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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-third session

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June - 10 July 2019**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties
inscribed on the World Heritage List**

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. 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: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/43COM/documents>

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

Decision required: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

1. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2017-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2012: IUCN mission; June 2014: IUCN/Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal frameworks, governance and management systems
- Uncontrolled developments including ground transport infrastructure: road network
- Unsustainable use of natural resources
- Absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements
- Civil unrest inhibiting management and access of international experts and capacity building support
- Extreme weather events: cyclones

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The State Party states that despite the challenges facing Yemen, the protection of Socotra's environment remains a top priority;
- By decision of the President, more authority was devolved to the island authorities and the Governor to be able to protect its fragile biodiversity;

- Uncontrolled development is being addressed through implementation of the zoning and master plan of Socotra and the 2017 cabinet decree banning land sales, as well as the establishment of a new committee to survey illegally sold lands;
- Limited “indiscriminate” construction is reported in areas including Delisha beach and Serhin Lagoon. A resulting site visit by a special committee of local government institutions made recommendations to urgently halt activities near the lagoon, implement law enforcement and legal prosecution measures, ban construction outside development zones and implement Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for construction. The Governor is reviewing the recommendations and is expected to take actions soon;
- Biodiversity surveys of Socotra have been completed and the Socotra Master Plan will be updated;
- In February 2019, the Khalifa Foundation (KF) and Environmental Protection Agency, Socotra Branch (EPA) discussed environmental activities on Socotra, including KF funding for preparation of a 5-year environmental plan;
- The State Party reiterates that fishing remains seasonal and traditional, and that fishing activities have decreased due to public sector employment resulting in reduced pressure on the marine environment. The reopened fish factory has not led to an increase in fishing but continues to enhance local livelihoods. Local authorities have stopped illegal sea cucumber harvesting by non-Socotri investors;
- Invasive Alien Species (IAS) control measures include a ban on the import and export of living materials without a special EPA permit, enforcement through sea and air patrols, and IAS elimination and awareness raising. The State Party acknowledges that due to gaps in enforcement linked to the political and security instability some IAS tree species had been planted, but this was stopped and corrected.

The State Party welcomes the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and is supporting its organization. A technical meeting will be coordinated with the World Heritage Centre following the mission.

Despite the State Party’s invitation for a joint mission to the property as requested by the Committee (Decisions **40 COM 7B.86**, **41 COM 7B.23** and **42 COM 7B.100**), the mission has not yet been possible due to ongoing security and logistical access issues.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The reported commitment to ensure that the protection of Socotra’s environment remains a priority and the actions taken to reduce illegal development, address IAS and combat illegal sea cucumber fishing within the property are appreciated.

However, recalling the request of the Committee to refrain from allowing any further development at the property, until planned activities and projects in the property and its buffer zone have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre (Decision **42 COM 7B.100**), the reported unregulated construction including at Delisha beach and Serhin Lagoon is of concern. While welcoming the recommendations of the special committee to address this issue, the implementation of the recommendations remains unconfirmed. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent action to unequivocally halt all construction activities. No information has been provided on the concerns raised in previous reports of existing tourism and leisure projects in environmentally sensitive areas and their potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including specifically the Hawlaf Sea Port extension carried out without an EIA.

It is noted that the report provides no information to ascertain the overall state of the property’s natural resources or management, except that biodiversity surveys have been carried out and the Socotra Management Plan is being revised. While acknowledging the information provided that fishing remains seasonal and traditional, and is decreasing due to alternate employment opportunities, no information is available on the current impact of potential unsustainable fishing pressure on local fisheries, raised as concerns in 2018.

The efforts to combat IAS are welcome. Reiterating the potentially devastating impacts of IAS on the highly unique natural environment of Socotra, it is important to further strengthen law enforcement to address biosecurity.

Noting the island has been impacted by three cyclones in the past four years, and that extreme weather events related to climate change are expected to increase, it is critical that the State Party effectively manage the resilience of the property including through adaptation and mitigation measures. No information has been provided on the 2018 cyclone impact on the OUV of the property.

The willingness of the State Party to invite and organize the joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property is appreciated, but it is unfortunate that the mission has still not been possible as a result of security and logistical concerns. It is hoped that this mission can be organized soon, in close cooperation with the United Nations mission to Yemen. Given the urgency to address the state of conservation of Socotra, the mission and technical meeting proposed by the State Party remain a matter of utmost urgency. Ongoing conflict continues to inhibit the management of the property, international cooperation efforts and the access of experts visiting the property.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its utmost concern over the reported multiple threats to the property, and reiterate the urgent need for the mission to fully assess the current state of conservation and whether the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 b) of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.86**, **41 COM 7B.23** and **42 COM 7B.100**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's repeated invitations for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested at its previous sessions, and regrets that the mission could not be undertaken due to the ongoing security situation in Yemen and logistical constraints;*
4. *Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to address illegal development in the property, but notes with concern reported unregulated construction including at Delisha beach and Serhin Lagoon, and requests the State Party to take immediate action to address any resulting impacts, including through implementation of the Socotran special committee recommendations, and reiterates its request to halt any activity that may have a potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to refrain from allowing any further development in the property, until planned activities and projects in the property and its buffer zone have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Also notes with concern that no information has been provided to determine the overall state of the property's natural resources, including potential impacts of unsustainable fishing pressure on the state of conservation of marine resources;*
6. *Also acknowledges the State Party's efforts to implement measures to control Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and, also recalling the potentially devastating impacts of IAS on the highly unique natural environment of Socotra, urges the State Party to strengthen measures to address biosecurity controls;*
7. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the multiple reported threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, resulting from uncontrolled developments, unsustainable use of natural resources, and the absence of adequate biosecurity*

measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), and considers that all these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;

