking and associated illegal activities, including forest conversion and degradation reported in numerous recent media articles.

Of overarching importance in addressing the issues mentioned above is the need to reassess the property's boundaries in light of significant changes to the boundaries and zonation of the original Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, which would be an opportunity to identify boundaries that better encompass the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Resolving this issue will contribute to the future implementation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to the adequate implementation of the corrective measures. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN stand ready to provide technical support to the State Party in this regard. In light of the above, it is recommended that the Committee retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party with the development of a draft proposal for the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to finalize the proposal for the DSOCR for examination by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015;*
4. *Also welcomes the State Party's efforts to implement the corrective measures, and the progress achieved, in particular with the establishment of a systematic monitoring platform, the on-going process of land titling for communities surrounding the property, and the strengthening of the ad-hoc technical committee for the conservation of the biosphere reserve, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts, including the development of adequate co-management schemes;*
5. *Urges the State Party, as a matter of priority, to advance on the proposal for the property's boundary modification, without which the corrective measures cannot be adequately implemented and the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remains at risk, and considers that the resolution of this issue will contribute to the future implementation of the DSOCR;*
6. *Takes note of the State Party's intention to avoid the construction of hydroelectric projects larger than 15 MW in the buffer zone of the biosphere reserve and to minimize the environmental and social impacts of the construction of dams in the Patuca watershed, as expressed in the recently developed Conservation Plan;*
7. *Notes with concern that little progress has been made towards increasing human resources and logistical capacity to the agencies responsible for the protection and management of the property;*
8. *Also notes with concern that illegal activities, including illegal logging, illegal settlements and drug-related activities, continue to impact on the property, and strongly urges the State Party to deal swiftly and effectively with such incursions to the property and the core zone of the biosphere reserve in full observance of the rule of law;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on further progress achieved with the implementation of the corrective*

measures and the clarification of the property's boundaries, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;

10. **Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997 to present

Reinforced Monitoring mechanism applied to the property since 2009 (33 COM 7A.1)

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Illegal grazing;
- Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife and the deteriorating security situation;
- Halt to tourism.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2001-2012)

Total amount approved: 225,488 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001 and April 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insecurity;
- Poaching;
- Mining;
- Transhumance and illegal grazing;
- Illegal fishing;
- Illegal occupation of the property.

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report on the property in response to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013). Note must be taken of the very difficult situation currently affecting the Central African Republic since the last session, with an outbreak of violence and internal conflicts. These internal difficulties probably account for the absence of response. Due to this situation, the organization of a workshop to elaborate an emergency action plan has not been possible.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The lack of information hinders the correct assessment of the evolution of the state of conservation of the property. However, IUCN has received information from groups present at the site recently, and over preceding years. This information indicates that the state of the property has further degraded since the last report submitted to the Committee, with an increase of illegal activities such as gold panning, mining, illegal grazing, and large-scale poaching carried out all year round, with foreign and heavily armed poachers installed in situ.

It should be recalled that at the 35th session of the Committee (UNESCO, 2011), the World Heritage Centre and IUCN considered *“that it would seem that criterion (x) is called into question because of the sharp decline in the wealth of biodiversity present at the time of inscription, and the disappearance of almost all key species of large mammals, due to poaching and competition with transhumant cattle that have invaded a large part of the property. Criterion (ix) is also questionable as the effective disappearance of most big game key species questions the representativeness of the property and the natural ecological processes. Moreover, the growing presence of transhumant cattle in the Park, as well as petroleum prospecting and mining activity within the property, greatly compromise its integrity”*.

It must also be recalled that the Committee, at its 37th session, noted with concern that the potential for regeneration of the wildlife population from the remaining pockets of biodiversity adjacent to the property, which are very fragile, could rapidly disappear if security of the region and an effective control of poaching is not guaranteed. The workshop intended to prepare an emergency plan based on the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) has not yet been held.

It is recommended that the Committee regret that the State Party has not submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and expresses its strong concern as to the dangers being faced by the property and which have further worsened since its last session, and the fact that to date no emergency plan has been prepared.

