



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

World Heritage

40 COM

WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add.2

Paris, 27 June 2016

Original: English / French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

Istanbul, Turkey
10-20 July 2016

**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/40COM/documents>

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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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

13. 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-present

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

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

"[...] 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 (from 1982-1982)

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, October 2014, February 2015 and June 2015: project missions.

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

The Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Site proposed by Jordan) was inscribed, as a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, on the World Heritage List in 1981. It has been further inscribed since 1982 on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

A report was provided to the World Heritage Centre by the Israeli Permanent Delegation to UNESCO on 1 February 2016. A joint report was provided to UNESCO by the Jordanian and Palestinian Permanent Delegations on 6 April 2016. These reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148/documents/>.

I. Report by the Israeli authorities

It is to be noted that since 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem has been *de facto* administered by the Israeli authorities. The report submitted on 1 February 2016 underlines 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 2015 report and the previously reported activities are therefore not included in the present document. Updates are summarized hereunder:

a) Overall plans and development

Regarding town planning, the report informs about ongoing processes regarding the comprehensive local plan for the Jewish Quarter in the Old City which intends to set guidelines for the preservation and development of the quarter, as well as enhancing the value of its cultural, historical and archaeological assets. The report further informs that, in March 2015, the plan cleared compliance with threshold requirements of the Regional Planning committee.

Concerning residential block plans, “a professional summary of the research done so far, and which can serve as planning guidelines, has been published and will be submitted as well. All documents have been translated into Arabic to enhance the process of public participation.”

The report furthermore provides a list of detailed schemes for the Old City, including notably the Tifferet Israel as well as the Liba (core) House.

Regarding physical infrastructure and design and execution, the report provides a list of upgrading of infrastructures.

The report also informs about implementation of the Old City Lighting masterplan around the Dormition Abbey on Mt. Zion as well as about Interpretation and Orientation Signage being added along main routes.

Furthermore, the report underlines that the four-year contract for Maintenance and Site Management in the Old City was renewed.

b) Archaeology and conservation activities

The report indicates that ongoing conservation works on the Dome of the Rock include preservation of dome mosaics and marble tiles and that ongoing conservation was also conducted in Solomon's Stables. Conservation works were completed on the Eastern Wall.

The report also states that conservation activities included structural works in Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue, Western Wall tunnels conservation and cleaning works as well as cleaning and excavation of the large Mameluke pool.

Furthermore, the report indicates that various works of construction, restoration and maintenance were carried out at the St. Abraham convent.

It also provides information on conservation works and activities in the Old City and along its Walls, which includes development works at the promenade and garden, at the south of the Walls, graffiti cleaning, preliminary conservation actions in the Jewish Quarter as well as others maintenance and

restoration works and mentions “excavation along the foundations of the Western Wall (...) which will help understand the building procedure of the Temple Mount”.

The report informs about archaeological research excavations in the Jerusalem Archaeological Park at the Western Wall foundations and at the Western Wall Tunnels.

The report also provides a list of several reported excavations referred to as “salvage excavations” at the Strauss building; in the Jewish Quarter; in the Moslem Quarter; in the Christian Quarter; in the Armenian Quarter, as well as at the Herodian Hall.

Finally, the report provides a list of tourism and cultural events that were organized.

II. Report by the Jordanian and Palestinian authorities

The report was submitted on 6 April 2016. It provides information based on the observations and reports of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and the Jordanian National Committee for World Heritage. It presents activities undertaken by the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and information on measures undertaken in the Old City, reiterating the concern of the Jordan and Palestinian authorities on these matters.

The content of report is summarized below:

a) Renovation and Conservation activities

The report refers to alleged prevention of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf, from performing emergency restorations and stabilization measures to historical structures and to the Mughrabi Gate Pathway.

Furthermore, the report presents a detailed list of activities and projects undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Hashemite Restoration Committee notably on the Dome of the Rock, the dome and columns of the Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa (the Qibli Mosque) as well as in the Marwani Mosque.

The report also indicates that “renovating part of the Eastern Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif has been stopped although it is one of the urgent projects needed to conserve the historic wall, which is also the eastern wall of the Old City of Jerusalem”. The report also indicates alleged new damages on two Mamluk wooden gates of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa / the Qibli Mosque that were restored recently.

b) Archaeology

This chapter of the report includes several sections which describe constructions, excavations and reported intrusive tunneling actions in and around the Old City¹, in particular in the areas of the Western Wall and in Silwan. Of particular concern to the Jordanian and Palestinian authorities are intrusive constructions, tunneling and underground excavations. The report also mentions the plan to open a parking lot on the site of Nea Maria Church, in the southern part of the Old City of Jerusalem a few meters away from the Nabi Dawoud Gate.

