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

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-second session

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

**Item 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/42COM/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

ASIA AND PACIFIC

3. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia, Federated States of) (C 1503)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

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

- Management system/Management Plan
- Management activities (Overgrowth of vegetation, Stonework collapse)
- Storms (Effects of storm surge)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition

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/1503/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2017)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 120,000 for the preparation of a nomination file and the management plan for Nan Madol by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust. USD 26,232 for Technical Support to Nan Madol, Micronesia (Danger list) by the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of legal framework (legislation LB392 not yet passed and implemented)
- Management system not extended enough
- Lack of a risk preparedness strategy as well as of a comprehensive tourism strategy in the Management Plan
- Need to remove silt from the waterways without jeopardizing possible cultural layers on the sea floor

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property on 15-25 January 2018. On 30 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents>, and reports the following:

- To strengthen legal protection, a final draft of a revised Law LB 392 has been completed and will be presented to Pohnpei State Legislature in May 2018;
- A Designated Property Manager will be appointed with cultural heritage management training, who will assist in preparing the Conservation Plan, extending the current maintenance regimes, and developing short and long term strategies for the conservation and development of the property based on the outcomes of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- With support from UNESCO, an expert has been appointed to develop a Conservation Plan;
- Work on removing vegetation from stone structures will commence in February 2018.

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

Plans to appoint a Designated Property Manager are welcomed and should greatly help the development of a coordinated approach to the conservation and development of the property.

It is noted that progress is being made with the strengthening of legal protection, and a revised law is expected to be approved in 2018.

The Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was undertaken by an inter-disciplinary team, consisting of an archaeologist, a stone expert, a structural engineer and a project management specialist, together with a staff member of the World Heritage Centre.

At the time of drafting this report, the report of the joint World Heritage/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission has not been finalized. The report will be available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/> before the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee and its results shared in advance with the Committee.

The main aims of the mission were to identify the specific challenges facing the property including stone decay, water erosion, engineering problems related to scale of basalt pillars and coral blocks, and damage caused by vegetation and wave erosion; to discuss and agree with the State Party the main parameters of an overall conservation strategy/master plan to address these challenges that sets out short, medium and long term projects; to define a management approach for delivering the projects and a strategy for attracting international assistance; and to collaborate with the State Party on the drafting of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) based on the conservation strategy/master plan.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7A.56**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the commitment to appoint a Designated Property Manager by the State Party;
4. Notes that progress is being made to strengthen the legal protection of the property and that a revised Law is expected to be approved in 2018;

5. *Also notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property has been carried out and requests the State Party to implement all of the mission's recommendations;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;*
7. ***Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ARAB STATES

21. 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.

At the time of the preparation of this document no report on the state of conservation of the site has been received from the concerned parties.

Since the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, the Permanent Delegation of Palestine expressed concerns regarding ongoing constructions works at the Damascus Gate which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage site (letters dated 14 February and 9 March 2018). The same concern had been raised by the Permanent Delegation of Turkey (letter 25 January 2018). The Permanent Delegation of Israel indicated that the watchtowers, which are removable, had been installed for security reasons and would be removed when the security situation allows (letter 5 April 2018).

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having considered document WHC-18/42.COM/7A.Add.2 and the Annex attached to this decision,*
2. *Recalling its previous decisions concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls,*
3. *Decides that the status of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decision 41 COM 7A.36 of the last World Heritage Committee,*

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The World Heritage Committee

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Item 21: Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

DRAFT DECISION

Submitted by Bahrein, Kuwait, Tunisia

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-18/42.COM/7A.Add.2,*

2. *Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,*
3. *Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),*
4. *Also reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,*
5. *Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,*
6. *Further recalling the 14 decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Dec.19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25, 201 EX/PX 30.1, 202EX/Decision 38, 204/EX/Decision 25 and the eight World Heritage Committee decisions: 34 COM/7A.20, 35 COM/7A.22, 36 COM/7A.23, 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4, 39 COM/7A.27, 40 COM/7A.13,*
7. *Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunneling, works, projects and other illegal practices in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;*
8. *Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;*
9. *Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;*
10. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

28. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) (C 1565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2017-present



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

The State Party outlined a series of threats in the nomination file, but none were specified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Draft submitted by the State Party; to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies once a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is approved

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 375,400 from the Government of Sweden for physical rehabilitation

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/>

Current conservation issues

ON 23 March 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/> and reports the following:

- The State Party underlines that it has endeavoured to address Decision **41 COM 8B.1**, despite challenging circumstances;
- A proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is included with the report, as well as suggested corrective measures, including the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the property, involving stakeholders and the local community. The report also provides a proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV);
- The State Party expresses concern about the consequences of military occupation, including vandalism, and property damage. There have been unauthorized excavations in Tell Rumeideh, the archaeological site located in buffer zone. The State Party reports that there are five Israeli settlements within the Old Town of Hebron, three within the property and two in the buffer zone. The State Party also indicates that Israel's Army Minister issued a statement upgrading the status of the Jewish community in Hebron H2 to that of an official settlement, making them eligible to form municipal councils and to receive the same services provided by the Israeli authorities to

other West Bank settlements. The State Party has implemented actions and projects to conserve the property, including progress with conservation of Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi/the Tomb of Patriarchs, completion of the rehabilitation of the infrastructure on Al-Qasaba Main Street, restoration of the Khreisha building, and restoration of the glass factory – Souk Eskafeyyeh. Work has commenced on a programme for beautification of historic façades, the rehabilitation of Amer palace, and rehabilitation of Hosh Abu-Duraan. Regular maintenance of historic buildings continues, and it is proposed that the Hammam Saidna Ibrahim will be rehabilitated as a visitor centre;

- The State Party also expresses concern at projects, which are not consistent with the OUV of the property, including, in particular, the proposed construction of a neighbourhood for settlers in block No. 34021, Plots 110, and 130, comprising new high-rise buildings of up to 18 metres, which differ from traditional buildings' form and use concrete and stone, rather than vernacular materials;
- The State Party strongly asserts its commitment to implementing all possible measures to conserve and sustain the property and to enhance the living conditions of the local community.

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

The property was simultaneously inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger through Decision **41 COM 8B.1**, in accordance with paragraphs 161 and 162 of the *Operational Guidelines*, on the basis that the Committee concluded that the property unquestionably justifies criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi), as well as conditions of integrity and authenticity, but is faced with serious threats, which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics for which an immediate action by the World Heritage Committee is needed.

At its 41st session in 2017, the World Heritage Committee did not adopt a proposed SOUV in line with Paragraph 154 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The State Party has submitted a proposed SOUV with its state of conservation report. As no ICOMOS field visit was possible before inscription and as subsequently ICOMOS has not been able to undertake a mission, it has not been possible to assess the proposed SOUV in terms of its defined attributes. In these circumstances, it is suggested to undertake a meeting with the State Party for coordination and technical advice. This meeting could consider the SOUV, the proposed DSOCR, related corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, and the process for the elaboration of Management Plan.

The efforts of the State Party to begin the preparation of a comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the property should be commended, as should the conservation works that have been completed or are in progress. Furthermore, on 16 May 2018, a revised International Assistance Request for the funding of preparatory studies for the elaboration of a Management Plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It will be implemented in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Ramallah Office and the Advisory Bodies.

It is crucial that, as circumstances permit, the processes for managing conservation and development projects at the property should include preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties.