8. *Reiterates again the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to take place as a matter of urgency, in order to assess its current state of conservation, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and to review whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
9. *Also welcomes the State Party's intention to hold a technical meeting following the mission, focused on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development for the people of Socotra, and also reiterates its request for this meeting to be urgently undertaken with the Yemeni authorities, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and concerned parties;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

MIXED PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

35. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(v)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

2017: Heritage Emergency Fund – support to Iraqi World Heritage properties: USD 100.000

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need to conduct further studies regarding minimum water flows, to confirm the biodiversity within the property and its surrounding landscapes
- Incomplete designation of all the components of the property as legally protected areas
- Need to regulate oil and gas concessions, and other potentially impacting activities in the buffer zones of the property
- Highly unstable conservation conditions of the archaeological sites
- Need for a detailed master plan/road map that ensures the conservation of the property on a sustainable basis
- Need for an effective implementation of the consolidated management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/documents/> and presents the following progress:

- The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) has ensured that annual work plans for each of the three cultural components of the property prioritize conservation:
 - Ur Archaeological City: The Department of Antiquities of SBAH performed conservation works, while the Italian and British archaeological missions intensified their activities, which included conservation components. Electricity poles and prefab buildings have been removed,
 - Tell Eridu Archaeological Site: The Italian archaeological mission collaborated with French archaeologists in surveying and preparing a Conservation Plan. The presence of guards and archaeological police ensures protection,

- Uruk Archaeological City: The German archaeological mission has resumed its activities, including excavations and conservation of newly excavated areas. Conservation work was also carried out on the ziggurat of Inanna. A survey of the entire site, beyond the city walls was completed. The consolidated map will be used for planning purposes and to prevent building and other development encroachment on the buffer zone;
- The average minimum water flow required for the property has been calculated as 5.8 billion cubic metres (BCM) and 3.7 BCM in dry years. In 2017 and 2018, conditions were dry and as a result of the decrease in water flow from upstream and climate change impacts, 3.15 BCM reached the marshlands in both years, following a number of measures by the State Party;
- The Strategy for Water and Land Resources in Iraq (SWLRI) is being updated to include social, economic and ecological values of the property, and to support meeting the minimum water flow;
- Dialogue between the Governments of Iraq and Turkey on water cooperation is ongoing. Additionally, through the 2014-2018 Collaborative Programme Euphrates and Tigris (CPET), riparian countries examined the management and restoration plan for the Iraqi marshlands with an emphasis on Huwaiza, Central and Hammar marshes;
- Legal protection of the natural components of the property is strengthened, noting that the World Heritage designation provides adequate legal protection, including against oil and gas concessions. Project proponents are required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for any activities proposed in the vicinity of the buffer zone of the property;
- The Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage Property (the 'Higher Committee') examined a plan for tourism activities and has issued instructions to ensure that tourism projects do not damage the property. It plans to develop and implement an overall tourism management plan for the property;
- Measures to address illegal bird hunting and overfishing are being implemented, which has led to a reduction in illegal activity levels during the last months of 2018;
- A joint Iraqi-Iranian survey of water birds in the Huwaiza marshes, and a biodiversity survey in the Central marshes were undertaken;
- Local communities, largely composed of the "Marsh Arabs" communities, are fully involved in decision-making within the framework of the Water Management Users Associations, and, several activities in support of maintaining traditional ecological knowledge and crafts have been undertaken.

In a letter to the World Heritage Centre dated 5 February 2019, the State Party of Turkey underlined the impact of climate change and other phenomena on the marshlands of Iraq, expressing the need for a comprehensive water management plan and the need for a strong water protection status. It also expressed its willingness to cooperate on water management projects.

The State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in April 2019, as requested by the Committee. However, due to logistical issues, the mission has been postponed until after the 43rd session.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The reinstatement of international archaeological missions in 2017 enables work on some of the most urgent conservation issues to be started. The extent of local engagement with their work is not described and it is unclear to what extent the objective of local capacity-building has been met. Although it appears to still be limited, the progress in conservation actions is welcome. The comprehensive survey undertaken at Tell Eridu is a crucial first step that can be used as a baseline from which conservation planning at this property can progress. Similar surveying should take place at the other cultural components of the property.

On the other hand, there is no structured overall conservation and management strategy for the whole property, and no progress reported on the development of site-specific conservation plans, as requested by the Committee and referenced as objectives in the Management Plans submitted in 2016. All three cultural components of the property face a range of significant ongoing threats related to their unstable condition, significant weathering, inappropriate previous interventions and the lack of continuous maintenance and conservation work.