In addition, the report provides several examples of construction projects in the Old City of Jerusalem, in a manner that negatively affects the function, visual view and skyline of the Old City. The report expresses concern related to alleged aggressions against religious sites and prayer places.

The report also refers to the Resolutions and Decisions taken in this regard by the United Nations notably.

c) Recommendations

Finally the report addresses several recommendations notably with a view to ensure the implementation of Resolutions and Decisions taken by UNESCO.

¹ The issue of the archaeological excavations carried out since 1967 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.

III. The Mughrabi Ascent

a) Expert meeting

Since its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee has repeatedly asked “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.” (Decision **31 COM 7A.18**). Two such meetings took place in Jerusalem on 13 January and 24 February 2008.

UNESCO convened a technical meeting at its Headquarters in 2012, however neither examination nor discussion to reach a consensus on the design of the Mughrabi Ascent could take place on this occasion.

Another meeting was foreseen to take place at the World Heritage Centre in May 2013, however not all the parties concerned were in a position to attend.

Since then, the World Heritage Committee deplored the fact that the meeting of experts on the Mughrabi Ascent had not taken place.

In case it would take place, the Secretariat will be reporting on such a meeting to the World Heritage Committee accordingly, either through an Addendum or orally.

b) Conservation

The information provided in the report by the Jordanian and Palestinian authorities underlines reported “continued concrete constructions and irreversible demolition of major parts of the Mughrabi Gate Pathway (MGP)” in 2014-2015. It refers notably to reported extensive underground tunneling beneath the MGP remains, removal of Historic remains, as well as expansion of new prayer areas. It further indicates that many new constructions and excavations have been continuing through 2015.

IV. UNESCO operational projects

The Norwegian Government and UNESCO signed in December 2011 an agreement for the project “Ensuring the sustainability of the Centre for the Restoration of Islamic Manuscripts of the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem” to build capacities of the staff of the Centre in the preservation of Islamic manuscripts. The stakeholders are currently discussing the possible new phase of the project to be implemented beyond 2016.

The project “Safeguarding, Refurbishment and Revitalization of the Islamic Museum of the Haram al-Sharif and its Collection” started in 2008 with funding from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The project is currently on hold as it requires additional funding to complete the proposed museographical and scenographical planning, which was approved in March 2015 by the Awqaf authorities. A follow-up mission took place in June 2015. The re-opening of the Museum depends on the availability of funds, and is foreseen beyond 2016.

V. 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”. However, no agreement could be reached between the concerned parties on the Terms of Reference of the mission which was planned to take place in May 2013.

Since then, the World Heritage Committee has reiterated the request of the dispatch of the mission. In case it would take place, the Secretariat will be reporting on such a mission to the World Heritage Committee accordingly, either through an Addendum or orally.

VI. 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, six reports were prepared respectively in December 2011, March 2012, February 2013, March 2014, April 2015 as well as in April 2016 and transmitted to the members of the World Heritage Committee and the concerned parties.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.13

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

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (x)

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

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

- Poaching
- Livestock grazing
- Dam construction project at Sambangalou

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/4087>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4087>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1982-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 177,125

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2007 and 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions. 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife
- Drying up of ponds and invasive species
- Illegal logging
- Livestock grazing
- Road construction project
- Potential dam construction
- Potential mining exploration and exploitation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/>. The report contained the following information:

- The surveillance mechanism has been reinforced with the recruitment of 25 technical agents. The capacity building of staff has been focused on training in the use of GPS and wildlife census;
- Rehabilitation work continues to open up the network of trails including their signage, the repair of campsites and the updating of information boards. The opening up of trails in the area around Mount Assirik, that provides shelter to an important number of large wildlife is foreseen for 2016;
- In 2015, the surveillance mechanism enabled control of all the strategic points of the property in the combat against illegal activities. 35 delinquents were arrested, including eight poachers and 22 gold prospectors;
- The restoration of the ponds continues in the framework of the combat against the invasive species *Mimosa pigra*;
- Four additional types of ecological monitoring have been introduced, including photographic traps, monthly monitoring using a vehicle, a monthly counting of mammals and birdlife at fixed locations and twice yearly censuses of off-road pedestrian trails. Observations made by the agents and visitors are also recorded;
- The control of vehicles using the N°7 national road (N7) was maintained and reinforced with the increase of staff at the control posts of Niokolo and Diénoudiala;
- The guard post at Mako benefited from an increase in staff from 5 to 10 agents and the allocation of three new motorcycles to strengthen the combat against gold prospecting in this sector;
- The extraction of basalt in the Mansadala quarry inside the property continues;
- Funding for the Sambangalou dam project has been settled. At the current stage of the project, the State Party does not foresee a specific impact study on the dam as regards the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Other studies will take into account the compensatory measures of the property, if need be.

