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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Forty-sixth session
New Delhi, India
21 – 31 July 2024**

**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/46COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports will also be 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 may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

Note: For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties.

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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

2. Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) (C 1552rev)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

3. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

4. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527ter)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

5. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

6. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) (C 1703)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

7. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 420)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014-present

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

- Instability and imminent risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico's summit
- Lack of conservation policy of integral character which considers all the components of the property
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage
- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation
- Threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6969>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6969>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6969>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1988-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 83,777

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10,000 for a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission in 2005 financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage

Previous monitoring missions

May 1995 and November 2009: World Heritage Centre technical missions; November 2005 and February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical missions; December 2013 and January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May 2017: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission; October 2017 and May 2018: Technical missions facilitated by the World Heritage Centre

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (inefficient enforcement of protective legislation)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Mining (potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain)
- Surface water pollution
- Instability and risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage

- Environmental impacts on the hydraulic complex which in turn affects historic fabric and local population

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>, providing the following information:

- In June 2023, the Ministry of Cultures presented to the General Directorate of Legal Affairs a “*Critical Route to remove Potosí from the World Heritage List in Danger and the preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí*”, which declares the Cerro Rico de Potosí in emergency status and focuses on implementing the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP).
- A Management Committee was formally established in July 2023 to implement the IPMP. Technical meetings in June, July and December 2023 also advanced specific conservation issues and the buffer zone, and there is regular follow up by the Ministry of Cultures;
- The Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) proposal for the establishment of the property’s buffer zone is currently undergoing the process of legalization according to specific regulations for the buffer zone;
- The monitoring of the Kari Kari water system’s lagoons concluded that they are preserved and free from environmental contamination. This is attributed to the management of water resources carried out by the Autonomous Administration for Potosi Sanitary Works (AAPOS) to provide potable water to the population of Potosí. Additionally, COMIBOL’s 2022 closures of illegal mines in the Kari Kari water system’s lagoons contribute to this preservation effort;
- In November 2023, an agreement was signed between the Autonomous Municipal Government of Potosí (GAMP) and the Tomás Frías Autonomous University to contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the historic areas of the City of Potosí. This agreement aims to protect cultural heritage as an element that fosters local development. Additionally, it seeks to create training programs for future professionals, further catalogue cultural properties, update legislation, and establish a digital system and database;
- Concerning efforts to stabilize the slopes of Cerro Rico at risk of collapse due to intense mining, monthly monitoring to determine the degradation of the rock massif in the cusp section of Cerro Rico takes place as well as dry filling in 32 out of 140 sinkholes;
- There are some difficulties in the definitive closure of manholes due to lack of coordination, economic reasons, and requests for extension of dates. For the 40 mining sections above an elevation of 4,400 meters, 19 are closed and 21 are closing. The minors are being relocated to other areas;
- A technical review conducted by the GAMP assessed the safeguarding of reservoirs and mining facilities from the 16th-century mining industry. The report included an inventory of 55 mining mills. The Historical Heritage Directorate of the GAMP has proposed a three-month schedule of inspection visits, starting in February 2024;
- The timeframe to ensure completion of all corrective measures in the IPMP needs to be extended to January 2026.

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

The technical advances made to meet the corrective measures for achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) should be noted. The information provided by the State Party on the “*Critical Route*” to remove Potosí from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to declare Cerro Rico to have emergency status should also be noted. The establishment of the Management Committee that focuses on the implementation of the IPMP with participation of various stakeholders, including civil society, should be welcomed. However, there is no information on financial resources for implementing the IPMP. It remains of serious concern that the implementation rate of the IPMP is insufficient.

The process underway for the legalization of the MBM proposal for the establishment of the property's buffer zone should also be noted. It is recommended that the Committee urge again the State Party to finalize the proposal in accordance with recommendations provided by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 8B.66** and to submit the proposal to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, in conformity with paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible.

It is noted that following the preservation efforts of the Kari Kari water system's lagoons, they are reported to be free from environmental contamination, which should be noted with satisfaction; however, the State Party should be encouraged to ensure continuous rigorous monitoring of the Kari Kari lagoons.

Note should also be taken of the agreement between the GAMP and the Tomás Frías Autonomous University for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the historic area of the City of Potosí, and its aims to support the creation of training programs for future professionals, updating legislation, and establishing a digital database. The State Party should be encouraged to provide further information on concrete initiatives taken as a result of the agreement. However, the lack of significant concrete actions undertaken to ensure the consolidation and enforcement of the legal framework and regulations related to the entire property should be a matter of concern for the Committee.

The progress achieved regarding stabilization of the slopes of Cerro Rico at risk of collapse due to intense mining, the relocation of minors, monthly monitoring of the degradation of the rock massif and the work on the dry fills should be welcomed. The State Party should be urged to prioritize the definitive closure of mining sections 4,400 meters above sea level.

It should be noted that technical reviews have been conducted by the GAMP to assess the safeguarding of reservoirs and mining facilities, and that 55 mining mills were inventoried and will be regularly inspected.

Finally, regret should be expressed regarding the proposed revision to the timeframe outlined for the completion of all corrective measures within the IPMP to January 2026, in light of prolonged inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.66** and **45 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party to implement the previous Committee decisions and the technical advances made to meet the corrective measures for achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
4. *Also takes note of the "Critical Route to remove Potosí from the World Heritage List in Danger and the preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí," which declares the Cerro Rico in emergency status, as well as the establishment of the Management Committee focusing on the implementation of the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) with the participation of various stakeholders, including civil society;*
5. *Expresses its concern over the insufficient implementation rate of the IPMP and requests again the State Party to ensure its full implementation with adequate resources in place;*
6. *Notes the process for the legalization of the Minor Boundary Modification proposal for the establishment of the property's buffer zone, and urges again the State Party to finalize the proposal in accordance with recommendations provided by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 8B.66**, and to submit the proposal to the World Heritage Centre for*

review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, in conformity with paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible;

7. *Notes with satisfaction the preservation efforts of the Kari Kari water system's lagoons and encourages the State Party to ensure continuous rigorous monitoring of the lagoons;*
8. *Further notes the agreement between the Autonomous Municipal Government of Potosí (GAMP) and the Tomás Frías Autonomous University for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the historical areas of the City of Potosí, training programs for future professionals, updating legislation, and establishing a digital database and requests the State Party to provide further information on the initiatives implemented;*
9. *Also expresses its concern for the lack of significant actions to ensure the consolidation and enforcement of the legal framework and regulations related to the entire property;*
10. *Welcomes the progress achieved regarding the stabilization and monitoring of the slopes of Cerro Rico, the dry filling of sink holes, and the relocation of minors, and urges again the State Party to prioritize the definitive closure of mining sections above 4,400 meters above sea level;*
11. *Notes with satisfaction the technical reviews conducted by the GAMP for safeguarding reservoirs and mining facilities, and that 55 mining mills were inventoried and will be regularly inspected;*
12. *Expresses utmost concern in view of the prolonged inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the proposed extension of the timeframe outlined for the completion of all corrective measures within the IPMP to January 2026;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
14. ***Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Revised in 2019, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7558>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-1993)

Total amount approved: USD 76,800

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993: technical mission; November 2001, March 2009, March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Housing (encroachments and urban pressure)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (tourism pressure -particularly at Portobelo)
- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan (absence of a conservation and management plan)
- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Legal framework
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zones

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

The loan of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for the management and conservation of the property has been extended until December 2025. A revised workplan has been established that includes the following activities:

- The preparation of the Management Plan for the serial property will be contracted and completed in 2024. The terms of reference have been drawn up and will include a Tourism Promotion Plan, Economic Sustainability Plan, Public Use Plan, carrying capacity studies of Portobelo and San Lorenzo, and an Interpretation Plan of the fortresses of Portobelo;
- The Committee referred back the proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification submitted by the State Party. The State Party will consider the Committee's recommendations to this effect;

- A Land Management Plan for Portobelo was prepared and has been submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies. The plan includes new urban regulations and greater protection of monuments and the buffer zone;
- The Patronato of Portobelo and San Lorenzo completed the first phase of the restoration of the San Lorenzo Castle and its Upper Battery in March 2023. The stabilization of the slopes of Portobelo will continue throughout 2024-2025. The projects for the San Jeronimo, San Fernando and Santiago Fortifications will start in 2024 and should be concluded by the end of 2026;
- The Inter-Institutional Commission of Portobelo and San Lorenzo brings all relevant institutions together to promote coordination and cooperation;
- The Inter-Agency Committee for the Territorial and Urban Development Plan of Portobelo coordinates the actions foreseen in the IADB-loan and the Portobelo Community Development Plan;
- The construction of the San Lorenzo Visitor Centre, located 8 kilometers from the Castle commenced in 2021 and will be completed in August 2024;
- An updated timeframe and workplan for achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), from 2024-2026, are presented.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the corrective measures and in light of the extension of the IADB-loan, the timeframe has been extended to 2026.

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

The extension of the loan of the IADB until December 2025 is appreciated. The corresponding revised work plan for the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the DSOCR is noted. Since its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2012, significant delays have occurred, and the State Party should be urged to respect the new work plan for completion in 2026.

It is welcomed that conservation and restoration works at San Lorenzo were concluded and that the works at the Fortifications of San Jeronimo, San Fernando and Santiago will commence in 2024. ICOMOS reviewed earlier documentation on the conservation approach and considered that the works seemed to be carried out with high standards and in compliance with appropriate criteria so as not to pose an adverse impact on the authenticity and integrity of the property.