The State Party's reported efforts to increase water flow to the property and the study to establish the minimum flow are appreciated, but it is deeply concerning that only 3.15 BCM reached the marshes in 2017 and 2018. There is an urgent need to ensure that minimum flow and adequate water quality are guaranteed to sustain biodiversity including in the dry years. In this context, the updating of SWLRI is positive, as is the ongoing dialogue with Turkey. It is recommended that the Committee strongly encourage all concerned States Parties to continue this dialogue to ensure the long-term protection of the property.

It is noted that the World Heritage designation provides legal protection, and that this will ensure that developments, such as oil and gas concessions beyond the buffer zone, will need to undergo EIAs. Nevertheless, as noted at the time of inscription, a requirement of the *World Heritage Convention* is for the property to be effectively protected under national legislative and management systems, and only one of the natural components was designated as a National Park. Noting that the Committee, in its Decisions **40 COM 8B.16** and **42 COM 7B.66**, requested the State Party to complete the designation of all of the natural components of the property as protected areas as a matter of utmost urgency, it is imperative that this be completed without delay. Noting previous significant concerns over the continued vulnerability of the property to oil and gas developments, and, recalling the Committee's established position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, confirmation is also needed on whether the existing legislation prohibits oil and gas concessions within the property and the buffer zone. Furthermore, when undertaking an EIA, it would be necessary to ensure compliance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

The activities undertaken to discourage illegal bird hunting and overfishing are appreciated. However, in the absence of data, it is not possible to ascertain the scale of these activities, and thereby conclude whether the current actions to address these threats are sufficient. It is recommended that the State Party provide the relevant data, and to further strengthen its legal protection, enforcement and management capacity to control these illegal activities.

The reported intention to develop an overall tourism plan for the property as requested by the Committee is noted. It is recommended that the State Party expedite this process in light of the increasing tourism interest in the property. The plan should cover both the cultural and natural components of the property, and its draft should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The involvement of local communities, including the "Marsh Arab" communities is noted. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure such continued meaningful engagement.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been finalized with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and will be presented for examination by the Committee at its 43rd session.

Regrettably, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not take place in April 2019, and will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the start of conservation work by international archaeological missions at the three cultural components of the property, Ur, Tell Eridu and Uruk, and, the comprehensive survey undertaken at Tell Eridu;*
4. *Regrets that no progress has been reported on the development of site-specific conservation plans for the three cultural components of the property, as requested by the Committee in response to the significant threats they face related to instability, significant weathering, inappropriate previous interventions, and the lack of continuous maintenance;*

5. *Urges the State Party to extend the comprehensive survey and mapping to all three cultural components of the property, as baseline data for future work, and to develop operational conservation plans for each as a matter of priority, and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Appreciates that a study to establish the minimum water flow needed for the natural components of the property has been undertaken, but notes with deep concern that this minimum flow has not been met in the past two years, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the natural components of the property with adequate water within its national capacity as a matter of utmost priority;*
7. *Strongly encourages again the States Parties of Iraq, Iran and Turkey to continue their efforts in cooperating towards long-term sustainable water management, so as to ensure the provision of adequate amounts of water for the natural components of the property to sustain their contribution to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
8. *While appreciating that the State Party considers that World Heritage designation provides adequate legal protection to the property, also reiterates its request to the State Party to complete the designation of all of the natural components of the property as protected areas in order to provide effective protection under national legislative and management systems, as required in the Operational Guidelines,*
9. *Reiterating its previous significant concern over the continued vulnerability of the natural components of the property to oil and gas developments, recalls the Committee's established position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and strongly urges again the State Party to make a permanent commitment to not explore or exploit oil and gas within the property, and to ensure that any such activities outside the property do not cause a negative impact on its OUV;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre data concerning illegal bird hunting, overfishing, including the number of prosecutions and convictions from these illegal activities, and to further strengthen its legal protection, enforcement and management capacity to control these activities;*
11. *Also urges the State Party to prepare an updated Integrated Management Plan for the entire property, and to promote the development of updated Management Plans for each of the components of the property;*
12. *Also welcomes the measures taken to ensure tourism activities do not damage the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement an overall tourism plan for the whole property, to regulate visitation, and to ensure visitor safety, and sustainable and adequate tourism practices, infrastructure and facilities;*
13. *Also requests the State Party to continue to meaningfully engage with the local communities on matters concerning water usage, rights-based approaches to management and for the application of traditional ecological knowledge to any planned new constructions;*
14. *Also regrets that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not be undertaken yet, and reiterates furthermore its request that the mission takes place as soon as possible;*
15. *Reminds the State Party about the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, information on any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in line with*

Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

16. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020.*

AFRICA

39. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979, extension in 2010

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1989

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1979-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 300,099

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 50,000 from Switzerland, USD 35,000 from the Netherlands, USD 20,000 from the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) and USD 8,000 self-benefitting funds from the United Republic of Tanzania in 2013-2014; USD 50,000 from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust in 2014-2015

Previous monitoring missions

April 1986: IUCN mission; April-May 2007 and December 2008: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2017: ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission; March 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Increased human population
- Poaching
- Spread of invasive species
- Tourism pressure
- Grazing pressure
- Governance of the property and community involvement
- Challenging situation of community livelihoods
- Potential impact of lodge development project on the crater rim
- Impact of project for upgrading Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road and access road to Olduvai museum
- Proposed museum building at Laetoli
- Condition and conservation of the Laetoli hominid footprints
- Geothermal energy development project (issue resolved)
- Management System/Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, followed by an updated submission on 2 February 2019. A joint ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission visited the property in August 2017, followed by a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in March 2019. All these reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/documents/>.