It is regrettable that the situation on the ground has deteriorated since the inscription of the property. Recognising the challenging circumstances at the property, it would nevertheless be desirable that the State Party submit details of all significant current conservation and development projects to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.28

Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Palestine)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having considered Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2 and the annex attached to this decision,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.1**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Decides that the status of **Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town** relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decision **41 COM 8B.1** of the last World Heritage Committee.*

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1. *Having considered Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2;*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.1**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), which did not include a SOUV, and noting that in compliance with Paragraph 154 of the Operational Guidelines, when deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, guided by the Advisory Bodies, the Committee adopts a SOUV for the property,*
3. *Taking note of a preliminary proposed SOUV contained in the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party,*
4. *Requests the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to work with the State Party in the framework of the International Assistance project on the Management Plan to finalize this SOUV;*
5. *Notes that a proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) was submitted by the State Party, as none was adopted at the 41st session, also notes that no ICOMOS field visit to the property was possible before inscription, and, as the current situation still does not permit any missions, proposes that a meeting be organized for representatives of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to discuss with the State Party the proposed SOUV, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), related corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation;*
6. *Decides to consider the examination of a draft SOUV for the property at its 43rd session in 2019;*

7. Commends the State Party for the actions which are being taken to conserve significant attributes of the Property;
8. Welcomes efforts to begin the preparation of a Management Plan, and requests the State Party to work in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Ramallah Office and the Advisory Bodies in the implementation of the International Assistance Request regarding the preparatory studies for the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on current conservation and development projects, particularly projects which have potential adverse impact on heritage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;
11. Also decides to retain Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

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

- Road construction
- Mining
- Illegal logging
- Encroachment

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/5970>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Revision proposed in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005 to 2012)

Total amount approved: USD 96,600

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) "Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage"; USD 35,000 Rapid Response Facility Grant (2007)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2006: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan
- Ground transport infrastructure (Road construction)
- Land conversion (Agricultural encroachment)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging; Poaching)
- Governance (Institutional and governance weaknesses)
- Renewable energy facilities (Geothermal development license adjacent to the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/>

Current conservation issues

On 7 February 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>. An IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 5-16 April 2018, the report of which is also available at the above link.

The State Party reports as follows:

- Law enforcement and Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols have been further strengthened with 23 poachers arrested in 2017;
- 'Role Model' forest restoration sites have been initiated inside the property to address conservation issues including encroachment and to enhance partnership;
- Spatial forest cover data are collected every three years, with the next monitoring to take place in 2019;
- No new road development activities or permits exist within the property. A Regulation on Technical Requirements of Strategic Road Development in Conservation Forest is being drafted;
- No geothermal energy concession or exploration permit exists within the property, and the proposal for such a development in Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) has been rejected;
- No mining concession or exploration permit exists within the property;
- The Aceh Government is exploring the possibility of including the Leuser Ecosystem into the Aceh Spatial Plan;
- In December 2017 the Aceh Government issued a 6-months extension to a moratorium on new oil palm plantations and to a moratorium on mining;
- Key species (Sumatran Tiger, Rhino, Elephant and Orangutan) are being monitored in small study areas of the national parks in collaboration with various conservation partners. Incidences of human-wildlife conflicts are also being mapped by park managers jointly with partners and communities;
- The boundary of GLNP was modified under a 2014 Ministerial Decree to 828,279.5 ha. That of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) was modified under a 2015 Ministerial Decree to 314,861.48 ha.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued progress in increasing patrols and law enforcement efforts in the property, which has resulted in successful arrests is welcomed. Whilst the initiation of the small-scale 'Role Model' pilot sites is a positive step towards forest restoration, the mission observed substantial, ongoing encroachment, which will require considerably more effort to bring under control and to rehabilitate those degraded areas. Encroachment also appears to be occurring most in lowland forests, which are particularly important habitats for key wildlife, as well as in ecological corridors thereby leading to fragmentation of the property.

The confirmation that there has been no new road development inside the property is appreciated. Nevertheless, the mission learned of two road upgrade projects that have proceeded without the appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. One is to expand the Sungai Penuh to Tapan road, which traverses Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), and for which an EIA was completed only after the upgrade work had commenced. Furthermore, the EIA does not assess any potential impacts on the OUV of the property or propose any mitigation measures. The second road upgrade for Karo-Langkat in GLNP appears to have also been approved without a prior EIA. It is critical that road upgrades – not only new roads – are subject to an EIA and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decisions are taken, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is welcomed that the State Party has cancelled the proposed geothermal project on the Kappi Plateau in a part of GLNP that is designated as core zone of the national park and that no other plans exist for geothermal development within the property. The extensions of the moratoria on new oil palm plantations and on mining are also welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage

the State Party to extend these further to ensure that important wildlife habitats and corridors in the Leuser Ecosystem are protected against these damaging developments.