As to the planning mechanisms, it is noted that the Portobelo Community Development Plan is being implemented and that the Land Management Plan was completed. The State Party should be recommended to consider the eventual advice of the Advisory Bodies on the Land Management Plan. The integrated Management Plan that is scheduled for completion in 2024 is a key component of the corrective measures and the State Party should be requested to submit this plan as soon as it becomes available for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that the construction of the Visitor Centre at San Lorenzo with a viewing tower, facilities for visitor assistance, cafeteria, exhibition room, audiovisual room, craft shop and other services started in 2021 without an assessment of its potential impact on the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. It is recalled that a Heritage Impact Assessment was required as per Decisions **44COM 7A.36** and **45COM 7A.19**, to fully assess the project's potential impact and to apply corrective and/or compensatory measures if necessary. As indicated in Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A, ICOMOS undertook a preliminary review of the project in early 2023 and observed that *"(...) the overall design and height [of the visitor centre] are rather discordant and disproportionate in relation to its wider setting and surrounding natural landscape. Therefore, it is very likely to pose a significant and permanent adverse impact on its buffer zone and wider setting. In Panama, there are examples of 'watch tower like' visitor's centers which have been designed to blend in with their natural surroundings. Perhaps, several other design options could have been considered prior to commencing the actual construction works. Even though its construction has already started, it would be advisable that the State Party carry out an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as soon as possible, in order to fully assess the project's overall impacts and to apply any corrective and/or compensate measures necessary accordingly."* It is noted with regret that no such assessment was provided by the State Party and that the visitor centre will be completed in 2024.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Appreciates that the loan of the Inter-American Development Bank has been extended until December 2025;
4. Regrets that the revised timeframe 2019-2023 that was proposed by the State Party for the full implementation of the programme of corrective measures was not implemented, adopts the revised timeframe for implementation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) for the period of 2024-2026, and urges the State Party to implement the revised workplan that has been established and corrective measures accordingly in order to achieve the DSOCR by the end of 2026;
5. Welcomes the completion of the Land Management Plan of Portobelo and recommends the State Party to consider the eventual recommendations of a technical review of the plan by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes that the integrated Management Plan will be prepared in 2024 and requests the State Party to submit the Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
7. Also welcomes the completion of the conservation works at the San Lorenzo Castle and its Upper Battery, also notes that a great volume of works is still to be executed at the Fortifications of San Jeronimo, San Fernando and Santiago and further welcomes that a special training programme of workers is foreseen;
8. Further notes that the Visitor Centre at San Lorenzo will be concluded in 2024 and regrets that no appropriate assessment of its potential impact on the World Heritage property and its buffer zone was prepared in spite of the Committee's requests expressed in Decisions **44 COM 7A.36** and **45 COM 7A.19** and urges the State Party to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i) (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1986-present

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

- Fragile state of conservation of earthen structures and decorated surfaces due to extreme climatic conditions (El Niño phenomenon) and other environmental factors
- Inadequate management system in place
- Insufficient capacity and resources for the implementation of conservation measures
- Increase in the levels of the phreatic water table

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1987-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 118,700

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: ICOMOS mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS and ICCROM mission; November 2010 and December 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities (illegal occupation of the property)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Water (rising water table levels, rain/water table)
- Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices
- Unregulated farming activities
- Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National Authorities)
- Development pressures

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, whose executive summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- The Ministry of Culture, through the Directorate of World Heritage Sites and the Decentralized Directorate of Culture of La Libertad (DDC-LIB), has resumed efforts with the new administration (2023-2026) of the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo concerning the approval of the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan that incorporates the Regulation of the Buffer Zone of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex;
- The proposed amendment of Law 28261 aimed at addressing the illegal occupation of land and its recovery, has been analysed by the Ministry of Culture and is now under revision by the relevant Vice-Ministerial Coordination Commission. In the meantime, the Ministry of Culture will supervise the area as per the zoning determined by the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex 2021-2031 (Master Plan);
- The Master Plan, approved through Ministerial Resolution N° 000130-2021-DM/MC and published in the Official Gazette El Peruano on 12 May 2021, maintains the original vision, principles, and objectives, with adjustments made only to certain programs and projects. The Ministry of Culture ensures its implementation through regular funding and the execution of a specific investment project at the Huaca Takaynamo which, inter alia, aims to provide suitable conditions for tourism, cultural recreation and valorization activities, including infrastructure. In the framework of the Master Plan, maintenance of surfaces was undertaken in five sectors of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex. The Pan-American Centre for the Conservation of Earthen Heritage of the Special Project for the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex (PECACH) further implements the Master Plan through continued research activities including chemical, physical, and mechanical studies of construction materials, monitoring of environmental, structural, and geological factors, as well as photogrammetric and topographic recording, and cleaning and awareness-raising campaigns;
- The Chan Chan Site Museum joined the Ministry of Culture's Open Museums programme, which integrates museums, art and heritage through cultural and artistic activities. Awareness building in communities surrounding the property is an integral component of its work;
- The DDC-LIB is negotiating a project with the Regional Government of La Libertad for the improvement and expansion of tourism services at the site museum. An investment project with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism and the national plan of the Special Commission to Coordinate and Oversee Cultural Tourism (COPESCO) is being implemented to improve tourism services at the Nik An Complex;
- The construction of the El Sol Highway by the Ministry of Transport and Communication is currently halted.

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

The continued effort of the State Party is welcomed to implement the Master Plan, to undertake the actions that are needed to achieve its desired state of conservation and to implement the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. The contribution of PECACH should be commended.

The Ministry of Culture should be commended for its efforts to advance the approval process for the amendment to Law 28261 that should provide the mechanisms and tools to address the matter of illegal occupation of land within the boundaries of the World Heritage property. It should be encouraged in its outreach to the new administration of the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo in relation to the approval of the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan that incorporates the Regulation of the Buffer Zone of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex.

The report clearly demonstrates that while above matters require lengthy and complex administrative processes, a great number of activities are being carried out in the area of research and conservation, improvement of tourism facilities and outreach to neighbouring communities. Specific mention should be made of the actions in response to damages caused by hurricane Yaku in March 2023 which resulted in rainfall exceeding 20mm that affected wall surfaces and caused damage to protective covers. It is noted that conservation works were carried out in the walled complexes of Nik An, Chol An, the Huacas Arco Iris and La Esmeralda.

It should be noted that the construction of the El Sol Highway through the property is currently halted. In this sense, the relevant decision of the Committee (Decision **44 COM 7A.37**) should be recalled that “the proposal to widen the existing Trujillo ring road that passes through the property and the buffer zone endangers the property’s integrity and Outstanding Universal Value”.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to implement the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex 2021-2031 and welcomes the important contribution of the Pan-American Centre for the Conservation of Earthen Heritage in the fields of research and conservation, and the financial contributions of other government bodies at the national and regional level through special investment projects, and the support to develop and improve tourism facilities;
4. Also commends the State Party for its continued commitment to implement the Committee's decisions and programme of corrective measures, as adopted in Decision **36 COM 7A.34**, with the aim of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Appreciates that progress is being made in the amendment of Law 28261 and that the Ministry of Culture, through the Directorate of World Heritage Sites and the Decentralized Directorate of Culture of La Libertad (DDC-LIB), is actively engaging with the newly elected administration of the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo concerning the approval of the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan that incorporates the Regulation of the Buffer Zone of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex;
6. Notes again with regret that these two essential components of the programme of corrective measures have remained pending for several years, and urges once again the State Party to take the necessary measures for enhanced coordination, commitment and a strict timeframe for:
 - a) The delimitation and regulations of the proposed buffer zone,
 - b) The implementation of the amended Law 28261 that would address the matter of illegal occupation;
7. Notes furthermore that construction of the El Sol Highway through the property is currently halted and recalls Decision **44 COM 7A.37** in which it is stated that the proposal to widen the existing Trujillo ring road that passes through the property and the buffer zone endangers the property's integrity and Outstanding Universal Value;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
9. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

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

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

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

December 2003 and September 2006: World Heritage Centre missions to assessment of the state of conservation; July 2002, April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; July 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Flooding (and water damage)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Water (rain/water table)
- Serious deterioration of materials and structures
- Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property
- Lack of adequate management, planning, and conservation mechanisms
- Absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>, providing the following information:

A number of conservation measures have been implemented during the last year, following an inclusive approach, in collaboration with craftsmanship schools and associations;

In response to the request of Decision **45 COM 7A.21**, a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) proposal is formulated in the framework of the State of conservation report, including background, rationale, cartography, and related legal framework and planning instruments;

The following information is provided on the implementation of the corrective measures adopted to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

- Concerning the development of a spatial analysis, the implementation of the ordinances of the city of Coro and La Vela is maintained, with a set of architectural restrictions,
- The management plan has been updated together with the definition of regulatory measures for the proposed Buffer Zone, and a Disaster Risk Plan of the Historic Center of Coro and Historic Center of La Vela, as a result of the joint work of Civil Protection in conjunction with the IPC and the Municipal Heritage Institutes of both municipalities. The preparedness plan to deal with the property's vulnerabilities is reported to be a "daily task" of various competent State Party's institutions, including master clay craftsmen and other artisans and the use of traditional building techniques,
- A conservation strategy and action plan have been developed, including a prioritized and budgeted intervention programme, based on the results of condition surveys and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions, duly integrating traditional know-how. In response to the rains of October and November 2022, in the Cities of Coro and La Vela, traditional buildings and emblematic buildings were damaged. Mitigation measures were carried out addressing damaged roofs, leaks collapsed walls, and detachment of friezes on walls and cornices. The restoration, rehabilitation, and stabilization of 29 emblematic buildings and homes in Santa Ana de Coro and its Puerto La Vela have been planned for a total estimated budget of USD 100,000, with the local master craftsmen specialized in the use of traditional construction techniques. The action plan includes a communication and awareness campaign which includes a new web portal and social networks, as well as comprehensive educational activities for students at primary, secondary and university levels, duly integrating vernacular construction techniques and academic knowledge,
- A strategy has also been developed, together with the private sector, to address building reuse and issues linked to ownership and abandonment of traditional architecture. A strategy for the regulation of the vehicle circulation in historic city centres has been put in place,
- Concerning the harmonization of legal tools for the protection of the property, the role of the Joint Commission is highlighted as it has been responsible for this work since its creation as a joint and collective decision-making body. The Joint Commission's management structure has also been reinforced through an inclusive approach,
- Finally, important, numerous and largely documented drainage measures within and outside the property have been implemented during the period concerned.

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

The many conservation measures carried out following an inclusive approach in the last year should be welcomed.

The important work accomplished in view of the submission of a MBM proposal is noted. A final proposal for such MBM should however be submitted in due form, as already requested by Decision **45 COM 7A.21**, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines (format provided in Annex 11), as soon as it is available.

The progress in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** should be noted, in spite of the uneven quality and completeness of the information elements delivered in this respect.

The development of a spatial analysis seems to have little progressed.

The State Party should be commended for the updating and completion of a comprehensive management plan, along with the establishment of regulatory measures for the proposed Buffer Zone and Disaster Risk Plans for the

Historic Center of Coro and Historic Center of La Vela, as well as for development of a conservation strategy and an action plan, including a prioritized and budgeted intervention program, based on solid surveys and guidelines duly integrating traditional know-how, which constitutes an important achievement.

As concerns the comprehensive and inclusive restoration, rehabilitation, and stabilization measures carried out in favor of the traditional buildings damaged by the rains of October and November 2022, it is recommended that Committee take note with satisfaction of their implementation and request the State Party to provide detailed information on the activities that will be further implemented.

The role of the Joint Commission and the reinforcement of management structures should be noted, however specific and complete information should be requested on the harmonization of legal tools for the protection of the property.