The State Party reports the following:

- No elephant poaching was reported in the property during 2017-2018. Monitoring and patrolling efforts have been further strengthened, including employing more rangers, establishing additional ranger posts in vulnerable areas and collaring of five elephants. Two more ranger posts are planned;
- The Invasive Alien Plants Strategic Management Plan has been updated and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The draft General Management Plan (GMP) has been shared with various stakeholders, and was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2019 for review;
- By government notice issued in June 2018, all roads in the property are now managed by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), bringing the heavy traffic along the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road under control;
- An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road was undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- A feasibility study for the southern Serengeti-Ngorongoro bypass road evaluated two route options, and concluded the Maswa–Lalago–Mbulu–Karatu (Mbulu Route) as the preferred choice from the environmental, social, economic and technical perspectives and as most effective in reducing through-traffic traversing the property;
- The development of the Laetoli Museum was halted until a Reactive Monitoring mission could visit the property.

The World Heritage Centre hosted a two-day expert meeting on the conservation of the Laetoli footprints and the museum project in March 2019, attended by the State Party, ICOMOS and ICCROM.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The continued reporting of no elephant poaching and the State Party's dedication to combat both poaching and invasive plant species in the property is welcome. The submission of the draft General Management Plan (GMP) for the property after a stakeholder participation process, and with commitments from both stakeholders and administration to jointly take responsibility for its implementation, is equally welcomed.

However, the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that further action is required to combat poaching and control invasive alien plant species.

Tourism development also remains a threat. The mission was unable to access information on current and future tourism facility development, but reported a concerning increased visual impact on the property from tourism-related developments. The mission concluded that whilst the draft GMP has objectives to stimulate further tourism development to the property, it lacks integrated guidelines and policies on tourism capacity. The threat posed by increased visitor numbers is compounded by the continued lack of an adequate tourism strategy for the property. The GMP also lacks an integrated framework for crosscutting stakeholder engagement on issues of mutual interest.

The mission concluded that a mechanism to monitor and enforce the implementation of the conclusions of studies assessing new tourism infrastructure is urgently required.

Cultural heritage is not yet receiving the levels of resources required for its conservation and the 2019 mission recommended that a conservation strategy, including a database of archaeological and cultural sites urgently be developed and implemented, augmented by additional resources. The mission recommended that:

- Ethnographical studies of the changing cultural practices and belief system of the inhabitants of the property be undertaken to inform future conservation policies;
- The Multiple Land Use Model review be completed as an important tool to sustain the livelihoods of the traditional pastoral residents in the property;
- Alternative approaches to the current voluntary inhabitant resettlement to outside the property be explored by the State Party, together with local communities and other stakeholders.

The March 2019 expert meeting concluded that the old and newly discovered Laetoli footprints require additional research and information to assess their stability, and prior to making any decision on future conservation measures. The meeting adopted a way forward proposed by the Advisory Bodies, including

assessing and learning from other similar cases, development of case-scenarios for conservation and interpretation options and their feasibility, peer review, and a concluding meeting to be held in Tanzania in the latter half of 2019.

The 2017 Advisory mission had recommended that the road upgrade project be adjusted to avoid potential impacts on the natural and cultural heritage values of the property. The 2019 mission recommended that the road upgrade be halted until the 2017 Advisory mission recommendations had been addressed and the feasibility study for the southern bypass road submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies. Traffic monitoring and speed calming measures are urgently required.

The 2019 mission expressed its concern that many of the previous Committee Decisions are not being implemented, leading to a gradual and cumulative increase of threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which includes a Heritage Impact Assessment and addresses all current and planned projects in the property and assesses their individual and cumulative impact on the OUV, for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the submission of the draft General Management Plan (GMP) for the property, the completion of the feasibility study for the southern bypass road, as well as the State Party's temporary halting of the Laetoli museum project and its subsequent positive engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies towards developing appropriate conservation perspectives for the Laetoli footprints, including a methodology proposed for the way forward on the project;*
4. *Acknowledges the State Party's continuing commitment to combatting animal poaching and control of invasive alien plant species, but notes the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission findings that general poaching and the spread of invasive alien plant species persist, and urges the State Party to further enhance its efforts to combat these threats to the property, including through stakeholder awareness-raising;*
5. *Also notes the recommendations of both the 2017 Advisory mission and 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to implement all their recommendations;*
6. *Notes with concern the reported continuing work on the surfacing of roads in the property before the recommendations of the 2017 Advisory mission have been fully addressed, including the submission of the feasibility study for the southern bypass road, and also requests the State Party to urgently submit to the World Heritage for review by the Advisory Bodies, the details of the surveys and studies that were recommended by the 2017 mission before construction of the road upgrade project could commence;*
7. *Further notes that the management system requires further augmentation to efficiently balance the conservation of the OUV of the property with other activities such as tourism, and further requests the State Party to develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre, the following to complement the draft GMP:*
 - a) *An action plan and timeline for implementation of past Committee Decisions,*