On 27 October 2015, the State Party submitted the report of the environmental and social impact study (ESIS) on the Mako gold prospection project.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts undertaken by the State Party in the implementation of the updated corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) should be warmly welcomed. However, the State Party report lacks detailed information regarding the implementation of some of these corrective measures, in particular the strengthening of the anti-poaching mechanism based on aerial measures (according to the means available), implementation of alternative measures for the ponds as watering points in the property, the development of grazing land and watering points in the village territories to minimize encroachment of livestock inside the property and the improvement of boundary marking of the property.

More details are still necessary concerning the ecological monitoring programme of the Park, to ensure suitability for the monitoring of indicators for the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). Furthermore, this ecological monitoring programme must be integrated into the management plan of the Park, to be urgently updated and implemented. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the updated management plan, including a detailed ecological monitoring programme for examination by IUCN.

At the time of the 2015 mission, the State Party indicated that the permanent closure of the Mansadala basalt quarry, foreseen for September 2015, was delayed. Extraction activities continue today. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure the permanent closure of the

quarry in conformity with the Committee request in its Decision **39 COM 7A.13** and the commitment undertaken by the State Party during the 2015 monitoring mission.

With regard to the Sambangalou dam project, the environmental impact studies (EIS) provided in 2010 indicate that this project would have important negative impacts on the OUV of the property including reduction of areas of forest galleries and Ronier Palm stands, fording of the river by large animals and the insufficient alimentation of water to the flood basins and ponds, as already noted by the 2010 mission. In view of the observation made by the 2015 mission concerning the continued drying up of the ponds, it is recommended that the Committee express its deep concern regarding the potential impacts of the said project and it reiterates its request to the State Party to assess the potential impacts of this project on the OUV of the property, and to submit a report of this study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN, prior to any decision regarding its implementation.

It is most regrettable that the State Party has provided no information on the current status of the gold prospection project at Mako. The ESIS of this project notes that no direct impact on the habitat inside the property is expected because the installation area of the project does not encroach on the property. However, IUCN reiterates the conclusion of the 2015 mission that the earlier studies carried out by the Society and its partners indicate that if the research permit is converted into an exploitation license, it could have direct important impacts on the OUV of the property, notably on the chimpanzees, lions, elephants and the Derby eland that have all been observed in the property, in the immediate vicinity of the project. It must be recalled that the chimpanzee uses the eastern part of the property as well as the area of the proposed project. As such, all loss of habitat in the area of the project would have a direct impact on these chimpanzees and therefore on the OUV of the property. The ESIS of the project wrongly classifies the permanent loss of the chimpanzee as an indirect impact. Moreover, indirect impacts of moderate importance are expected, notably the increase in the risk of poaching, gold prospection and fragmentation of habitats due to migration. The commitment of the Society to avoid, minimize and mitigate all impact of the project on the OUV of the property is commendable. However, it should be noted that any loss of OUV cannot be compensated. In the ESIS it is evident that the permanent loss of habitat of the chimpanzee is unavoidable if the research permit is converted into an exploitation license. The permanent loss of habitat of the chimpanzee, even outside the property, would therefore represent an additional degradation of its OUV, specifically concerning the conditions of integrity. It is thus recommended that the Committee request the State Party not to approve the project in its current conception, in conformity with the corrective measure adopted by the Committee at its 39th session, which requests the "prohibition of any extractive activity (.....) within the property, as well as outside of the property insofar as such an activity could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (OUV), including conditions of integrity"

Finally, it is recommended that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Warmly welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures, but considers that further efforts should be made to implement all the corrective measures updated at its 39th session;*
4. *Strongly regrets that the State Party has provided no information on the current status of the gold prospection project at Mako and notes with concern that the environmental and social impact study (ESIS) of the project indicates that indirect impacts of moderate importance are expected, such as the increase in the risk of poaching, gold prospection and the fragmentation of habitat, as well as the permanent loss of the chimpanzee habitat outside the property;*