While the important drainage measures implemented during the period concerned should be noted with satisfaction, the establishment of a durable drainage strategy and plan – underpinned by all necessary financial resources – remains to be completed. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that a complete, durable drainage system, duly resourced, be put in place.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.21, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyad, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the implementation of the conservation measures carried out in the last year following a very inclusive approach;*
4. *Notes the important work accomplished in view of the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) proposal and reiterates its request that the final MBM proposal be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible;*
5. *Welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision 38 COM 7A.23 and requests that a full and detailed account on the effective operationalization of all the 11 corrective measures be provided in the next state of conservation report;*
6. *Commends the State Party for the completion of a comprehensive management plan, along with the establishment of regulatory measures for the proposed Buffer Zone and Disaster Risk Plans for the Historic Center of Coro and Historic Center of La Vela, the development of a conservation strategy and the development of an action plan, including a prioritized and budgeted intervention programme, based on solid surveys and guidelines duly integrating traditional know-how;*
7. *Takes note with satisfaction of the numerous, comprehensive and inclusive restoration, rehabilitation, and stabilization measures carried out in favor of the traditional buildings damaged by the rains in October and November 2022, and requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the activities further implemented;*
8. *Further notes the role of the Joint Commission and the reinforcement of management structures and requests the State Party to provide specific and complete information on the harmonization of legal tools for the protection of the property;*

9. *Further takes note with satisfaction of the important drainage measures implemented during the period concerned but noting that the establishment of a durable drainage strategy and plan – underpinned by all necessary financial resources – remains to be completed, reiterates its request that a complete, durable drainage system, duly resourced, be put in place;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of all corrective measures adopted to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, together with a clear timeframe, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;*
11. ***Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

AFRICA

11. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

- Serious deterioration of materials in the historic town and continued decay at the archaeological sites
- Inappropriate interventions
- Erosion of the architectural coherence of the town
- Lack of enforcement and implementation of regulatory and planning tools

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6678>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1981-2024)

Total amount approved: USD 149,882

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 110,000 (Italian Funds-in-Trust); USD 23,100 (Croisi Europe); USD 86,900 (European Commission); USD 53,147. (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust); USD 71,090 (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation); USD 9,052 (World Heritage Fund);

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2005: World Heritage Centre missions; 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; 2014, 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April 2017: UNESCO Expert mission to assess the state of conservation of Mali's World Heritage properties

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- No management and conservation plan
- Pressure from urban development
- Deterioration of dwellings
- Waste disposal problems
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Instable security situation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>, and provides the following information:

Concerning the archeological sites:

- The 2m bollards installed since 2015 are still in place, but there is a lack of funding for their maintenance and the installation of new bollards;
- The protective test fences have been removed by individuals, except for one, and due to insecurity, all four sites were unguarded in 2023;
- 50 signposts have been installed on the sites in 2022;
- Erosion has been noted at archaeological sites, and a survey of the state of the gullies is planned;
- Most of the stone barriers installed to mitigate erosion have been damaged, and the measures taken to counter threats to archaeological sites are outdated;
- Mapping of the four sites is still in progress;

Concerning the old fabric of the town:

- Law No. 2022-034 of 28 July 2022, establishing the system for the protection and promotion of national cultural heritage, has been adopted;
- Two International Assistance requests have been submitted to support the updating of the management plans for the four Malian sites and for measures to combat illegal occupation of the riverbanks;
- The growing preference for modern techniques and materials is leading to interventions that alter the aesthetics of the architecture, threatening the authenticity of the property. This is also due to the difficulty of accessing traditional materials, exacerbated by the effects of climate change on the production of rice bran and on the plasticity of the land for banco, which is extracted on the outskirts of the town;
- A material bank has not been set up yet. The community maintains the houses, but on an irregular basis;
- A census of ruined or abandoned houses is carried out after each rainy season. To provide accurate figures, a mobilization of aid by the town's young people would need financial resources;
- Financial support from the World Heritage Fund in 2023 enabled emergency stabilization work to be carried out on Gartahou, the village chief's house;
- Sanitation problems persist in the old fabric and waste collection measures are not effective;
- The young people of Djenné clean the town's irrigation channels every week, and a women's association, "Badenya de Dioboro", cleans the front of the mosque every Tuesday after the market;
- In 2023, two bridges were built along the main road to facilitate the evacuation of wastewater into the river. Illegal occupation of the riverbanks stopped in 2023, and deterrent measures and community awareness campaigns have reduced the rush to the riverbanks. However, problems of insalubrity persist;
- The Management and Conservation Committee for the property was set up in 2014, but its members do not attend meetings regularly, and the Cultural Mission lacks a budget for participation costs. The insufficient budgets concern all of the actions and needs addressed in the report;
- A number of problems identified earlier continue to cause concern, including the inappropriate use of houses, the maintenance of poor people's houses, the construction of solid, high-rise buildings, the use of cement to fill in houses, and the use of signs without authorization;
- The development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) will be finalized during 2024.

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

The State Party's report highlights a situation of stagnation, particularly with regard to the implementation of the corrective measures. However, it is reassuring to note that certain measures previously introduced remain operational and initiatives undertaken in the past continue to keep the ongoing commitment of the community and civil society active in their interventions on the old fabric.

The State Party's report also highlights the Government's ongoing commitment, as well as the efforts made by residents and communities. As an example, the mobilization of the town's young people and the "Badenya de Dioboro" women's association to combat the town's insalubrity is to be commended. The adoption of Law No. 2022-034 of 28 July 2022, laying down rules for the protection and promotion of the national cultural heritage, bears witness to the Government's mobilization, but the subsequent actions remain to be put into practice. The lack of financial and technical resources has been identified as the main obstacle to the protection and management of the property. In this regard, it is noted positively that the State Party has submitted an International Assistance request to update the Management and Conservation Plan (*Plan de gestion et de conservation* - PGC) for the property, in conjunction with the PGCs for the other three Malian properties, which had all come to an end in 2022. It is hoped that this work will reactivate the property's Management Committee, which was set up in 2014.

As for the urban fabric, the census, which also aims to list abandoned, ruined or partially collapsed houses, continues to be carried out by the Cultural Mission, as best it can due to a lack of funding, although the communities are showing their impatience regarding rehabilitation. It is also noted that the situation remains worrying due to persistent factors such as illegal occupation, sanitation and hygiene problems, solid and liquid waste management, as well as the use of modern materials that are incompatible with construction when work is carried out on the houses. The creation of a material bank, which has not been achieved yet, could alleviate the problem of access to traditional materials (such as quality rice hulls, monkey-bread tree and shea butter) needed to rehabilitate houses. The Cultural Mission is making commendable efforts to fill this gap by providing these materials wherever possible. However, it is to be welcomed that International Assistance has been granted to take action against the illegal occupation of the riverbanks, as has the emergency work carried out on the Gartahou, the village chief's house, which was in danger of collapsing.

As for the archaeological sites, the persistent insecurity that has led to the loss of surveillance staff is a cause for concern, especially as the measures taken to counter the threats to archaeological sites are outdated. This is illustrated by the illegal removal of protective fencing in areas with a high concentration of artefacts, and by the state of deterioration of the stone barriers erected along the river to prevent erosion.

It must be emphasized that, on the basis of the results achieved in the rehabilitation of monumental houses, such as the village chief's house, the report on which attests to its successful stabilization, it would be appropriate to mobilize funding at the same time as involving the communities, who are showing their impatience with the rehabilitation of their own houses. In addition, it would be wise to consider strengthening the capacities of the Cultural Mission in charge of the inventory, so as to enable an accurate assessment of the state of the site and to contribute to informed decision-making as regards the necessary interventions. It would also be advisable to finalize the drafting of a specific intervention guide for buildings in the old fabric, specifying the methods, materials and techniques to be used to ensure that authenticity is maintained.

Finally, it should be noted that the development of the DSOCR will be finalized during 2024 and will have to be submitted for adoption by the Committee at its next session in 2025.

In the meantime, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.22, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party on its efforts to maintain constant management and conservation of the property, in particular through the adoption of Law No. 2022-034 of 28 July 2022, establishing the system for the protection and promotion of national cultural heritage;
4. Appreciates the sustained efforts of the Cultural Mission in the census and inventory of houses in the old urban fabric, and reiterates its request to the State Party to present a sample of this inventory and to clarify its scope;
5. Notes with satisfaction all the efforts made by the community to engage in the maintenance of the property, in particular the mobilization in favour of better sanitation of the town, as well as by the Cultural Mission to support the maintenance of houses and in particular for the emergency work carried out on the Gartahou, the village chief's house, but expresses its concern about the persistent problem of insufficient technical and financial resources for the Cultural Mission and the Municipality of Djenné, and requests the State Party to increase budgetary allocations to better meet all the management and conservation needs of the property;
6. Thanks the State Party for having submitted an International Assistance request for the updating of the Management and Conservation Plan (Plan de gestion et de conservation) for the property, following the expiry of the previous plan in 2022, and requests the State Party to reactivate the operation of the Management Committee for the property set up in 2014;
7. Also thanks the State Party for having successfully mobilized International Assistance to address the illegal occupation of the riverbanks, and requests the State Party to pay special and sensitive attention to the adherence and involvement of the local community in this initiative;
8. Expresses its concern about the stagnation of activities foreseen under the corrective measures to be implemented in 2023, such as the installation of bollards in areas where artefacts are concentrated and the strengthening of monitoring to prevent looting, and strongly encourages the State Party to regain momentum in the implementation of activities in order to put in place the necessary corrective measures;
9. Encourages the State party to draw up a guide for the maintenance of houses and to ensure that rehabilitation works comply with standards in terms of techniques, compatibility of materials and suitability for the use of the dwelling, with the aim of preserving the authenticity of the property while promoting the documentation of each intervention;
10. Expresses its appreciation for the progress made in the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and requests that it be submitted for adoption at its next session in 2025;
11. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

12. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

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

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

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Absence of management
- Destruction of 14 mausoleums and degradation of the three mosques in the serial property

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6622>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1981-2024)

Total amount approved: USD 201,838

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 55,000 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund; USD 37,516 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; approximately USD 12 million in the framework of the “Programme for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts” managed by UNESCO or bilaterally (including the European Union, Switzerland, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, Croatia, Mauritius, Germany, Luxemburg, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEOMA), the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), the African World Heritage Fund, ICOM); USD 480,934 from the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trust Fund for Victims for the “Rehabilitation and enhancement of protected buildings in Timbuktu” project; USD 15,000 from the International Alliance for Heritage Protection in Conflict Zones (ALIPH), Exceptional Relief Fund to support the heritage sector in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009 and 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO emergency missions to Mali; June 2013: UNESCO assessment mission to Timbuktu; April 2017: UNESCO Expert mission to assess the state of conservation of Mali's World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Lack of management structure at the site (problem resolved in 2019)
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The security situation remains worrying, especially with the withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA);

- Most of the actions presented were carried out in the context of collective reparations under the ICC Trust Fund for Victims;
- A company has been selected to undertake the planting of trees around the mausoleums to limit silting;
- The installation of solar-powered lampposts around protected buildings is planned;
- Management committees will be set up for each cemetery housing mausoleums of saints. Letters to this effect have been sent to the Prefect and the Mayor of Timbuktu;
- Work is underway to renovate the fences at two cemeteries;
- The periodic rough plastering of the Djingareyber mosque took place in March 2024, in keeping with tangible and intangible tradition;
- The Cultural Mission and the traditional stakeholders are facing a shortage of technical and financial resources, which affects the conservation and management of the site;
- An International Assistance request has been submitted to update the management and conservation plan;
- Since January 2024, a company has been carrying out drainage work on the old fabric free of charge (cleaning the gutters and removing sand from the streets adjacent to the mosques);
- An association made up of young volunteers has cleaned up the Djingareyber mosque and trimmed trees around the cemetery housing mausoleums;
- Three information and awareness-raising meetings have been held with mosque management committees, masons' guilds, mausoleum managers and civil society;
- Two training sessions for community leaders and working meetings with neighbourhood chiefs and civil society have been held in preparation for the rehabilitation work;
- A collective reparations monitoring committee has been set up by the Governor;
- Two motorbikes have been purchased for the Cultural Mission to monitor activities and 50 chairs for meetings with the various stakeholders;
- The work carried out to establish the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) will be finalized during 2024.