- b) *A framework for stakeholder engagement that enables cross-cutting engagement on matters of mutual interest,*
 - c) *Integrated policies and guidelines on tourism carrying capacity,*
 - d) *Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms which ensure compliance with the conclusions and mitigation measures of validated impact assessment studies,*
 - e) *Mechanisms for traffic monitoring, including regulation of speed and driving behaviour;*
8. *Encourages the State Party to augment the resources currently dedicated to cultural heritage preservation in the property, and to develop and maintain a database of archaeological attributes and other cultural sites in the property;*
 9. *Also encourages the State Party to engage local communities and other stakeholders in exploring alternative livelihood solutions to its current voluntary resettlement scheme consistent with the policies of the Convention and relevant international norms;*
 10. *Also notes with concern that the 2019 mission concluded that:*
 - a) *There is a gradual and cumulative increase in threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property due to previous Committee Decisions not being implemented,*
 - b) *There is a need for a mechanism to monitor and enforce compliance with the conclusions of impact assessment studies in the implementation of projects;*
 11. *Requests moreover the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of current and planned projects in the property, including a Heritage Impact Assessment, that assesses their individual and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
 12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, 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 45th session in 2021.*

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

67. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan) (C 1103)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 (2000)

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

2018: USD 47,111 UNESCO Netherlands Funds-In-Trust, Technical support to the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in Turkestan, Kazakhstan, by introducing Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in Central Asia

Previous monitoring missions

May 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management System/Management Plan (Newly developed Master Plan; Conservation and Management Plan)
- Buildings and Development (Urban high rise/changes to skyline; Construction of a new mosque)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Interpretative and visitation facilities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/>

Current conservation issues

An ICOMOS Advisory mission visited the property in May 2018. The mission report is available online at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>.

In November 2018, the World Heritage Centre received information concerning an architectural competition announced in Turkestan, which may have impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and requested the State Party to provide detailed information and clarification.

On 15 February 2019, following a meeting between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre concerning the Master Plan and major development projects at the property, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to submit complete documentation on the projects, possible Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and a state of conservation report for review at the present session.

On 29 April 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, together with HIAs on the planned conservation and restoration works of the historic structures located within the buffer zones and other development initiatives outside the buffer zones. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>. The State Party's report provides the following information:

Condition of the Mausoleum

- An expert team assessment found the Mausoleum in good condition. Differential structural settlement is under control and continuously monitored;
- Ground- and rainwater penetration remains problematic, and the dome tiling, installed in the 1990s, is failing. A replacement proposal utilising traditional, locally manufactured tiles is being technically refined prior to implementation;
- Completed conservation activities included improvements to the electrical reticulation and new fire-fighting equipment;
- The Mausoleum is continually monitored, and a photogrammetry survey has been concluded.

Proposed development in the buffer zone and wider setting:

- Turkestan was designated capital of Turkestan Province in 2018 and became a Special Economic Zone defined to stimulate growth. A new Master Plan for the city has been approved and includes a new Visual Access Protection Zone with a building height limitation of 7 metres;
- A detailed urban planning project (PDP) has been designed for the area immediately around the property;
- The State Party submission includes HIAs for:
 - The conservation of Historic Structures within the buffer zone,
 - The Eski Turkestan Archaeological Park in the buffer zone with walkways, presented excavations, visitor facilities and an open-air museum,
 - The Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre, which is directly adjacent to the buffer zone and comprises ten components including the Khodja Ahmed Yasawi Museum (27.5 m height, foundations already laid); a library (15.5 m height); bathhouse (13 m height) and wedding palace (12 m height). Construction of an Interpretation Centre (no height indicated) has also commenced;
- The HIAs conclude that the developments will not impact negatively on the property, but will benefit local people and visitors.

A September 2017 ICOMOS technical review addressed the potential impact of precursors to these projects, as did the 2018 Advisory mission.

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

The State Party's report provides a detailed analysis of the state of conservation of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. The replacement of dome tiling and flat roof waterproofing is urgently required, and the sourcing of traditional, locally manufactured tiles is to be supported. Technical details of the proposed new tiling system and waterproofing of roofs should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, along with detailed progress reports and a final post-implementation report. The proposed conservation work to historic structures in the buffer zone of the property (the Reserve-Museum 'Azret Sultan') is also supported, provided that it is undertaken under expert guidance and that its implementation is monitored and documented. A revised Visual Access Protection Zone, based on 12 view axes, greatly reduces the area of height limitation for the property's setting as defined at the time of inscription.