The reported Ministerial Decrees for boundary changes to two of the national parks included in the property leading to a decrease in area are of utmost concern. The State Party should be reminded that any proposed changes to the property boundaries need to be approved by the Committee and therefore it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify whether it intends to change the boundaries of the property, in which case a proposal for a boundary modification should be submitted following the appropriate procedure as laid out in the *Operational Guidelines*. Furthermore, the mission noted with great concern that boundary demarcation on the ground was largely insufficient, which is constraining the ability to enforce the law.

The monitoring of the key wildlife species in study areas is appreciated but there is still no systematic data collection across the three national parks. There is a requirement for coordination at the property level for consistent monitoring methods using replicable protocols. Land use pressures on the property, especially in the lowlands are threatening wildlife habitats and there is a need to ensure the protection of ecological corridors adjoining the property. In this respect, it is recalled that in Decision **33 COM 7B.15** the Committee recommended the State Party, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to submit a proposal for a significant boundary modification to include these key areas into the property and to better reflect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The Committee in its Decision **38 COM 7A.28** also requested the State Party to ensure the control of invasive species, and the mission was informed of efforts to tackle the spread of the invasive (native) vine, *Merremia peltata*, which is posing a significant threat to the natural forest in the southern part of BBSNP. The invasive alien species *Lantana camara* also appears to be widespread in this park. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to assess the full potential impact of invasive species on the OUV of the property and the possible control methods.

The mission reviewed the current indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and proposes changes to two of the indicators:

- to recognize that primary forest has been lost within the property since 2011 and it is no longer possible to achieve the target established in 2013 under indicator 1 concerning forest cover;
- wildlife population census for the four key species is unlikely to achieve the level of precision required to determine the specified rates of population growth under indicator 2.

These proposed changes reflect the recognition of the realities of the state of OUV within the property and a need to ensure the indicators are achievable whilst remaining meaningful. The mission proposes to add a new clause under indicator 1 to strengthen the requirements for solving the encroachment challenge.

In summary, significant progress has been made by the State Party in addressing the threats facing the property, but this is not yet sufficient for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.28** and **41 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued progress in increasing patrols and law enforcement efforts in the property;*
4. *Notes with significant concern the substantial, ongoing forest loss primarily as a result of encroachment and strongly urges the State Party to take urgent action to halt the current trend and rehabilitate degraded areas;*

5. Also welcomes that the State Party has cancelled the proposed geothermal project on the Kappi Plateau within Gunung Leuser National Park and that no other plans exist for geothermal development within the property;
6. Further welcomes the 6-month extensions to the moratoria on new oil palm plantations and on mining issued by the Governor of Aceh in December 2017, and also strongly urges the State Party to extend these moratoria further to ensure that important wildlife habitats and corridors in the Leuser Ecosystem are protected against these damaging developments;
7. Appreciates that no new road development exist inside the property but notes with concern that two road upgrade projects have been approved without the necessary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any upgrade to existing roads and footpaths are only permitted if it is demonstrated through an EIA that they would not cause any negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
8. Also noting with concern that the boundaries of two of the national parks have been reduced through Ministerial Decrees, requests the State Party to clarify whether it intends to modify the boundaries of the property, in which case a boundary modification request should be submitted in accordance with paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, including clear maps of the revised boundaries, for approval by the Committee, and reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a proposal for a significant boundary modification to better reflect the OUV of the property;
9. Reminds the State Party that changes to existing boundaries and buffer zones should have the primary objective of strengthening the protection of OUV and must be approved by the World Heritage Committee through one of its established processes;
10. Also requests the State Party to ensure that monitoring of key wildlife species (Sumatran Elephant, Sumatran Orangutan, Sumatran Rhino and Sumatran Tiger) comprise systematic data collection across the three national parks using consistent monitoring methods and replicable protocols;
11. Adopts the indicators that describe the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as revised by the 2018 IUCN mission, and further requests the State Party to implement the following revised corrective measures to restore the OUV of the property:
 - a) Strengthen efforts to remove all encroachers from the property and carry out necessary forest restoration work to ensure that encroachment does not recur. Ensure that forest restoration is focused initially on degraded areas in key ecological corridors and along roads, paths and tracks that traverse the property, and that key restored wildlife corridors are designated as a core zone. Review any historical land rights claims within the property and take necessary action to resolve such claims whilst maintaining the OUV of the property,
 - b) Clarify in law the boundaries of each component national park of the property, in consultation with Provincial governments, local communities and all other stakeholders and restore and complete the demarcation of these boundaries on the ground,
 - c) Further enhance law enforcement capacity and the geographic reach and intensity of patrols throughout the property in collaboration with conservation NGOs, local communities and other partners. Ensure that forest crimes are effectively detected and prosecuted,