With respect to the concerns expressed by the Committee at its 35th session regarding the important degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the fact that as the only information received since the last session of the Committee indicates a deterioration of the situation, the property appears to answer to conditions for its withdrawal from the World Heritage List. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation allows, to assess whether the OUV of the property has been definitively lost and if a deletion from the World Heritage List should be envisaged by the Committee, in accordance with the procedure foreseen in Chapter IV.C of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. *Regrets the degradation of the security situation in the Central African Republic marked by an outbreak of violence and internal conflicts;*
4. *Reiterates its utmost concern regarding the likely disappearance of most of the flagship species of large mammals in the property, due to poaching and the impact of transhumant cattle, and expresses its deep concern as regards the further deterioration of the situation since its last session;*
5. *Also expresses its deep concern that the property could have lost its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and that it appears to answer to the criteria for its deletion from the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraph 176 d) and Chapter IV.C of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission as soon as the security situation permits, to assess whether there remain perspectives for regeneration of the characteristics of the property that justify its OUV or if a deletion of the property from the World Heritage List should be envisaged, in accordance with the procedure foreseen in Chapter IV.C of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to organize a workshop to assess the feasibility of the restoration of the OUV of the property in the current conditions of security and based on these conclusions, the eventual preparation of an emergency action plan in accordance with the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the current state of conservation of the property and the perspectives of regeneration of the characteristics of the property that justify its OUV, as well as the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea
- Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve
- Insufficient institutional structure

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4982>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4982>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1575>

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 18 (from 1981-2010)

Total amount approved: 435,222 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>)

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire; 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining;
- Influx of refugees;
- Agricultural encroachment;
- Deforestation;
- Poaching;
- Weak management capacity;
- Lack of resources;
- Lack of trans-boundary cooperation.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2014 the Ivorian State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents>. It also made a request for international assistance to implement trans-boundary surveillance of the property. The Guinean State Party submitted its report on 11 April 2014. The report of the Ivorian State Party focused on the following points:

The participatory materialization of the litigious boundaries of the property over 26 km adjacent to the village of Gbapleu was carried out with the destruction of 7 ha of the illegally cultivated cacao plantation. The establishment of a buffer zone around the property consisted in the creation of four forest communities each of an area of 15 ha, immediately adjacent to the property. The management capacity was strengthened through the acquisition of technical and transportation equipment and the appointment of an additional surveillance agent. The creation of a mobile brigade to assist in the surveillance of the protected areas in the western zone is foreseen this year.

The report of the Guinean State Party highlighted geo-referencing, the correction and concretization of the boundaries of the property currently underway, the strengthening of management capacities with the recruitment of 100 new ecoguards and the reinforcement of patrols thanks to this additional staff, as well as the preparation of the preliminary version of the management plan that was submitted to the programme steering committee. The report indicates the reestablishment of the autonomous management structure for Mount Nimba (CEGENS) as being responsible for the management of the property.

With regard to monitoring the evolution of the mining projects around the property by the Guinean Office for Environmental Assessment, the mining companies will now be obliged to carry out Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (SEA) to take into account accumulated impacts.

The two State Parties evoked insufficient logistical, financial and human resources as being the principal difficulty in the implementation of the corrective measures. The preparation of a management plan and the establishment of a sustainable financial mechanism for the entire property are priorities in the trans-boundary management dynamic between Guinea and the Côte d'Ivoire. Efforts have also been made to organize patrols border between Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Unfortunately, the activity was unable to be implemented due to lack of resources. It is foreseen in the framework of the proposed international assistance.

No updated plan of the geo-referenced boundaries of the property has been submitted by the State Parties.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The Ivorian and Guinean State Parties have employed important efforts in the implementation of the corrective measures. The concretization of the disputed boundaries in Côte d'Ivoire, the recuperation of land planted with cacao and the creation of a buffer zone are important actions in restoring the integrity of the property. Important efforts have also been deployed to reinforce the management capacity of the property.