The 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission considered such a reduction and concluded that it could potentially lead to negative impacts on the OUV of the property and recommended that it be withdrawn until revisions have been made to the Master Plan to allow for a Visual Access Protection Zone that is evidence-based, resonant with heritage values and has been submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The 10 projects of the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project, in an area adjacent to the buffer zone, lie within the Zone of Planning Control as delineated in the Nomination file, but outside the new Zone of Planning Control. Heights provided for the component sites greatly exceed the original height limitations of 7 m. The HIA submitted does not set out sufficient details of the overall project, nor does it assess adequately the impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) of the proposed development on the attributes of OUV, it is nevertheless clear that, with a height between 12 m and 27.5 m high, the new

constructions would dramatically alter the setting of the property and may have a strong adverse impact on the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to halt the construction of the entire Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project and to ensure that no demolitions take place until full details have been provided. In this context, the previous recommendations presented by the Round Table concerning the establishment of an Advisory Group for monitoring and coordination of all projects and elaborating a development strategy for the City of Turkestan are valuable steps towards ensuring the adequate preservation of the setting of the Mausoleum and the City of Turkestan. The State Party should also carry out a full assessment of the potential impact of the project on the property and its OUV, and to identify whether and how mitigation measures might be implemented. The new Turkestan Master Plan and the PDP will also need to be revised accordingly.

The Committee may also express concern that governance arrangements for the property are not allowing the timely submission of information for major development initiatives, such as those proposed in the buffer zone and wider setting, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before decisions are taken that would be difficult to reverse, as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It should be noted that the September 2017 ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2018 mission both made clear recommendations that such reviews are needed before the projects commence.

It is suggested that the Management Plan for the property needs to be amended to include policies for the proper processing of development proposals, following the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*. Opportunities also need to be taken to strengthen understanding of the due processes, particularly in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), and of the inter-linkages between the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting in relation to development projects.

In view of the potential negative impacts of the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project, the Committee may wish to request the State Party to invite, as a matter of urgency, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake an assessment of all the proposed projects, the new Master Plan and the revised Zone of Planning Control, and to make recommendations on how development projects might support rather than endanger the property and its OUV. This mission should also assess whether the property faces any potential or ascertained danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes the detailed analysis and monitoring of the technical condition of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and the planned project for retiling the domes and the waterproofing the roofs, acknowledges the conservation work planned for historical structures in the buffer zone and the related Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and requests that the State Party ensure expert guidance and oversight for these projects and that full technical details, progress and monitoring reports and a final post-execution project report for these interventions be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Also notes the proposal and associated HIA for the Eski Turkestan Archaeological Park, located in the buffer zone of the property and set to include walkways, presented excavations, visitor facilities and an open-air museum, and also requests that details of this project be submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, for review by*

the Advisory Bodies, in order to allow a full understanding of the scope of the project and of the archaeological evidence supporting the project design;

5. *Expresses great concern that, as a result of the declaration of Turkestan as capital of the Turkestan Oblast (province) and a Special Economic Zone, a new Master Plan for the city has been prepared, but not submitted to the World Heritage Centre, although it includes a revised Visual Access Protection Zone based on 12 view axes that greatly reduces the area where height limitation apply within the setting of the property as defined at the time of inscription, and considers this reduction to be highly detrimental to the protection of the immediate and wider setting of the property;*
6. *Also expresses great concern regarding the proposed Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project, located immediately outside the buffer zone, which includes ten components, many of which exceed the height restrictions in place at the time of inscription and would alter the historic setting of the property, and therefore potentially negatively impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); further notes that, although an HIA has been submitted, the information provided does not allow for a full understanding of the scope or impact of these projects; and notes with concern that some work has already commenced;*
7. *Also considers that governance arrangements for the property do not allow the timely submission of information for major developments, such as those proposed in the buffer zone and wider setting, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before decisions are taken that would be difficult to reverse, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and despite the recommendations of the September 2017 ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission regarding the need for such reviews before the projects commenced, and strongly encourages the State Party to arrange a capacity-building workshop in order to address this issue;*
8. *Further considers that the Management Plan for the property needs to be amended accordingly and include measures that encompass the historic urban environment, and that the amended Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Urges the State Party to halt further work on the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project and on any preliminary demolitions until essential documentation has been provided to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and positive feedback has been obtained;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake an urgent assessment of all the proposed projects, the new Master Plan and the revised Zone of Planning Control, to make recommendations on how development projects might support rather than endanger the property and its OUV, and to assess whether the property faces any ascertained or potential danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;*
11. *Considers furthermore that the State Party should withdraw the new Visual Access Protection Zone, which is integrated into the Master Plan for the City of Turkestan, and revise the Master Plan to include a Visual Access Protection Zone that is evidence-based, reflect the property's heritage values, and positively reviewed by the Advisory Bodies following the submission of the revised Master Plan;*

12. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

77. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1999 to 2018)

Total amount approved: USD 44,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO/Spain Funds-in-Trust; 2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties of the Historic Centre of Bukhara and Samarkand

Previous monitoring missions

April 2005: UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS expert mission; March 2006: UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; December 2007: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan (Lack of strategic approach to urban conservation; Lack of implementation of the management plan)
- Management activities (Impact of urban landscaping programme on the authenticity and integrity of the property)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Large-scale development projects such as road building)
- Others (Conservation of urban fabric)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party, at a meeting with the World Heritage Centre in Paris, as well as with the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS High-Level mission to Uzbekistan (during the Reactive Monitoring mission to Shakhrisaybz, Uzbekistan, in January 2019), stated its intention to carry out several major projects in the city, a number of which were in the World Heritage property and buffer zone. The World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to submit full detailed plans and drawings for each of the projects along with Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) following the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties. Furthermore, in recent years, in particular since June 2018, the World Heritage Centre has received several third party information raising concerns about some development projects which take place in the vicinity and /or part of the property and their potential threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly the massive destruction of the traditional houses to make way for private sector housing developments and some projects for the development of individual sections of Samarkand. In view of the situation, on 15 January 2019, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation of the

property. These conservation issues had previously been discussed with the State Party at a meeting in Paris, on 14 December 2018. They were discussed further during the 2019 High-Level mission.