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

The State Party's report indicates that some modest progress has been made in implementing the corrective measures, despite the continuing unstable security situation, which has been exacerbated by the withdrawal of MINUSMA. The continued mobilisation of communities and traditional stakeholders, as well as the establishment of committees dedicated to the preparation and monitoring of the rehabilitation actions, are noted with great appreciation.

The planting of trees to counter the silting up around mosques and mausoleums is appreciated. However, to remedy the silting up of the Niger River, which leads to the silting up of mosques, concerted strategic action needs to be taken on a scale other than the urban level. The planting of new trees alone will not be sufficient to address the issue of the wood supply needed for construction and long-term rehabilitation.

It is also reassuring to note the periodic rough plastering of the Djingareyber mosque, which demonstrates the ongoing efforts to perpetuate traditional conservation, thus also enhancing the intangible dimension of this heritage. The State Party should be encouraged to further document this work in order to better promote the preservation of authenticity through the transmission of this knowledge regarding the use of materials and the application of techniques, as well as cultural and customary functions and meanings.

The efforts made to raise awareness and mobilise stakeholders, in particular civil society and the management committees in charge of the mausoleums, through consultation and monitoring meetings, or to explain the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, are to be commended.

One of the most encouraging results of the commitment of local stakeholders is the voluntary initiative of the association made up of young volunteers from the Djingareyber district, which has carried out

work to drain and clean the gutters in the town, remove sand near the mosques of Djingareyber, Sankoré and Sidi Yahia, and maintain the cemeteries.

Furthermore, the strengthened management by the management committees has demonstrated its participatory and effective nature, allowing for the prevention of any action likely to have a negative impact on the property. However, as the site's 2018-2022 management and conservation plan (*plan de gestion et de conservation* - PGC) has expired, efforts to raise funds, in particular through the submission of an International Assistance request, to update it in conjunction with the PGCs for the other three Malian properties, are appreciated. But it is also essential that the State Party invests more in making up for the lack of financial and human resources of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu and those of the other properties in Mali, so that they can ensure the effective and sustainable management of the property concerned..

Finally, the work of updating the PGC will have to be carried out in conjunction with the finalisation of the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) scheduled for 2024, which will also include a costed action plan, for adoption by the Committee at its next session in 2025.

In the meantime, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.23, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the continuation of conservation measures, in particular the emphasis placed on participatory management and awareness-raising, carried out in partnership with traditional stakeholders such as mosque management committees, the masons' guild and civil society, and mobilisation efforts aimed in particular at the creation of management committees for each cemetery housing mausoleums of saints with a view to supporting rehabilitation and maintenance work;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the commitment made by the State Party with regard to the tree-planting works on the property to counter silting through a selected company, but in order to remedy the silting up of the Niger River which leads to the silting up of the mosques, reiterates its request to the State Party to broaden the scope of this initiative through strategic actions adapted at a regional level;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to create plantations with a view to ensuring a sustainable supply of appropriate construction timber, particularly in the context of the significant impacts of climate change;*
6. *Welcomes the rehabilitation and regular maintenance work carried out on the property, in particular the recent rough plastering of the Djingareyber Mosque including the repair of the façades, ensuring that traditional building techniques and know-how are maintained, as well as the selection of compatible materials respecting authenticity, and strongly encourages the State Party to further document this work in order to better promote the intangible dimension of this heritage and to encourage the preservation of the authenticity of the property through the transmission of this knowledge as well as its cultural and customary functions and meanings;*
7. *Welcomes the State Party's efforts to raise funds for the updating of the property's conservation and management plan, following the expiry of the previous plan in 2022,*

and requests the State Party to submit the draft updated management plan to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Notes with concern the persistent lack of technical and financial resources of the Cultural Mission and traditional actors, which may compromise the conservation and management of the site, as well as the even more precarious security situation since the withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and requests the State Party to pay particular attention to strengthening the human and financial resources necessary for the proper functioning of its Cultural Missions;
9. Expresses its appreciation of the progress made in establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and requests that it be submitted for adoption at its next session in 2025;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
12. Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

13. Tomb of Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

ARAB STATES

14. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2001-present

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

- A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table
- The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the property, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the property
- A large, banked road has been built to enable movement within the property

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279> but outdated and needs to be revised

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2001-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 63,504

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: Expert mission; 2005, 2009 and 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; 2018: UNESCO and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water (rain/water table): Rise of the underground water table level and ensuing damage to the structures
- Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment (works completed)
- Housing: Encroachments within the property and inappropriate recent constructions
- Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.)
- Management systems/management plan: Need for a management plan to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g., the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.
- Governance: Lack of engagement with local communities and other stakeholders
- Management activities: Failure to implement corrective measures

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>. Progress in a number of areas is presented, as follows:

- Within the Groundwater Level Reduction Project, the system to lower the water table is now automatically operated through sensors that indicate the water level;
- The specialist company that implemented the groundwater project was contracted to carry out periodic maintenance work and monitor groundwater levels. The monitoring report for 2023 was attached as an annex and shows that the groundwater level remained below the recommended level (-7m) throughout the entire year;
- Following an ICOMOS technical review, the draft Management Plan was revised in light of the suggested comments; the revised Plan was attached as an annex;
- Coordination has begun between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the UNESCO Cairo Office and Abu Mina Monastery for the preparation of the Conservation Plan. Initial efforts are focused on organizing a training programme that will support the preparation of the Plan, thanks to funding provided by the World Heritage Fund;
- Work on site included clearing an area of 5,000m² of overgrown vegetation in order to make more of the property accessible to visitors;
- Information panels and maps, seating and sanitary facilities have been installed in order to improve the visitor experience. The panels were designed following the guidelines which had been prepared during a joint workshop with the UNESCO Cairo Office;
- The implementation of corrective actions has been monitored and mapped to demonstrate that all corrective measures have been completed or are in progress, showing progress towards the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Finally, the State Party states that it would welcome a Reactive Monitoring mission to Abu Mena to review the progress towards the DSOCR in preparation for removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

With regard to the DSOCR, the State Party's efforts towards implementing corrective measures are commended. In 2007, the Committee adopted the following corrective measures: a) Conservation conditions survey of the property and urgent conservation measures; b) A project to lower groundwater levels; c) Introduction of a system to monitor groundwater levels; d) Preparation of a Conservation Plan; e) Stakeholder consultation with a view to preparing a Management Plan. At this point in time, the property's state of conservation has been surveyed, with urgent measures implemented, and future conservation actions outlined in the Management Plan, while awaiting the development of the Conservation Plan. The Groundwater Level Reduction Project has lowered the groundwater to the recommended level, the system in place is now running automatically and the results are being monitored. The Management Plan has been drafted, reviewed and a revised version submitted. All this demonstrates substantial progress; however, removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger would best await the final outstanding task: the completion of the Conservation Plan, which is essential for ensuring the long-term protection of the property.

At its last session, the Committee requested that the Management Plan be revised in light of the ICOMOS Technical Review, as well the development of plans for visitor management and sustainable development. The revised Management Plan now includes summaries of visitor management activities and some actions relating to visitors are included in the associated action plan. However, it would be beneficial that a strategic approach be taken to ensure that the actions, which are already being carried out, fully support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the property's role as a place of pilgrimage. It is also noted that some of these actions include new construction and the installation of infrastructure (e.g., a visitor centre, cafeteria, lighting system, etc.), and the World Heritage Centre should be notified in advance of any such significant projects before any decisions are taken, as required under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Such new projects may benefit from impact assessment

being carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context to improve the planning process and ensure that there are no negative impacts on the OUV of the property.

Finally, the State Party indicates that it would welcome a Reactive Monitoring mission with a view to removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. As was specified last year, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that such a Reactive Monitoring mission may be organized once a draft Conservation Plan has been prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.26, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party towards improving the state of conservation of the property, including the submission of a revised Management Plan, and urges the completion of final steps regarding the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), with the submission of the draft Conservation Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Reiterates its request that a strategic plan is developed for visitor management and sustainable development, which respects the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its role as a place of pilgrimage, while also tying into sustainable development objectives and including community participation;*
5. *Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any project that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, in particular, related to plans to improve the infrastructure for visitor management;*
6. *Notes the invitation from the State Party to host a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which may be undertaken once the above-mentioned draft Conservation Plan has been submitted;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
8. ***Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-present

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

- Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage
- Armed conflict

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2003)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for World Heritage properties of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund - support for Iraqi World Heritage properties
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)
- USD 50,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (Strengthening capacities for the documentation and conservation of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger in Iraq)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2002: UNESCO mission for the Makhool Dam project; June 2011 and March/April 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities
- Management System/Management Plan (absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan)
- Water infrastructure (dam building project)
- Flooding (partial flooding and seepage)
- Fragile mud brick structures
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict (including deliberate destruction of heritage)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents>. Progress in conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- No activities have been carried out since the last report in 2023, following the maintenance works undertaken at the Walter Andrae house;
- An agreement is in the process of being finalised between the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq (SBAH), the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and the World Monuments Fund (WMF) to work on the preparation of the Conservation Plan and Site Management Plan for the property. Special focus will be given to assessing threats affecting the property identified in previous reports, including environmental issues, and addressing the recommendations of the report of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

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

The State Party has been working with the ARC-WH and the WMF to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding that will support the preparation of the Conservation and Site Management Plans of the property. As recommended by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, the preparation of these two plans is a priority, and it would be imperative to initiate this work as soon as possible.

It is important to recall that the property is very fragile and has been suffering from water seepage and environmental degradation for some time, and thus it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its previous request that remedial and repair works should be guided by the comprehensive Conservation Plan that will be prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Priority should be given to identifying any necessary emergency stabilization work and establishing a road map for long-term conservation and management actions. As previously recommended, any required emergency stabilization work should adhere to the principle of minimal conservation.