Nevertheless, the impact of these corrective measures is still far from responding to the numerous aggressions being faced by the property. In fact, the management of the property must be further strengthened through the reinforcement of human, financial and logistical means. The management difficulties are more evident in the Ivorian part where there is no support project for the management of the property following the damage caused during the sociopolitical crisis that affected the Côte d'Ivoire of a period of ten years.

Surveillance capacities, ecological monitoring and the materialization of the physical boundaries of the property have been reinforced in the Guinean part, with the support of the UNDP/GEF Programme (Global Environmental Facility) for the conservation of the biodiversity of Mount Nimba. However, the Guinean State Party does not appear to have established a strategy to prolong the accomplishments of this programme, foreseen to end in June 2014.

The reestablishment of the CEGENS is beneficial if this readiness to increase the management capacities of the property is accompanied by the availability of the necessary resources.

The mining exploitation projects adjacent to the project and their possible impact on the OUV of the property remain a concern. However, the initiative of Guinea to organize a meeting with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as well as with the West Africa Exploration Company to discuss the characterization study of the mining project and the process for the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIA) is commended. The affirmation by the State Party of Guinea that an SEA should be carried out, as recommended by the reactive monitoring mission of 2013 to identify the cumulative impacts, is favourably welcomed.

Unfortunately, the Guinean State Party has not yet confirmed whether the boundaries of the permit of the SAMA Resources Company have been reviewed to eliminate any encroachment on the property.

With regard to trans-boundary cooperation, the efforts to develop a common management plan for the Massif and establish a trust fund should be continued. It is also urgent to implement the agreement through common actions in the field, notably the establishment of a harmonized ecological monitoring system and trans-boundary surveillance. In order to support the trans-boundary dynamic it would be advisable to prepare and implement a large-scale trans-boundary project.

Given the challenges of protecting the integrity of the property, it is recommended that the property is retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 37 COM 7A.3, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*

3. Welcomes the progress reported by the Ivorian and Guinean State Parties in the implementation of the corrective measures, notably the efforts to restore the integrity of the property and strengthen its management capacity;
4. Notes with concern that the Guinean State Party does not appear to have established a strategy to prolong the accomplishments of the UNDP/GEF (Global Environmental Facility) Programme for conservation of the biodiversity of Mount Nimba that supports the implementation of the corrective measures, foreseen to end in June 2014;
5. Comments the efforts in setting up trans-boundary cooperation on the Nimba Massif and requests the State Parties to continue efforts to develop a common management plan for the Massif and create a trust fund and implement the agreement through common actions in the field, notably the establishment of a harmonized ecological monitoring system and trans-boundary surveillance;
6. Encourages the State Parties to work on the development of a trans-boundary project in cooperation with the GEF and other potential donors to better combine their efforts for the sustainable protection of the OUV of the property;
7. Welcomes the fact that the Guinean Office for Environmental Assessment has confirmed that the mining companies are obliged to carry out a Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (SEA) to take account of cumulative impacts on the OUV, and also requests the Guinean State Party to finalize this SEA taking into account the IUCN World Heritage advice note on Environmental Impact Assessments and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN prior to any decision for approval of their conclusions and recommendations, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Reiterates its request to the Guinean State Party to revise the boundaries of the mining permit of the SAMA Resources Company to eliminate all encroachment on the property;
9. Urges the State Parties to continue their efforts to implement the corrective measures, as approved by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7A.3**;
10. Further requests the State Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a joint updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea / Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) need to be read in conjunction with Item 42 of Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1994 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Increased poaching of wildlife
- Incapability of staff to patrol the 650 km long boundary of the Park
- Massive influx of 1 million refugees occupying adjacent parts of the Park
- Widespread depletion of forests in the lowlands.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1980-2005)

Total amount approved: 268,560 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,731,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of : Italy, Belgium and Spain, and the French-speaking Community of Belgium as well as the Rapid Response Facility (RRF)

Previous monitoring missions

April 1996: World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission; March 2006: World Heritage Centre monitoring mission; August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reinforced monitoring mission; December 2010: World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability;
- Attribution of a petroleum exploration permit inside the property;
- Poaching by the army and armed groups;
- Encroachment;
- Extension of illegal fishing areas;
- Deforestation and cattle grazing.