On 18 March 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/document> and provides information relating to the following:

- A new Master Plan is being prepared as a priority, along with the project of Detailed Planning for Historic Centre and Buffer Zone, including a new traffic scheme; Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) are required for any projects potentially impacting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which is supported by the 'Development Control of the Historic Centre of Samarkand and its Buffer Zones';
- The Management Plan is being revised, with support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-In-Trust, to include the adoption of the approach following the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), including participatory processes and planning for the regeneration of *mahalla*, as well as its integration with the city's Master Plan;
- Five new legal tools concerning heritage have been adopted in 2018 and 2019;
- A comprehensive survey and mapping of the property, buffer zones and their setting is ongoing and aims to update information on heritage attributes;
- The actual boundaries of the property and buffer zones are being reconsidered to provide an enhanced protection for the OUV;
- 16 hotels are being developed to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization International Summit in 2022 (exact locations are not identified);
- An overall development initiative, launched in conjunction with the above-mentioned summit, includes the following:

Within the property:

- Alongside a main city street, houses will be rebuilt, the canal improved and views of the Namozgoh Mosque opened up;
- An unused building will be repaired and adapted as a 'social services building' ;
- Hotel "Registan Plaza" will be improved and upgraded, with the facade retained;
- Hotel "Afrosiab" will be repaired, re-faced and upgraded;
- On an undeveloped site, a three-storey structure will be built to harmonise with existing Temurid and European style buildings,

Within the Buffer Zones of the property:

- Two large industrial areas will be landscaped;
- An area currently used as a stadium with residential and administrative buildings will be re-developed, possibly as a hotel, to enhance views of a nearby mosque;
- On a site adjacent to the city walls with residential buildings, landscaping is proposed to provide views of the walls;
- Along the road from the airport, residential buildings will be demolished and replaced by 'service constructions';

Immediately outside the Buffer Zones:

- On a site visible from Afrosiyab, illegal buildings will be demolished and rebuilt in Temurid style;
- The site of a non-operating plant will be reorganised for 'city needs';
- The report also includes details on the development of a new Master Plan, which will include a new traffic scheme;
- The State Party submitted the document entitled 'Urban Design Guidelines for Priority Projects in Samarkand' to the World Heritage Centre on 6 June 2019.

- A preliminary study and mapping of the six sites are said to be under preparation. A design proposal with HIAs will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party also highlighted the continued need for capacity building to enhance national expertise in order to cope with the complex and multidisciplinary issues arising as part of the preservation and management of the historic centre of Samarkand. The 2019 High-Level mission to Shakhrysbaz, Uzbekistan, also conducted a training workshop in Samarkand.

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

The measures taken over the past two years to enhance legal, human and financial resources for the preservation and management of the property are to be welcomed, as are the start of an inventory for the city and the initiation of a process to develop a new Master Plan and update the existing Management Plan with supporting guidelines such as the 'Detailed Planning' and the 'Development Control' documents that could provide a much needed framework for the projects proposed.

The above-mentioned tools should be designed by adopting multidisciplinary and participatory approaches to meet the complex requirements of the management and preservation of a living city, following the HUL approach, taking into consideration the evolving needs of its inhabitants and the safeguarding of its heritage values.

In addition to the information provided by the State Party in its report, during the High-Level mission, the State Party indicated that two industrial sites had been cleared in the buffer zone to allow a Convention facility to be constructed on the site for the Shanghai Cooperation Summit, and made reference to the demolition of two other buildings within the property intended for new constructions. These sites were indicated on the map of Samarkand showing the new constructions, which was shared with the World Heritage Centre during the meeting with the State Party in December 2018. However, no details on the demolitions have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre so far, nor documentation of the structures demolished or of sites cleared, nor plans and drawings of the new constructions, nor the HIA for the numerous interventions completed, ongoing, or planned.

The number and variety of major construction projects ongoing and proposed in the city are significant, many moving with speed to meet the deadline of the 2022 event. The plan to construct a variety of infrastructures and tourism facilities are a source of concern, including those required to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization International Summit in 2022 (the locations of which are not yet identified), and the multi-functional project 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone', which involves the demolition and re-development of a number of areas within the property, its the buffer zones and beyond.