5. Considers that the loss of chimpanzee habitat, even outside the property, represents a direct impact on the Outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property, particularly with regard to conditions of integrity and would therefore risk further degradation of the already fragile OUV;
6. Requests the State Party not to grant approval to the gold prospection project at Mako in its current conception, in conformity with its Decision **39 COM 7A.13**, which requests the prohibition of any extractive activity outside of the property insofar as such an activity could have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;
7. Urges the State Party to ensure the permanent closure of the Mansadala basalt quarry by 2018, in accordance with the request of the Committee in its Decision **39 COM 7A.13**;
8. Expresses its deep concern as regards the potential impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property, in particular the reduction of the areas of forest galleries and Ronier Palm stands in the property, river fording by large wildlife and insufficient water supply to the flood basins and ponds in the property, especially with regard to the continuing drying up of the ponds, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a specific study of the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the "IUCN Advisory Note on World Heritage: an environmental assessment" prior to any decision on its construction, conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also requests the State Party to urgently update and implement the management plan for the property, integrating the updated and detailed ecological monitoring programme, to enable monitoring of the indicators for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and further requests the State Party to provide an electronic version and three printed copies of the revised management plan for examination by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA-PACIFIC

49. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (ix)

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

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

- Logging
- Invasive species
- Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources
- Climate change
- Legislation, management planning and administration of the property

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

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2006-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 56,335

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 56,000, Netherlands Funds-In-Trust: Technical Support to East Rennell

Previous monitoring missions

March – April 2005: UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring mission; October 2012: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2015: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes to oceanic waters
- Commercial hunting
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Forestry/wood production, Logging
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Storms
- Mining
- Commercial fishing (issue resolved)
- Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources
- Legislation, management planning and administration of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property. With the support of the Government of Flanders, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission visited the property in November 2015 and assisted the State Party with the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). While a proposal for the DSOCR was prepared in consultation with the local stakeholders and sent to the State Party for consideration, it was not officially submitted by the State Party and therefore is not presented for adoption by the World Heritage Committee. A copy of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a bauxite mining project in West Rennell was received during the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission.

In February 2016, a technical workshop was organized by the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO (HIST, China) with financial support from the Netherlands Funds-In-Trust and with participation of the State Party representatives and the World Heritage Centre. The main objective of the meeting was to gather and analyse satellite images of Rennell Island to identify the changes in forest and vegetation cover within the property and on the entire Rennell Island.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In the absence of a report on the state of conservation of the property, progress achieved by the State Party towards the implementation of the Committee's requests and the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission cannot be evaluated. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to the State Party with regards to threats arising from logging and invasive species, as well as the revision of the management plan for the property.

It is noted that an EIA for one of the proposed bauxite mining projects has been provided to the Advisory mission in 2015. However, it should be recalled that the Committee requested the State Party to undertake EIAs for all plans for bauxite mining. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on all proposed bauxite mining projects on Rennell Island, including the EIAs of each project, as well as an assessment of their potential cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property. It is further recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to defer consideration of bauxite mining license applications until the new management plan for the property has been approved and is being implemented.

The technical workshop organised by HIST is welcomed and its conclusions are noted, in particular that unspoiled forest cover remains at 95% of land area within the property and at 90% in other parts of Rennell Island and that no logging has occurred within the property. The results obtained will enable the establishment of baseline data on forest and vegetation cover within the property which can be used to monitor this indicator in the future, including within the framework of the DSOCR. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to draw on the results of the Advisory mission and the technical workshop to finalize the DSOCR and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, for adoption by the Committee at its 41st session.

It should be further noted that without a short-term development of alternative income generating mechanisms that derive benefits from the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), bauxite mining and selective logging will remain the most important potential sources of income for local communities on East Rennell. It is therefore recommended that the Committee recommend the State Party to develop an Action Plan which would prioritize alternative income generating mechanisms for local communities and to attract international partners and support to protect the OUV of the property.

It is finally recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee;
4. Takes note that a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission visited the property to meet the customary owners and to assist the State Party in the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), but also regrets that the State Party did not submit a proposal for the DSOOCR and requests the State Party to submit it by **1 February 2017**, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
5. Encourages the State Party to develop an Action Plan which would prioritize local communities and alternative income generating mechanisms that derive benefits from the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Urges the State Party to expedite the completion and implementation of the revised Management Plan for the property and also requests the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide detailed information on all proposed bauxite mining projects on Rennell Island, including the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of each project, as well as an assessment of their potential cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
8. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Defer consideration of bauxite mining license applications until the new management plan for the property has been approved and is being implemented,
 - b) Put in place interim measures to mitigate the impact of existing logging operations and halt new logging operations until the new management plan has been approved and is being implemented,
 - c) Undertake urgent action to halt the further spread of rats on Rennell Island and prevent them from entering the property, to put in place the biosecurity controls necessary to prevent further introductions of invasive species to the island;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
10. Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.