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 5 to 14 March 2014. The secretariat of the Ramsar Convention also participated in the mission. The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 1 February 2014. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents>.

Since the 2010 mission, the insecurity in the area has greatly affected the implementation of the corrective measures and a total of 16 park rangers were killed in action. While there has been some improvement following the defeat of the M23 rebels in November 2013, the fact that the Director of the Park was wounded in an ambush early April 2014 demonstrates that insecurity remains an issue.

The mission confirmed that the main threats affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property persist:

- Encroachment inside the property has increased, with approximately 4% of the property now occupied by agriculture and human settlements. New encroachment in Mayangos is particularly worrying as it is causing deforestation in dense humid forests, which will take 50 years or more to recover;
- Despite significant efforts to reinforce the surveillance capacity in the property, poaching remains a significant problem, mainly affecting populations of large mammals in the savannas. The mountain gorilla population is not affected and even increasing and park staff has been able to secure two key strongholds for savanna mammals;
- Illegal fishing on Lake Edward is increasing and affecting the fish stocks;
- Illegal charcoal making has been controlled on the eastern slopes of the Nyaragongo but continues towards Nyamulagira.

The mission was informed that elements of the military as well as armed groups are involved in most of the illegal activities.

In terms of oil exploration, the following developments were noted:

- The Minister of Hydrocarbons confirmed to the mission that if oil were to be found inside the property, the Government would exploit it. Provisions in the proposed Law on Hydrocarbons could make this possible (see also the General report on properties in DRC, in Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add, item 42).
- TOTAL, who has been granted exploration rights which include the northern part of the property, confirmed that they would not explore inside the property, nor in any other natural World Heritage site;
- SOCO confirmed to the mission that they will start seismic exploration at Lake Edward on 26 April 2014.

Analysis and Conclusion by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While the security situation has improved somewhat since the defeat of the M23 rebels, at least 9 different armed groups remain active in and around the property. While further military operations are planned to curb these groups, these operations in the short term could lead to renewed violence and insecurity. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee express its condolences to the families of park rangers who were killed in action.

While staff of the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) has been struggling to implement the corrective measures at the risk of their lives, progress since the 2010 mission has been limited. The main problem is the limited support ICCN is receiving from the Government to address the threats: there continue to be problems with involvement of the military in various illegal activities such as charcoal making, poaching and illegal fishing and local politicians have continued to incite local communities to invade the park. The State Party has also approved oil exploration inside the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to abide by the commitments made in the Kinshasa Declaration.

The fact that the State Party is pushing ahead with oil exploration inside the property and that the Minister for Hydrocarbons has announced that if economically viable oil reserves are found inside the

property, exploitation will go ahead, is of extreme concern. Any oil exploitation inside the property would seriously affect its integrity. It is recommended that the Committee welcome the statement by TOTAL that it will not explore for oil inside natural World Heritage sites and reiterate its appeal to the company SOCO to make a similar commitment.

Given the threats and the limited progress in implementing the corrective measures, the mission concluded that the OUV of the site remains extremely threatened. However, as no single species has been lost, and in particular given the connectivity with the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda, the potential for recovery is still present. Nevertheless, it will be important to urgently address the threats to the integrity of the site and in particular halt new encroachment and ensure that no oil exploitation goes ahead inside the property. In order to achieve this, updated corrective measures are proposed in the draft decision. The revised timeframe proposed for their implementation is 2020. Given the urgent threats to the OUV, it is recommended that the Committee retain to property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.4** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the efforts deployed by the park staff to continue to ensure the conservation of the property despite life threatening conditions, and expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in operations for the protection of the property;*
4. *Reiterates its deep concern about the fact that the State Party has not revised the authorizations for petroleum exploration in the Park, as requested in its previous Decisions, as well as about the commencement of oil exploration activities in Lake Edward and the statement by the Minister for Hydrocarbons that the government envisages to proceed with petroleum exploitation inside the property if economically viable oil reserves are confirmed;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property and reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;*
6. *Congratulates the company TOTAL for its commitment not to explore or exploit for oil or gas in sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, a principle to which Shell had already subscribed, reiterates its appeal to the company SOCO to also subscribe to this commitment, and also reiterates its request to States Parties to the Convention to do their utmost to ensure that the mining or petroleum companies established on their territories do not damage World Heritage properties, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;*
7. *Notes with concern that while the security situation has improved slightly since the defeat of the M23 rebels, at least 9 different armed groups remain active in and around the property resulting in limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures;*
8. *Expresses its utmost concern about the limited support park staff is receiving from the Government to address the threats to the property, in particular the continued involvement of the military in various illegal activities such as charcoal making,*