The State Party has informed that no recent activities have taken place at the property. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Committee recall actions outlined as priority by the 2022 mission and requested by Decision **45 COM 7A.27**, notably with regard to regular maintenance activities following testing in a pilot area and monitoring over a certain period, and, site protection measures, including the prevention of uncontrolled access, as well as installing a fence and proper signage that does not negatively impact the Outstanding universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Considering that the Makhool Dam project was halted by the State Party and that it was a major threat to the property's OUV, justifying the property's concurrent inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2003, it is recommended that Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure a permanent cancellation or relocation of the project.

Since the rehabilitation of the Walter Andrea House to be mainly used as residence for archaeological missions, information on potential excavations or site survey have not been provided yet. It would be important to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about any such activities.

The Committee may wish to also reiterate its request to the State Party to continue to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all future works that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The process for the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with the necessary corrective measures, has been initiated through the support of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the DSOCR, and a set of correctives measures with a timeframe of implementation, for potential examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

Based on the above, it is recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.27** and **45 COM 7A.30** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the efforts of the State Party to establish a partnership for the preparation of the previously requested Conservation and Site Management Plans, as also recommended by the 2022 joint World Heritage/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the initiation of these activities as soon as possible in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Recalling that the property has been suffering from water seepage and environmental degradation for some time, continues to encourage the State Party to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prioritise urgent maintenance and stabilisation actions for damaged and deteriorated components, while also recalling that emergency stabilisation work should only be undertaken in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent and according to the principle of minimal intervention;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2022 mission, with particular regard to:
 - a) Carrying out regular maintenance activities, following testing in a pilot area and monitoring over a certain period,
 - b) Submitting a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority to the World Heritage Centre, noting that all interventions must be integrated into the comprehensive conservation plan for the property,
 - c) Undertaking site protection measures, including the prevention of uncontrolled access, as well as installing a fence and proper signage that does not negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Also reiterates its request to the State Party that all interventions be addressed within the framework of the overall comprehensive Conservation Plan for the property to be prepared as a matter of priority;
7. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the permanent cancellation or relocation of the Makhool Dam project, given its potential impact on the OUV of the property;
8. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to continue to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all future works that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Encourages the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the necessary corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
10. Reiterates its call on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

16. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8158/>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8158/>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8158/>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 3,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund - support for Iraqi World Heritage properties
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)
- USD 50,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (Strengthening capacities for the documentation and conservation of Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger in Iraq)

Previous monitoring missions

June 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Armed conflict
- Illegal activities
- Major looting of Iraqi archaeological sites (resolved at Hatra)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/>. Progress in conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Investigations have concluded that there is no change in the water level of wells throughout the year, which is more than 15m deep from the surface. Therefore, groundwater does not affect the foundations of the Temenos buildings. Consultation with the Ministry of Water Resources reported there is no groundwater, but that surface water fluctuates based on the amount of rainfall;
- Work on the conservation plan will be pursued once funding is available in the framework of the project, supported by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), and implemented in cooperation with the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO);
- Documentation of the Hatra property has been undertaken in the framework of the above-mentioned project. There is a Documentation Division in the World Heritage Department of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH), which relies on the documentation provided by the Investigation Unit of the Nineveh Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate;
- SBAH staff have participated in capacity-building activities implemented by ISMEO and UNESCO. UNESCO also provided support in terms of equipment, such as computers, laptops and printers;
- There is no illegal access, encroachment or recorded violations, in the area between the inner and outer city walls, which is fully protected;
- A BRC fence ('roll top mesh fence') has been installed along the inner city wall, in the place of a previous fence. The property is currently fully protected, with only one entrance, and security forces to ensure safety. No concrete was used for installing the fence, which is removable, and currently there are no violations at the property. The parking area close to the Temenos will be closed and no cars will be allowed;
- A comprehensive Management Plan will be prepared in cooperation with partners and exchanges with the World Heritage Centre;
- The State Party report was accompanied by a previously submitted report from September 2022: 'First Aid Interventions to the WHS of Hatra after DAESH Occupation', which reports about the activities in the Temenos area;
- The State Party has provided a description and plan of the property boundary and presented a rationale for the proposed designation of a 100m buffer zone surrounding the property, requesting recommendations in this regard.

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

The State Party has addressed elements of Decision **45 COM 7A.28**, the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, and the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, the State Party is yet to initiate the preparation of a site Management Plan that includes consideration requirements related to management and conservation, and a Visitor Management Plan.

Several corrective measures have already been completed, particularly in relation to reinstating the management of the property by SBAH and ensuring protection and accessibility; enhancing capacities; undertaking documentation and studies; and the repair of damage incurred as a result of the conflict. Corrective measures not yet undertaken include the installation of cameras to reinforce site security, and, completing the temporary transport of archaeological finds to be photographed and catalogued, as well as ensuring their adequate storage and protection.

Other corrective measures that are yet to be pursued relate to assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict and undertaking urgent stabilisation work. These comprise diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and Allat; undertaking priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat; and the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the

central Temenos. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to pursue the implementation and finalisation of these corrective measures as a priority.

The Committee may also wish to remind the State Party of its obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all projects, including major conservation works, that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and that for major projects, the information should include Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context.

Several recommendations of the 2023 mission have also been addressed, including undertaking investigations related to the water table, which concluded that it is more than 15m deep, and does not affect the foundations of the Temenos buildings, and that observed surface water is related to rainfall. With regard to assessing potential threats in the area situated between the inner and outer walls of the property, the State Party has reported that there are no illegal access, encroachment nor recorded violations. Nevertheless, it would be important to provide further information regarding any other potential threats, such as those that may be related to archaeological remains. While the State Party has reported continuous work on documentation, it remains necessary to ensure that all relevant documentation and historical data concerning the property are adequately stored, managed, and available for use in monitoring and conservation of the property, as previously requested in Decision **45 COM 7A.28**.

The Committee may wish to acknowledge with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party, and encourage further implementation of the recommended actions, particularly preparation of a site management plan; selecting pilot interventions upon completing the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area, and monitoring such interventions over time to assess their efficacy; elaborating a monitoring programme and training staff to implement it; providing further information concerning potential threats in the area situated between the inner and outer city walls; and preparing a strategy and allocating resources for documentation management.

The State Party has consulted the World Heritage Centre concerning the submission of a boundary clarification. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to pursue consultation regarding the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, for the creation of a buffer zone as an added layer of protection to the property, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines.

Based on the above, it is recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.28** and **45 COM 7A.30** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the efforts undertaken in the implementation of previous Committee Decisions and corrective measures for the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.28**;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to pursue the implementation and completion of other corrective measures as a priority, and to seek any necessary further support, in particular for:*
 - a) *Reinforcing site security (installation of surveillance cameras),*

- b) *Repairing damage resulting from conflict (completing the temporary transport of archaeological finds to be photographed and catalogued, as well as ensuring their adequate storage and protection),*
 - c) *Assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict and addressing vulnerabilities, including through assessment, studies and urgent stabilization (diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and Allat; priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat; preparation of a Conservation Plan for the central Temenos area);*
5. Acknowledges with appreciation the efforts undertaken in addressing the recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its request to further implement the mission's recommendations, in particular addressing the following:
- a) *Elaboration of a monitoring programme, coupled with a capacity building programme to implement it,*
 - b) *Preparation of the Conservation Plan for the central Temenos area, and subsequent selection of pilot interventions and monitoring them over time to assess their efficacy;*
 - c) *Further assessment of potential threats, such as those that may be related to archaeological remains, in the area between the inner and outer city walls as necessary, and accordingly elaboration of additional possible protection measures,*
 - d) *Initiating the preparation of a site Management Plan that includes consideration requirements related to management and conservation, and a Visitor Management Plan,*
 - e) *Preparation of a strategy and allocation of resources for documentation management;*
6. Taking note of the State Party's intention to submit a boundary clarification for the property, also encourages the State Party to consider the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal for the designation of a buffer zone, for added protection of the property, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Recalls the need for the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

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

State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

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 identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Nordic World Heritage Fund for training and documentation aiming at the preparation of the Nomination File

Total amount granted for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq:

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund - support for Iraqi World Heritage properties
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)
- USD 50,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (Strengthening capacities for the documentation and conservation of Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger in Iraq)

Previous monitoring missions

June 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management System/Management Plan
- Armed conflict
- Weathering and lack of maintenance affecting the fragile structures
- State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property
- Encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities
- Need for a comprehensive Conservation Plan to guide works

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/>, which presents a framework for the establishment of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSCOR) and corrective measures, to be achieved in three phases (within three years 2024-2026). The proposed framework addresses the 17 recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

The report does not, as requested in Decision **45 COM 7A.29**, provide detailed information on the property's state of conservation, nor does it include a detailed report on bulldozed areas and encroachments, provide a commitment to address interventions within a framework of overall assessment of damage and risks, respond to requests that emergency works adopt a minimum intervention approach, nor engage with the findings of the technical reviews undertaken for works being carried out in the Great Mosque, the Caliphal Palace, Al Hir, and the Bab al-'Amma, the proposed reconstruction project for the Great Mosque, and the possible construction of two primary schools within the buffer zone of the property.

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

The 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission recognised the multiple challenges faced by the State Party in ensuring adequate management and accordingly outlined a set of 17 recommendations. In Decision **45 COM 7A.29**, the World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to implement those recommendations and to pursue the development of a comprehensive Conservation Plan, the identification of corrective measures and the elaboration of a DSOCR.

The State Party's proposal for a framework for the achievement of a DSOCR, which addresses the implementation of the mission's recommendations in three phases, is acknowledged. The proposed first phase comprises a strategic approach for 2024 that establishes the current condition and includes surveys and studies to identify threats, planning for the establishment of an 'On-site Heritage Unit', and undertaking studies and documentation of selected elements of the property. The second phase presents a strategic approach for 2025 that includes preparation of the previously requested comprehensive Conservation Plan, implementation of sustainable management activities, conservation planning for Samarra City and the property's buffer zone, and the initiation of conservation projects based on the principles of minimal intervention. The third phase proposes a strategic approach for 2026 that includes implementation of the Conservation Plan, developing partnerships, implementation of an interpretation plan within a tourism development plan, irrigating green areas while protecting the archaeological remains, and submitting the required documentation for actions undertaken that would meet the DSOCR and thereby, would support the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The above-mentioned actions, providing a way forward for the implementation of the mission's recommendations and supporting the conservation and management of the property, would be welcome. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee express appreciation for this plan of action and encourage the State Party to pursue its implementation as soon as possible, particularly with regard to surveys, documentation, assessments, conservation planning, and the setting up of an on-site management unit. However, there are some elements within the presented framework, such as the purpose and requirements for Heritage Impact Assessment, that require clarification. It should also be recognised that the matters addressed in the mission report extend across aspects of the state of conservation of the property that are not related to the reasons it was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

With regard to the elaboration of a DSOCR and related corrective measures, it is important to recall that the property has been on the List of World in Danger since 2007 due to the 'state of conflict that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property'. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies regarding the establishment of the DSOCR, with related corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as previously requested by the Committee.