- d) *Ensure standardised monitoring protocols and data formats to track progress in the implementation of all activities towards the DSOCR within each park, so that these can be readily consolidated for regular reporting on progress for the property as a whole. Ensure that new data on the extent of forest cover are derived from recent satellite imagery in a manner that can be repeated at regular intervals,*
- e) *Strengthen property-wide monitoring of key species, including Sumatran Elephant, Tiger, Rhino and Orangutan, by:*
 - (i) *continuing collaboration among Government, NGO and university stakeholders,*
 - (ii) *agreeing a common methodological framework for monitoring each species,*
 - (iii) *expanding monitoring efforts to address geographical gaps in monitoring activities,*
 - (iv) *ensuring that simple GPS-referenced presence/absence data for key species are collected as part of routine SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) patrols, so that changes in range occupancy can be detected and monitored,*
 - (v) *synchronizing data analyses for all key species to facilitate progress reporting,*
- f) *Strengthen species recovery efforts by implementing habitat improvement and ecosystem restoration programmes, as required, including the control of invasive species,*
- g) *Maintain the policy that prohibits the construction of new roads in national parks, and implement the strategies and recommendations of the 2017 Strategic Environmental Assessment for the road network in the Bukit Barisan Mountain Range and the additional requests made by the Committee, in order to minimize the impact of road networks on the property's OUV,*
- h) *Ensure that rigorous EIAs are carried out for all proposed developments within the property (e.g. road improvement projects) and its vicinity (e.g. roads, mining, geothermal and hydro dam projects), with particular attention to the Leuser Ecosystem National Strategic Area, to ensure that these do not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,*
- i) *Complete the process of closing and rehabilitating all mines within the property, further investigate the existence of any mining concessions and exploration permits that may still overlap with the property, and revoke any overlapping concessions and/or permits that are identified,*
- j) *Ensure that all provinces, districts and sub-districts that include parts of the property recognize its World Heritage status and avoid the designation of development zones within its boundaries,*
- k) *Ensure that the World Heritage Working Group under the Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Culture is taking an active role in promoting effective coordination between different ministries in the protection and management of the property especially concerning difficult issues related to encroachment and boundary reconstruction,*
- l) *Review the buffer zones around each park comprising the property, and revise them where necessary and appropriate, based on ecological criteria, to protect critical wildlife habitats bordering the property and ensure that land use in the wider landscapes around each park contributes to sustaining all aspects of the property's OUV, including animal migration corridors and parts of each species natural range that are essential to maintaining viable populations in the long term;*

12. Requests furthermore the State Party to assess the full potential impact of invasive species, including *Merremia peltata* and *Lantana camara*, on the OUV of the property and their possible control methods;
13. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;
14. **Decides to retain the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

41. 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
Adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2017, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6965>

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/854/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 2 (from 2006 to 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, UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust: Technical Support to East Rennell; USD 35,000, UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust: 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 (Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources)

- Forestry/wood production, Logging
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Storms
- Mining
- Management systems/management plans (Management planning and administration of the property)
- Legal framework (Legislation)
- Commercial fishing (issue resolved)

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

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017).