poaching and illegal fishing and the lack of support from the authorities to address encroachment on the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011;

9. *Urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures as updated by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission:*
 - a) *Cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property,*
 - b) *Take all necessary measures at the highest level to stop the involvement of the Congolese Army and Navy in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the park, in particular poaching, charcoal making and fishing,*
 - c) *Strengthen the efforts to disarm all armed groups operating in and around the property in cooperation with MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo),*
 - d) *Take measures at the highest level to enable the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) to continue without political interference, the peaceful evacuation of illegal occupants from the property,*
 - e) *Continue law enforcement focusing on priority areas, and pursue activities to re-establish a system of good governance for fishing activities on Lake Edward,*
 - f) *Pursue communication and awareness-raising actions targeted towards the authorities and local populations,*
 - g) *Pursue actions to eliminate all production of charcoal within the property, and promote alternative energy sources, in particular the development of small scale hydropower outside the property;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including an update of the progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;*
11. *Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;*
12. ***Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Impact of the conflict : looting of the infrastructures, poaching of elephants;
- Presence of gold mining sites inside the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted in 2009, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4264>

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993 to 2012)

Total amount approved: 103,400 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted in the framework of the project "Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict" funded by Belgium: Phase I (2001-2005): about USD 250,000. Phase II (2005-2009): USD 300,000. Phase III (2010-2013): USD 350,000.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and May 2006: UNESCO World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2009 and 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Extensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants;
- Mining activities inside the property;
- Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property;
- Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri Forest, which might affect the property in the near future;
- Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2014 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 5 to 14 March 2014. The two reports are available at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents>.

The State Party informs of the reopening of all the old mining sites with a massive influx of miners, of continuing poaching, a lack of support from the provincial authorities and insufficient funds expected from some partners worried with the security situation which remains a concern since the attack on the Epulu Station on 24 June 2012. The region of the property is still considered as a "red zone" by MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), that has established an operational base 40 km to the east of the property.

In 2013, five rebel groups, of about 400 armed men, have carried out 12 other attacks in various localities and patrol posts of the property and its perimeter.

The report further indicates: the lack of sufficient staff, material and equipment, and the destruction of some facilities. However, since 2012, it was possible to reopen six of the nine patrol posts, and two of four traffic control posts along the RN4. Night traffic on the RN4 has been closed. Mixed operations with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the FARDC (Armed forces of the DRC) have been organized, but confiscations remain limited. Following the 2012 attack, the proportion of the property being patrolled annually has diminished from about 80% to 25%. Consequently, the status of large mammals has only been assessed on a limited part of the property.

In view of these threats, ICCN and its partners have undertaken steps to raise awareness of the politico-administrative and military authorities as well as MONUSCO, at Kisangani and Bunia. Moreover, in May 2013, they have organized a "Round Table" under the chairmanship of the Governor

of the Eastern Province, attended by all the stakeholders. Its objective was to contribute towards the re-establishment of security in the Mambasa Territory and to restore the authority of the ICCN in the property. The implementation of its important recommendations has not yet been accomplished.