The State Party has not provided information about the previously planned or ongoing projects for which technical reviews were undertaken by ICOMOS. The Committee may wish to reiterate its request to the State Party to proceed only in accordance with the findings and recommendations of those technical reviews, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed

information on all planned or ongoing projects that may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. For major projects, the information should include Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. The Committee may also wish to remind the State Party of the need to address and report on each of the Committee's Decisions.

Based on the above, it is recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.29** and **45 COM 7A.30** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Expresses its appreciation for the establishment of a framework for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, comprising a strategic approach in three phases, and encourages the State Party to pursue its implementation as soon as possible, particularly with regard to surveys, documentation, assessments, conservation planning, and the establishment of an on-site management unit;*
4. *Reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee;*
5. *Reiterating its concern for the condition of the property, particularly with regard to its damaged and deteriorated state arising from the impact of encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities, in addition to natural deterioration and weathering, acknowledges the proposed actions outlined by the State Party and, consistent with Decision **45 COM 7A.29**, urges again the State Party to give priority to actions related to detailed documentation and assessment of threats and damage incurred at the property, along with photographic documentation of all affected monuments, including a detailed report on bulldozed areas and encroachments, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party that interventions be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks, and that a comprehensive Conservation Plan be prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, while in the meantime, any emergency stabilization or conservation work should adhere to the principles of minimal intervention and only be undertaken in critical cases where there is threat of further accelerated damage and collapse;*
7. *Requests the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the establishment of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with the related corrective measures and timeframe for implementation;*
8. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to proceed according to the technical reviews undertaken for works carried out in the Great Mosque, the Caliphal Palace, Al Hir, and the Bab al'Amma, and the possible construction of two primary schools within the buffer zone of the property;*

9. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue submitting to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2025, 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 47th session;*
11. ***Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

19. Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) (C 1702)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2023-present

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

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- State of critical conservation conditions and need for emergency stabilisation measures
- Vulnerability to potential inappropriate developments
- Lack of management structure

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 identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount: USD 34,940 from the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger; USD 224,514 from the Getty Foundation for the development of a Conservation Management Plan.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (state of critical conservation conditions and need for emergency stabilisation measures)
- Management and institutional factors (lack of management structure, lack of defined buffer zone, lack of financial resources)
- Buildings and Development (Vulnerability to potential inappropriate developments)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 18th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023).

On 17 April 2024, the World Heritage Centre organized a meeting with the State Party, ICOMOS and UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut to discuss the previously invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, planned from 3 to 7 June 2024, as well as the process for defining a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The meeting gave the State Party the opportunity to present overviews of the current state of conservation, as follows:

- The political and economic situation in the country remains a huge challenge;
- The inscription of the property attracted potential investors and partnerships. At this stage, the Board of Directors of the Rachid Karami International Fair did not approve any proposal;
- The restoration of the Guest House and its conversion into a temporary workshop within the initiative 'Al Minjara' financed by the European Union to preserve and revive Tripoli's woodcraft heritage, has received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2022. It provides a model of adaptive reuse for other restoration works at the property;
- The project funded by the Getty Foundation (2018-2024) to draft a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the property, developed through the technical assistance provided by the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut in consultation with the State Party, has been completed. The project aims to clarify the diverse values of the property; address technical issues, impacts, vulnerabilities, opportunities, and constraints; develop guiding policies for preserving the property's significance; and identify possible adaptive reuse strategies towards a compatible development of the property (see <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/developing-conservation-management-plan-tripoli-fair>);
- A capacity building workshop on Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is planned in November 2024, funded by the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It will be organized by UNESCO in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM.

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

It is unfortunate that the State Party did not provide an updated state of conservation report as requested by the Committee. However, based on the available information, the state of conservation of the property is not expected to have changed since its inscription on the World Heritage List. The invitation extended by the State Party for the Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property is welcome. The State Party has also actively engaged with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and the World Heritage Centre to identify funding sources for the implementation of capacity building workshop on impact assessments in a World Heritage context, planned for November 2024. The workshop will be organized in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM. Incorporating HIA mechanisms into the planning process

remains essential to guarantee that planning provisions are consistent with the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The meeting of April 2024 served to initiate proceedings to define the DSOCR and corrective measures, and to delineate the buffer zone, as per the Committee's requests (Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.1**). These processes should proceed as a matter of priority. Other requests recorded by the Committee at the time of inscription, including providing exact geographical coordinates of the boundaries of the property, and developing detailed land-use and zoning guidelines for the planning of portions of the property as well its immediate setting, have not been addressed. The CMP, which has been submitted, will contribute to addressing other requests, including setting up a management structure for the property, carrying out a geometric and architectural survey and a detailed condition assessment of the built structures, and archival research. It will also contribute to providing a mechanism for the notification of the World Heritage Centre of projects that may affect the property's OUV, in line with Paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines. An HIA for any project proposals that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, such as the "Knowledge and Innovation Centre" (KIC) project, the revision of the master plans of El-Mina and Tripoli, or for the use of the dome, developed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should also be submitted for review.

The challenges in maintaining the OUV of the property, which were identified at the time of inscription and for which it was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (the state of critical conservation conditions and the need for emergency stabilization measures, its vulnerability to potentially inappropriate developments and lack of management structure) remain. The poor and fragile state of the built fabric calls for urgent action and well-considered intervention.

Based on the above, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **18 EXT.COM 5.1** and **45 COM 8C.2**, adopted at its 18th extraordinary (UNESCO, 2023) and its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its extended 18th extraordinary session, and however notes that some information was gathered during an online meeting with the State Party;*
4. *Welcomes the holding of a capacity building workshop on impact assessments in a World Heritage Context, to be organized by UNESCO in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM;*
5. *Notes that the Conservation Management Plan for the property has been prepared and submitted, and includes a management framework, conservation policies and recommendations for future planning;*
6. *Requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Provide the exact geographical coordinates of the boundaries of the property,*
 - b) *Develop detailed land-use and zoning guidelines for the planning of the immediate setting of the Rachid Karimi International Fair-Tripoli and of the portion of the oval within the property outside the nationally relevant "core zone",*

- c) *Set up a management structure for the property that also includes among its members representatives of the cultural heritage protection institutions, professionals and academic organisations and the civil society,*
 - d) *Carry out a geometric and architectural survey and a detailed condition assessment of Niemeyer's structures as a knowledge basis for emergency stabilisation measures, conservation and structural rehabilitation interventions,*
 - e) *Consider a digital project of the documentation preserved at the various publicly accessible archives, to promote research and ensure that the original project documentation is not lost due to disasters or accidents,*
 - f) *Inform the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise any major projects, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - g) *Develop and implement a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for any project proposals that may have an impact on the OUV of the property (including the "Knowledge and Innovation Centre" project) and for the revision of the master plans of El-Mina and Tripoli;*
7. Also requests the State Party to structurally embed HIA mechanisms into its planning processes to guarantee that planning provisions are consistent with the protection of the property's OUV;
8. Notes with appreciation the invitation from the State Party for the requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and also notes that the mission will also serve to provide advice on the delineation of the buffer zone for the property and on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

20. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ii)(iii)(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
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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 identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties; October 2023: USD 94,206 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for 'Emergency Assessment Missions to the flood affected region of Libya'.

Previous monitoring missions

March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2006: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2023: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Inadequate protection leading to threat to rock-hewn monumental tombs, vandalism and the development of agricultural activities in the rural zone)
- Governance
- Housing (Urban encroachment and uncontrolled building construction leading to destruction of archaeological areas)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities (Need for a presentation and interpretation system for visitors and the local population)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Crop production
- Management activities (Inappropriate earlier restoration work)
- Management System/Management Plan (Need to complete the Conservation and Management Plan in order to co-ordinate actions in the short and medium term; need to provide a detailed map at the appropriate scale showing the boundaries of the property and buffer zone, as well as regulatory measures foreseen to ensure the protection of the property; Inadequate on-site security and control systems)
- Surface water pollution (Problem of discharge of sewage from the modern town into the Wadi Bel Ghadir)
- Fire (wildfires)
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 January 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Cyrene Grand Hotel project was cancelled in compliance with Libyan antiquities law;
- Site maintenance work continued and included the removal of vegetation and vandalism. Restoration of walls of the Temple of Hermes and stabilization measures for the Mithraeum (Mitra Cave) were conducted;
- Cracks were discovered in the inner portico of the Forum and the Greek propylaeum, which resulted from the previous restoration. A joint Libyan/Italian team is undertaking a study for restoration, which would require UNESCO's support;

- Libyan security authorities retrieved 176 looted artefacts. An inventory and documentation of items in museums and storerooms was completed. Restoration, cleaning, and classification of objects were carried out. Panels were installed to designate archaeological sites, and awareness-raising activities have continued;
- Follow-up is undertaken to address the issue of reviving the South Shahat project (a new city planned to be built away from the property);
- Storm Daniel, which struck the northeastern part of Libya in September 2023, had several impacts on the property. It led to contamination of the Spring of Apollo due to sewage discharge, with silt and stones in Wadi Belghader diverting sewage water towards the subterranean water network. The discharge was halted, and cleaning measures were implemented. The Municipality of Shahat is considering an extension of the sewage pipe away from the site, pending the availability of resources;
- A committee was formed by the Department of Antiquities (DoA) to address the impact of the storm. Silt and debris were removed, the mosaic floor of the Roman Baths was cleaned after being inundated, the pathway between the Greek and Roman Gates was restored, and water canals were cleaned with ongoing efforts aimed to restore the canal system to facilitate drainage. Excavation was conducted in a trench caused by flooding near the Strategium;
- A joint Libyan-Italian mission assessed the situation and provided technical recommendations.

UNESCO visited the property in November 2023 as part of a mission to rapidly assess sites affected by Storm Daniel, supported through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund. The mission had the opportunity to assess some of the most affected parts of the site and highlighted the main risks facing the property, outlining a set of recommendations. On the basis of these recommendations, an action plan for the conservation of the property has been developed, comprising the necessary further investigations and assessments, and the preparation of a conservation and management plan, as well as a disaster risk management plan, particularly addressing risks related to extreme rain and flooding. The mission also identified a set of proposed priorities for short and medium-term interventions, the implementation of which will depend on the availability of adequate extra-budgetary funding.

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

The cancellation of the Cyrene Grand Hotel project is noted with much appreciation.

The property faces significant challenges, particularly in the aftermath of Storm Daniel. The DoA has demonstrated commendable efforts in addressing conservation and protection requirements, including those related to emergency measures following inundation. These comprise cleaning the Spring of Apollo and diverting blackwater, among other actions.