It appears that the 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone' project is largely stimulated by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization International Summit, and the two together may have led to the development of the Master Plan. Therefore, despite the positive move to develop guidelines, a Master Plan, an updated Management Plan and other tools, there is nevertheless concern that, before these tools are completed, major projects will have been implemented and irreversible changes will have occurred within the property and buffer zone that could potentially have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property. Furthermore, the projects in some of these areas involve the re-location of communities on the basis that housing is sub-standard, but no precise details have been provided on the areas nor on social consequences. This fact possibly points out that the constant inspection or established control over housing construction and refurbishment has not been adequately carried out and that systematic processes need to be put in place.

Within the framework of the Master Plan, it is reported that a new draft Traffic Scheme is being developed, favouring new roads outside the historic centre and the further pedestrianization of the centre. This is to be welcomed, as it will replace the 2004 plan that led to a new road being driven through the historic centre and prevent the implementation of further new roads in the property envisaged in the 2004 plan.

It should be noted with regret that, despite the Committee's requests (Decision **39 COM 7B.73**), due process has not been followed in notifying the Committee and the World Heritage Centre prior to any decision being made that would be difficult to reverse regarding a major restoration or new construction which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is important to recall that the property needs multi-disciplinary planning tools that recognise the need to conserve the OUV, upon which development and tourism planning should be based including the well-being of the local communities, in line with the HUL approach.

As such, the speed and number of the projects proposed and ongoing, the pressure for completion by the deadline of the 2022 Summit, together with the absence of adequate guidelines, regulations, and tools, cumulatively pose a threat to the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide an in-depth study of the issues listed above as a matter of urgency, given the tight timescale before the Summit, and prior to issuing construction permits. Modifications may need to be considered for those contracts or permits that may be already in place. It is essential that full details of the technical documents and planning tools be thoroughly reviewed and mitigation measures considered for the projects that are ongoing or implemented. The Master Plan needs to be approved before detailed plans are envisaged for specific areas.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission at the earliest opportunity, with a view to considering:

- a) The full scope of the development projects, both planned and underway, including hotel development and restoration projects and the 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone' project, and with a view to determining whether any threat to the property constitutes an ascertained or potential danger to its OUV and would warrant its potential inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- b) Possible mitigation measures that may be necessary for projects that may have been already undertaken prior to their review by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre;
- c) Proposed guidelines and other tools and legal instruments for the new development, with a view to protecting the OUV of the property;
- d) The proposals for the development of the Master Plan and the updates to the management plan in following the HUL approach.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.73, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the measures taken over the past two years to enhance the legal framework for the protection of all World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, the human and financial resources for the management of the property, the start of an inventory for the city of Samarkand, and the initiation of a process to develop a new Master Plan and update of the Management Plan;*
4. *Also welcomes the development of a new draft Traffic Scheme within the framework of the proposed Master Plan, which will focus on new roads outside the historic centre and encourage the further pedestrianization of the centre, and notes with satisfaction that it would replace the 2004 traffic plan, which led to a new road being approved to pass through the historic centre, and would prevent the implementation of further new roads in the property;*
5. *Notes that the new Master Plan being developed by the City authorities, working with Tashkent Research and Design Institute for Urban Planning, other experts and local communities, is seen as a turning point for the city and recommends that the Master Plan and the Management Plan be integrated following the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL);*

6. *Nevertheless expresses its concern that, before these planning tools are completed and adopted, major development projects that could potentially have an adverse impact on the property's historic urban landscape are being planned or implemented;*
7. *Regrets that despite its earlier requests and the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party did not submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the detailed project proposals including plans and drawings and infrastructure development that are to be completed ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation International Summit in 2022, along with the multi-functional project 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone', which may involve the demolition and re-development of a number of areas within the property, its buffer zones setting, including the demolition of residential areas and relocation of local communities;*
8. *Also regrets that development projects appear to have started within the property and the buffer zone, and immediately beyond the buffer zone, that could potentially have an adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; and urges the State Party to immediately halt these projects until the potential impacts are fully assessed and suitable measures to safeguard the OUV of the property are in place;*
9. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest:*
 - a) *Details of the proposed development projects mentioned in the state of conservation report or otherwise planned in the next three years , including their precise location, along with details concerning the multi-functional project 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone', any necessary Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) following ICOMOS Guidelines,*
 - b) *Reports on the social and other measures taken relating to demolition of houses and residential areas,*
 - c) *The Master Plan and updated Management Plan that are integrated following the HUL approach,*
 - d) *Regulations and guidelines for the development, restoration, and adaptive reuse of the historic centre and its buffer zones,*
 - e) *Request for minor boundary modification of the buffer zones, as suggested in the state of conservation report, to enhance the protection of the heritage values,*
 - f) *Clarifications regarding the links between the Master Plan for the city and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation International Summit;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission at the earliest opportunity, with a view to considering:*
 - a) *The full scope of the development projects, both planned and underway, including hotel development and restoration projects and the 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone' project, with a view to determining whether any threat to the property constitutes an ascertained or potential danger to its OUV and would warrant its potential inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - b) *Proposed guidelines and other tools and legal instruments for the new development, with a view to protect the OUV of the property,*
 - c) *Proposals for the development of the Master Plan and the updates to the management plan in following the HUL approach;*

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

82. Paris, Bank of the Seine (France) (C 600)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.3

84. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.3