Analysis and Conclusion by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee express its deep concern as to the extremely difficult security situation facing the property. The mission revealed that this situation significantly hampered the conservation activities and the implementation of the corrective measures. The loss of control of roughly 75% of the Reserve results in a reduction of the quality of ecological monitoring, the pursuit of continued poaching and exploitation of numerous artisanal mining works. The presence of armed men and the migratory influx continues to have serious repercussions on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Despite the commendable efforts of the management authorities with support from its partners to gradually regain control of the Reserve, it is difficult for ICCN alone to confront heavily armed groups. Furthermore, the lack of training and professional managerial staff can put lives at risk. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration as regards the security of the sites but also the strengthening of the operational capacities of ICCN. It is recommended that the Committee = call upon all the parties concerned to unite their efforts to implement the recommendations resulting from the Round Table of May 2013.

The mission noted the difficulties encountered by ICCN in renewing confidence and collaboration with several politico-administrative and military authorities and some neighbouring communities. It is therefore important to implement an information and environmental education strategy in the management plan for the Reserve in order to federate the populations and local authorities around ICCN for the conservation of the property.

The mission also evaluated the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The tendencies of wildlife indicators and illegal hunting in the property between 2007 and 2011, and the evaluation of the surveillance efforts, threats and the impact on conservation between 2008 and 2013, carried out with the technical support of the Wildlife Conservation Society, demonstrate a general decline of wildlife as of 2011. A new reduction of the density of indicators for all inventoried species is noted – except for okapi and chimpanzee – in the integral conservation zone (ICZ) and in most of the management area of the property. This reduction, however, is only significant for elephant in ICZ (-43%) and in the hunting areas (-51%). The level of signs of human activity has diminished in all the areas visited of the property, but this reduction is not significant in the ICZ.

It is recommended that the Committee, moreover, request the State Party to adopt corrective measures updated by the mission with a timeframe for implementation of 3 to 5 years and decide to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger as well as to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Expresses its deepest concern as regards the degradation of the security situation at the property, the loss of control of approximately 75% of the Reserve, the increase in poaching and the reopening of several artisanal mining works, and considers that this situation risks destroying, if it continues, all the progress achieved over five years;*
4. *Notes with concern the results of the 2010/2011 inventories that demonstrate that the degradation of the Outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property has continued and that the impacts of the security situation risk further exacerbating the situation;*

5. *Commends the efforts of the staff of the property who, at great risk, continue its efforts for the conservation of the property, and notes that the guards continue to lack the necessary material support to combat heavily armed poachers;*
6. *Recalls the commitments undertaken by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration, dated January 2011, notably regarding the security of World Heritage properties, and the strengthening of the operational capacities of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), in particular the availability of weapons and military equipment necessary for surveillance activities;*
7. *Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures, updated by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission of 2014, to halt and reverse the degradation of the OUV of the property:*
 - a) *Continue the efforts to solve the problems linked to the presence of the military involved in illegal activities and obtain support of the military hierarchy to assist in respect of the laws,*
 - b) *Close down all the artisanal mining quarries and cancel all the mining titles that encroach the property and which are granted illegally by the Mining Cadastre, especially those granted to the KiloGold Society,*
 - c) *Undertake measures to mitigate the impacts linked to the increase in traffic within the property, and notably by mobilising the necessary technical and financial resources to contribute towards the functioning of the immigration control system, and by legalizing and increasing the scope of the pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, including obtaining the right to close the RN4 to traffic at night and set up a toll system,*
 - d) *Finalize and approve the management plan for the property, with the creation of an integral conservation zone,*
 - e) *Integrate the activities of the Committee for Visits and Passage (CSP) and the Local Committees for Monitoring and Conservation of Natural Resources (CLSCN) in the management activities of the livelihood zones (agricultural and hunting zones) for which management modalities remain to be defined in the management plan,*
 - f) *Continue efforts to strengthen and revitalize the surveillance mechanism and render it more efficient,*
 - g) *Prepare and implement a zoning plan of the forest areas adjacent to the property to act as protection against negative impacts of unsustainable exploitation of the forest,*
 - h) *Strengthen communication and cooperation between all the stakeholders and the State services to increase the conservation of the natural resources of the property,*
 - i) *Support the establishment and the active operation of the permanent consultation framework recommended by the Mambasa Round Table (11-12 May 2013) with all parties concerned to contribute in strengthening security at the property and the sustainable conservation of its natural resources;*
8. *Also recalls the obligations of the Congolese Government linked to the protection of the values of the property and the other World Heritage properties on its territory, with regard to the illegal detention, transport, commerce and exportation of natural resources such as timber, minerals, plants and live wild animals or their products, like ivory;*

9. Requests the State Party to also implement the other recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission of 2014;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, with an update on progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
12. Also decides to retain **Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

42. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2014 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the five Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) properties, available at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/38COM/documents>.