The 2023 UNESCO mission noted that the property is exposed to several risks, some of which already existed before the storm. Owing to the different topographical contexts of its various parts, the impact of the storm affected the site's features in varying degrees. In particular, the lower northwest area, comprising the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Fountain of Apollo, and the Great Baths, among other features, faces a number of risks related to the geographical situation. Hence, the UNESCO mission noted that geotechnical challenges demand further attention, with soil erosion threatening the stability of exposed structures and a vulnerable rock escarpment with evident vertical cracks. Specific assessment, stabilisation, and water drainage studies have been recommended by the mission, in addition to disaster risk management planning with early warning systems, to mitigate the impact of future climate-related events. In addition, overall conservation and management planning and execution of urgent stabilisation measures, as well as capacity building, have also been recommended.

Immediate interventions – such as at the Mithraeum, cleaning the spring, and diverting blackwater, among others – are acknowledged. Nevertheless, as recommended by the mission, long-term solutions are needed to ensure the site's conservation while not negatively impacting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including integrity and authenticity. It is therefore recommended that the needed assessments, studies and stabilisation measures be continued while developing more permanent compatible solutions in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies.

The efforts to document and restore artefact collections are commendable, especially since the floods threatened museums and storage rooms. Continued efforts are encouraged to ensure their storage under optimal environmental conditions. Noting that the floods have exposed vulnerable buried remains,

urgent, specific protection measures may be necessary, including documentation, protection, rescue excavations, and reburial when appropriate.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to initiate the processes for the elaboration of a retrospective Statement of OUV and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) with a set of corrective measures, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to pursue the definition of an appropriate buffer zone and submission of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its previous sessions should occur as soon as conditions permit. Building on the outcomes of the UNESCO mission, the joint Reactive Monitoring mission would allow for a further assessment of the overall state of conservation of the whole property. It would also present an opportunity to provide advice to the State Party with regard to conservation and management planning and the development of the DSOCR, with the related corrective measures.

Given the heavy impact on the site, ensuring sufficient resources remains challenging. The Committee may wish to reiterate its call for increased mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support for urgent conservation actions and for longer-term planning, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property.

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

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.33, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the cancellation of the Cyrene Grand Hotel project and requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed through the World Heritage Centre on any ongoing and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Expresses serious concerns about the damage inflicted to the property as a result of inundation caused by Storm Daniel, takes note of the assessment carried out by the State Party in collaboration with the Italian archaeological missions, welcomes the efforts of the State Party in implementing conservation and protection measures, including those in response to the impact of flooding on the property, and urges the State Party to continue these efforts in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, including concerning the choice of restoration materials and techniques planned at the property before their implementation;*
5. *Also welcomes the efforts undertaken to decontaminate Wadi Belghader and the Spring of Apollo, as well as the temporary diversion of sewage piping away from the property, and also requests the State Party to seek a permanent solution in this regard;*
6. *Also takes note with appreciation of the UNESCO mission of November 2023 following the occurrence of Storm Daniel, and its findings, as well as actions outlined for the short and medium-term;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to pursue the development of a conservation strategy*

reflecting the priority areas that have been identified, including:

- a) Urgent assessment and stabilisation studies for exposed or weakened foundations and structures,
 - b) Comprehensive study tackling the stability and stabilisation of the rock escarpment in the lower north-west area of the property,
 - c) Geotechnical and soil studies to address issues of soil erosion,
 - d) Studies for a comprehensive water drainage solution,
 - e) Disaster risk management with an early warning system;
8. Strongly encourages the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property as a priority and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support;
 9. Urges the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft retrospective Statement of OUV for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
 10. Also urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
 11. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue the close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
 12. Requests furthermore that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property take place as soon as conditions permit;
 13. Continues to call for an increased mobilization by the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party – including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund – for urgent conservation actions, as well as for medium-term planning as outlined in the UNESCO mission recommended action plan;
 14. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya, as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
 15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
 16. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

21. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) (C 183)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

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
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 3 (from 1988-1990)
Total amount approved: USD 45,500
For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 24,543 for the European Project "Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace".
June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions
1988: UNESCO mission; March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal Activities
- Desertification
- Flooding (tidal flooding and continuous sea encroachment on the circus area)
- Conflict situation
- Sand covering certain areas of the property
- Graffiti and fires
- Localised utilities: Discharge of domestic wastewater at the west of the property (issue resolved)
- Relative humidity (deterioration of monuments/alarming state of conservation of the Hunting Baths)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). Nevertheless, the State Party has pursued the elaboration of a draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The finalized RSOUV is presented in Document WHC/24/46.COM/8E.

No recent information on the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

Regrettably, the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its previous requests, given the absence of updated information, particularly with regard to pursuing efforts to conserve the property and its OUV.

It remains crucial that the State Party finalizes the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) with a set of corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Similarly, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS concerning the definition of an appropriate buffer zone and the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Committee had requested the State Party to pursue the development of a conservation strategy for the deteriorating state of the Hunting Baths, prepare proposals with mitigation measures to address tidal flooding and sea encroachment on the circus area and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. It is recommended that the Committee also reiterate its request to the State Party to continue consulting with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies with regard to restoration materials and techniques planned to be used at the property, as well as technical proposals with mitigation measures to address the issue of tidal flooding.

Additionally, it remains crucial to develop a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan and a Management Plan, considering the pending conservation issues at the property. It is also important for the State Party to provide information, through the World Heritage Centre, on any future major restoration or construction projects that could impact the property's OUV, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is also essential that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, requested by the Committee at its previous sessions, be undertaken as soon as conditions permit, in order to evaluate the state of conservation of the property.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its call for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to pursue urgent conservation activities.

Based on the above, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.34, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session, and expresses concern about the absence of relevant updated information;
4. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible and to seek the necessary funds as needed;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to finalize the process of development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

6. Reiterates its concern about the alarming state of conservation of the Hunting Baths and its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Pursue the development of a conservation strategy for the Hunting Baths, with urgent conservation measures aiming to preserve and protect the monument, and to seek the necessary technical and financial support in this regard,
 - b) Present the proposed conservation plan for the Hunting Baths to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - c) Continue to consult the Advisory Bodies with regard to restoration materials and techniques planned to be used at the Hunting Baths and the other archaeological remains at the property before their implementation;
7. Reiterates its concern about the issue of tidal flooding and continuous sea encroachment on the circus area and its request to the State Party to develop proposals with mitigation measures to address the issue, and to present the proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Continues to encourage the State Party to initiate the development of a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan for the property, and to pursue the development of a Management Plan, while seeking the necessary technical and financial support in this regard;
9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any on-going and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Recalling the previous invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate its state of conservation, encourages the mission to take place as soon as conditions permit;
12. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) (C 184)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)

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
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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 identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libya World Heritage properties

Previous monitoring missions
June 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban encroachment/Housing
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Land conversion
- Natural degradation
- Management System/Management Plan: absence of a management plan and a holistic conservation strategy
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country
- Other Threats: Excessive vegetation growth; Impact of humidity and seawater salt on stone masonry

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). No recent information of the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

Regrettably, the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its previous requests given the absence of updated information.

Following the ICOMOS technical review of studies undertaken at the Roman Theatre, no further information has been provided, including with regard to onsite investigations, establishing a sustainable

conservation strategy, or technical specifications and materials for conservation work. It is recommended to request the State Party to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding conservation projects at the property, including in terms of the materials and techniques to be used before their application. It is also recommended to reiterate the previous request to the State Party to continue keeping the Committee informed about the evolution of the situation at the property, and to inform it through the World Heritage Centre of any major planned restoration or construction project that may impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Reiterating the urgent need for a comprehensive management strategy, the State Party is strongly encouraged to prioritise the development of a Management Plan and to seek the necessary technical and financial support in this regard.

It is recommended that the Committee continue encouraging the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS concerning the definition of an appropriate buffer zone and the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines. It is also recommended that the State Party launch, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, the development of the retrospective Statement of OUV for its examination by the World Heritage Committee.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission remains crucial and should be undertaken as soon as conditions permit in order to evaluate the overall state of conservation of the property. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party initiates the process to develop the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Based on the above, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.35** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session, and expresses concern about the absence of relevant updated information;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible and to seek the necessary funds as needed;*
5. *Requests the State Party to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies with regard to any conservation projects planned at the property, including in terms of materials and techniques to be used before their application;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue to keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any ongoing and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may impact the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

7. Continues to encourage the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support and allocate the resources required for its implementation;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
10. Urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
11. Recalling the invitation by the State Party for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, encourages that the mission takes place as soon as conditions permit;
12. Continues to call for an increased mobilization by the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) (C 362bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (v)

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

Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7649>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7649>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7649>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties

Previous monitoring missions

January 1998: UNESCO mission; March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Conflict situation prevailing in the country
- Water (Torrential rains)
- Fire (Wildfires)
- Human resources
- Financial resources
- Management system/management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/documents/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, is presented in this report, as follows:

- A committee involving institutional stakeholders held a meeting in December 2023, to ensure clarity of mandates and tasks for implementing land use regulations within the property and buffer zone;
- The Management Plan has been reviewed and finalized, in accordance with the adopted retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), Minor Boundary Modification, and Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It has been submitted with a Risk Preparedness Plan;
- Annual budgets for 2007-2024 have been provided. The revised budget for 2024 is higher than in previous years, comprising allocations for implementing six projects. In 2023, no capital budget was approved, though the operational budget was higher than that of 2022, which enhanced maintenance works;
- Maintenance and monitoring efforts continue. The effects of the 2019 fire have been removed, conservation works at sites affected by rain in 2017 have been completed, while works for those affected by rain in 2019 has reached only 20% completion due to not having an approved capital budget between 2021 and 2023. Nevertheless, the situation does not pose any danger to individuals nor to the property;
- The Alaally building has been fully rehabilitated as a Visitor Centre, in collaboration with the 'Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage (MaLiCH)' project, funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH);
- Training workshops and cultural activities were conducted to enhance preservation efforts and promote the property;
- Widespread presence of green scale insects on palm leaves prompted immediate action. The situation was assessed revealing moderate to light infestation. Recommendations given include providing guidance to farmers, activating internal agricultural quarantine, and conducting spraying campaigns. Awaiting further steps from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, updates will be provided on progress and necessary procedures;

- Concerns are raised regarding the impact of climate change, with high temperatures (45-48°C) and unusual heavy rains, raising fears of potential severe damage.

The State Party has clarified that due to the absence of capital budget during the past two years, it has not been able to achieve the DSOCR, and hence, an extension of two years is needed. It also reiterated its request for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, confirming that no security violations have been reported in the area since 2011.

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

The efforts of the State Party and its commitment to ensure the protection of the property are commendable, despite funding constraints in the past two years.

The actions taken following the Committee's previous requests in terms of revision and finalization of the Management Plan, with a Risk Preparedness Plan, are welcomed. These documents have been reviewed by ICOMOS, which provides some advice to the State Party on further strengthening the Management Plan.