On 3 May 2018, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from “*the Tuhunui Tribe of East Rennell*” (quote) noting that in its recent Council Meeting the Tuhunui Tribe decided to “*withdraw all its customary land from the World Heritage Program Site in East Rennell*”. The letter also states that all previous negotiations regarding the nomination of East Rennell and subsequently its World Heritage status “*were made by community elected groups and not Tribes who owned the many land areas*”. It further notes that it opposes the proposal by the Government of Solomon Islands to declare the area of the property as protected under the Protected Area Act 2010.

On 16 May 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on this matter to request its comments. At the time of writing this document, the State Party had not yet responded to the request.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In the absence of a report on the state of conservation of the property, the current situation at the property and the progress achieved by the State Party with the implementation of the Committee’s requests and towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) cannot be evaluated. It is regrettable that in the absence of the report, no update is available on the results of the important national Round Table, which was organized by the State Party in August 2017 to discuss future strategies for the property with customary owners, land users and other stakeholders.

The petition submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Tuhunui Tribe raises serious concerns on the practical modalities of customary ownership, management and decision-making. While the East Rennell Council of Chiefs, its Paramount Chief, and the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association have expressed their support to the World Heritage process, the letter from the Tuhunui Tribe indicates that there are opposing views among local and indigenous communities. It should be recalled that this natural property remains one of the few to be inscribed on the World Heritage List with a traditional customary governance system, and ensuring that the rights of customary land owners and land users are fully respected is therefore crucial for securing the long term conservation of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

One of the concerns of the customary land owners and land users is that few tangible socio-economic benefits have emerged from the 20-year World Heritage designation of East Rennell. The development of livelihoods for the local communities that derive benefits from the conservation of the property is a real priority. It is therefore recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to seek technical and financial support to address this issue and call on the international donor community to support efforts in this regard.

According to a map annexed to the petition, the customary land of the Tuhunui Tribe comprises a significant percentage of the lands within the property. The petition states that the Tuhunui Tribe are opposed to the designation of East Rennell under the Protected Area Act 2010 – one of the measures proposed by the State Party to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and reflected in the DSOCR as adopted by the Committee. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to understand the complex interplay of customary rights within the property, taking a facilitating role in the dialogue between and amongst different stakeholders/communities and to evaluate how the concerns expressed by customary land owners can be addressed, whilst fully respecting the right to self-determination. The mission would provide timely advice to the State Party

regarding possible measures, which can be implemented in order to achieve the DSOCR, in close consultation with customary land-owners, and could follow up with international partners and ministries regarding the development of alternative livelihoods. The mission should also assess the current state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in addressing threats identified in previous state of conservation reports, including invasive species, bauxite mining and logging.

In the absence of any information regarding progress achieved towards the DSOCR, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
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. *Notes with utmost concern the letter submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Tuhunui Tribe of East Rennell, raising serious concerns on the practical modalities of customary ownership, management and decision-making, and expressing their wish to “withdraw all its customary land from the World Heritage Program Site in East Rennell” in light of their concern that they are not benefiting from its World Heritage status, and their opposition to the property being declared under the Protected Area Act 2010;*
5. *Considers that the long term conservation of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value can only be secured with the full consent of the customary land owners and land users in full respect of their rights;*
6. *Also considers that the development of sustainable livelihoods for the local communities is of utmost importance, requests the State Party to seek technical and financial support to address this issue and calls upon the international community to support the State Party with this effort;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property:*
 - a) *to facilitate a dialogue between and amongst different stakeholders/communities and to evaluate how the concerns expressed by the customary land owners can be addressed, whilst fully respecting their right to self-determination,*
 - b) *to provide advice to the State Party regarding possible measures which can be implemented in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in close consultation with local communities and customary land owners,*
 - c) *to assess the current state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved towards combatting threats identified in previous state of conservation reports, including invasive species, bauxite mining and logging;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;*

9. **Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**