At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee requested in its Decision **37 COM 7A.9**, a report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration and on the situation as regards the granting of mining exploration and exploitation titles that encroach the DRC World Heritage properties. However, the State Party report contains no specific section pertaining to this decision.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The security situation in the eastern part of the DRC has improved since the last session, but still remains unstable. The M23 rebel group who occupy North Kivu since April 2012, was overcome in November 2013 by the armed forces of the DRC and MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC). However, several other armed groups remain active in the region and the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) is under regular attack from the rebels: at Virunga National Park in January 2014, an ambush caused the death of one of the guards and the Director of the Park was also attacked and seriously injured in April 2014. At Okapi Wildlife Reserve, the rebel "Morgan" who led the attack against the property in July 2012, was killed in April 2014, but some of his followers continue to operate in the region and to attack local populations and ICCN staff.

The commitments undertaken by the Government at the Kinshasa Declaration in 2011 to render secure the World Heritage properties of the DRC should be recalled. The inter-ministerial consultation framework, created in January 2013, to monitor the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, has not yet resulted in the creation of an inter-ministerial committee in the absence of a decree to validate its status.

With regard to the revision of the Hydrocarbons Code, a proposal for a law concerning the general regime of Hydrocarbons in DRC, rendering possible oil exploitation in World Heritage properties and protected areas, was presented to the National Assembly in November 2013. However, the text caused intense debate among parliamentarians, civil society and conservation NGOs, and its adoption was postponed due to lack of consensus. A new text should be presented to Parliament in April 2014.

Furthermore, a new law relating to nature conservation was adopted on 14 February 2014. This law foresees the possibility of waiving conservation measures by means of a decree deliberated in the Council of Ministers “for reasons of public interest”.

Concerning oil exploration, it should also be noted that the State Party has not, to date, taken any measures to cancel oil exploration titles that encroach the Virunga National Park. However, the Director General of the TOTAL group has publicly committed, in May 2013, not to undertake any oil and gas exploration or extraction activities in the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. In January 2014, TOTAL addressed a letter to the World Heritage Centre officially stating its position in this respect: <http://total.com/frsociete-environnement/environnement/impacts-locaux/biodiversite>. The SOCO Company has not yet undertaken a similar commitment.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Notes that the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has improved since the last session but that it still remains unstable and commends the courage of the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and its efforts to protect the World Heritage properties;*
4. *Urges the State Party to guarantee the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration and to ensure the execution of the Strategic Plan of Action and requests the State Party to approve the decree to officialise the creation of an inter-ministerial committee and allocate the necessary technical and financial means to ensure adequate monitoring in the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration;*
5. *Reiterates its utmost concern as regards the Hydrocarbons Code that could make possible oil exploration activities in protected areas and also urges the State Party to ensure that the protection status of the World Heritage properties be maintained;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to review the oil and mining exploration and exploitation titles to exclude the World Heritage properties and not to grant further titles within the boundaries of the properties of the DRC and recalls its position that mining and oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status.*
7. *Congratulates the TOTAL Company for its commitment not to carry out oil or gas exploration and exploitation activities in properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, a principal to which the Shell Company has already adhered and renews an appeal to SOCO to also subscribe to this commitment;*
8. *Warmly welcomes the support of donor countries in the conservation of the five DRC properties, and calls on the international community to continue to provide support in the implementation of the corrective measures and the Strategic Action Plan to create the necessary conditions for the rehabilitation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the five DRC properties;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the situation regarding mining and oil exploration and*

exploitation titles that encroach World Heritage properties, and the Hydrocarbons Code for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.