Projects focusing on the irrigation system, which is crucial for the property's maintenance and is one of the identified corrective measures, are presented in the Management Plan. They represent actions pertaining to '*revival and sustainability of the green area within the property and the buffer zone*', reflecting a good insight into the requirements. It is recommended that more information is provided about the implementation of these projects in terms of available resources, timeframe and progress achieved.

The estimated budgetary increase for 2024, with a capital budget allocation, is positive. The challenges in implementing corrective measures related to repair of damage to the built fabric are recognized, and it is hoped that works will accelerate in 2024. The State Party has submitted a request for International Assistance in December 2023 to support conservation work at the property. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre to develop the International Assistance request for its submission by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2024.

The rehabilitation of the Alaally Building into a Visitor Centre is a commendable undertaking, and the planned activities are anticipated to substantially contribute to the ongoing conservation, presentation and awareness raising efforts.

Valid concerns have been raised regarding infestation by green scale insects, threatening the palm groves, a main attribute of the property's OUV. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to monitor the implementation of its proposed remedial actions and provide further information about their efficacy.

The State Party has substantially progressed in the execution of corrective measures, and has recognized the need for the extension of the timeframe for implementation to complete conservation work at damaged buildings. It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the request and adopt a new timeframe with an extension of two years (until December 2025).

The pending joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission remains essential, to be carried out once conditions permit, with the purpose of assessing the overall state of conservation of the property and progress made in implementing corrective measures.

In the meantime, it is crucial that the State Party regularly informs the Committee on the evolution of the situation at the property, the implementation of corrective measures, and any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its call for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to pursue urgent conservation activities and implement risk prevention.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the important efforts made by the State Party in undertaking activities for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly those directed towards the implementation of corrective measures for the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted by the Committee, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard;
4. Notes with appreciation the finalization of a Management Plan for the property, with a Risk Preparedness Plan, taking into consideration the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical review, as well as incorporating action for the sustainability of green areas within the property and its buffer zone, and also requests the State Party to provide more information about the implementation of these projects in terms of available resources, timeframe and progress achieved;
5. Also notes with appreciation the amendment of land use regulations within the boundaries of the Old Town of Ghadames, to integrate the modified boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
6. Welcomes the completion of the fully rehabilitated Visitor Centre and capacity-building activities and further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the progress in this regard;
7. Further notes with appreciation the investigations undertaken by the State Party in response to the infestation by green scale insects in the palm groves, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement and monitor the proposed remedial actions and to provide further information about their efficacy;
8. Acknowledges the request by the State Party to extend the timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures and adopts a revised timeframe with a two-year extension;
9. Requests moreover that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out as soon as conditions permit in order to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and progress made in implementing corrective measures;
10. Requests the State Party to regularly inform the Committee on the evolution of the situation at the property, the implementation of corrective measures, and any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, to implement the corrective measures that have been identified;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. Decides to retain Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

24. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) (C 287)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)

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
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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 identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: June 2020, Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libya World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions
January 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Vandalism
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Human Resources
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country
- Illegal activities
- Management System/Management Plan: absence of a Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/>

Current conservation issues
The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). No recent information on the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

Given the absence of updated information since the last state of conservation report submitted by the State Party in February 2020, it is recommended that the Committee express concern about the lack of relevant information and reiterate its previous requests to the State Party. These include urging continued efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and the provision of information through the World Heritage Centre regarding any future major restoration or new conservation projects that may affect the property's OUV, including more detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The lack of a comprehensive Management Plan still raises a concern. It is important that the State Party be strongly encouraged to pursue this task and to seek the necessary technical and financial support to this end.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission requested by the Committee in previous sessions, and previously invited by the State Party, remains essential and should be undertaken as soon as conditions permit to assess the state of conservation of the property. Meanwhile, it is imperative for the State Party to initiate the process of developing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with a set of corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is also recommended that the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, initiates the development of the retrospective Statement of OUV, for its examination by the World Heritage Committee.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its call for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to pursue urgent conservation activities, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of Libyan cultural property.

Based on the above, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session, and expresses concern about the absence of relevant updated information;*
4. *Urges again the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in close coordination with local communities and civil society;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the provision of detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Invites again the State Party to continue pursuing the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property, seeking the necessary technical and financial support for its completion, and allocating the necessary resources for its implementation;*
7. *Recalls the invitation by the State Party for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and encourages it to take place as soon as conditions permit;*
8. *Also urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;*

9. *Further urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
10. *Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
11. *Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;*
12. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
13. ***Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

26. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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 identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1986-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 80,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 201,000 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2017: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission, February 2023: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Legal framework (Lack of definition of the buffer zone)
- Management System/ Management Plan (Lack of conservation and/or management plans)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Inappropriate restoration works)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)

Since 2013:

- Armed conflict (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Earthquake (February 2023 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks)
- Management System/ Management Plan (Need for a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 January 2024, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- The committee for the protection of the property, which is one of the committees chaired by the Governor, held inclusive workshops to foster the revival of the city, targeting the zones of high economic interest such as the suqs. It also completed the infrastructure plan that was subsequently approved by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and the rehabilitation of Madrasa Saif al-Dawla to be reused as a community centre, named 'Ancient City Manara' (Lighthouse), with the aim of providing legal and administrative support to residents (licenses, consultation, loans, etc.), displaying research and documentation material, as well as fostering and hosting cultural events;
- Suqs of al-Hadadin, al-Hibal, and al-Saqatiyya (eastern section) are rehabilitated, while work is on-going in suqs of al-Khaish, al-Attarin and al-Mahmas. More than 300 lighting devices were installed. Many shops reopened thanks to micro finance loans. Stakeholders include the Syria Trust for Development (STD), the Agha Khan Cultural Services - Syria (AKTC) and several international NGOs;
- Documentation, emergency consolidation and restoration work are progressing at Bayt Ghazaleh, Sahat al-Hatab, and al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education which is foreseen to become a four-star hotel;

- Restoration work is progressing at the Great Mosque, including at the northeastern corner (main gate, minaret, eastern prayer room), western and northern peristyles, western outer walls damaged by the earthquake of February 2023, as well as at the southern prayer hall including the wooden decoration;
- Post earthquake recovery work was undertaken at the Citadel's main gate (restoration of the entrance, defence tower, stair-step bridge), Ayyubid Mosque (documentation, studies and project elaboration) and at Bayt Ajiqbash. Out of 235 religious buildings, 140 (60%) have been damaged by the earthquake. Amongst the ones being restored are the mosques of al-Hadadine, al-Hilaliyya, al-Hamwi, al-Kizwani, al-Kamaliyya, al-Tawashi, Takiyya al-Mawlawiyya and Zawiya al-Hilaliyya. AKTC repaired damages in several restored suqs. UNDP is supporting the removal of 7,000 m³ of rubble and undertook survey and rapid damage assessment of 13,332 buildings.

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

The information and the numerous images provided in the State Party's report and its annexes reflect the continuous substantial efforts that are undertaken for the recovery of the property and the revival of economic life of the city. Significant progress has been made with the adoption of the infrastructure plan, the restoration and rehabilitation of additional sections in the suqs - also through financial support provided to shop owners - and the restoration of numerous historical buildings and mosques, including new sections at the Great Mosque. The impacts of the February 2023 earthquake are also being addressed, with a large-scale assessment of damage in the ancient city, the removal of debris, as well as consolidation and restoration works. Some matters previously raised by the Committee, such as whether structures are being stabilised and repaired, or dismantled and re-built, may potentially affect the authenticity and integrity of the property. The Committee may wish to remind the State Party of its obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. In this regard, major conservation works and new projects such as the proposed adaptation of the al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education to become a four-star hotel should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, which should form part of the documentation submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made.

The initiative of establishing a new structure, the 'Ancient City Manara' Centre, to provide legal and technical support to communities and foster the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage in Aleppo, is welcome as it further reinforces the management system that has progressively been put in place through committees, allowing civil society outreach.

Although significant information is provided on the activities undertaken, at this stage, it is not yet clear how the activities for the recovery of the property are planned in the longer term. Hence, it is recommended to reiterate to the State Party the need to afford priority to a reconstruction and recovery master plan and the elaboration of an updated management plan, to be developed in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

In the framework of its response to the impact of the earthquake, the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut undertook a second mission to the property from 10 to 15 July 2023. The mission aimed to identify seven monuments to be studied for intervention, rehabilitation and/or consolidation purposes. In particular, the mission carried out non-destructive testing on the citadel's main entrance tower and arch bridge in order to identify any structural disorders and provide recommendations for intervention.

Given the immense challenges of reconstruction and recovery at the property, the international community is to be encouraged to support the implementation of activities for the stabilization and recovery of the property.

Given the numerous actions carried out by the State Party, it is crucial that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as possible, in order to carry out a full assessment of the situation of the property. In this context, it would also be important to initiate the elaboration of a set of corrective measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

No information was provided on the creation of a buffer zone reported in 2021. It is recommended that the Committee recall again the need to submit a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage

Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, should any buffer zone delineation be agreed upon by stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.40** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Taking note of the assessment of damage inflicted by the 2023 February earthquake to the property, the removal of debris as well as the consolidation and restoration works undertaken,
4. Also taking note of the continued efforts towards the recovery of the property since December 2016 and in particular the significant progress made with the adoption of the infrastructure plan, the restoration and rehabilitation of additional sections in the suqs including financial support provided to shop owners, and the restoration of numerous historical buildings and mosques, including new sections at the Great Mosque, requests the State Party to report on the efforts to stabilize and consolidate the original fabric and architectural details, where possible, in preference to dismantling, and to using matching stone in repair and reconstruction works, and reiterates its encouragement to all stakeholders to continue their efforts towards the recovery of the property;
5. Welcomes the initiative of establishing a new entity, the 'Ancient City Manara' Centre, as a tool to reinforce the management system in place and to enhance coordination by providing legal and technical support to the civil society and fostering the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage in the city;
6. Noting that no information has been provided on how recovery activities are planned in a longer term, reiterates to the State Party the need to afford priority to a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan and the elaboration of an updated Management Plan, to be developed in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on major projects, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made, and specifically requests that this process be followed for the proposed adaptation of the al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education to become a four-star hotel;
8. Calls again on all States Parties to support the emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
9. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
10. Invites the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of

the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures, and timeframe for their implementation;

11. *Also noting the previously reported issuance of a regulation for the creation of a buffer zone, also reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2025**, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;*
12. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
13. ***Decides to retain Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

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

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

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

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1995-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 81,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain; USD 31,640 from the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken at this World Heritage property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Illegal Activities
- Housing

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (Damage of historic buildings due to the conflict)
- Illegal activities (illegal constructions following the start of the conflict and illegal excavations)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 January 2024, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/> and include updated information on progress in a number of conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- At the north-western tower of the Citadel/Theatre, the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) addressed structural fragilities and cracks resulting from deterioration over time and associated with historical ground movement. The work involved disassembly, numbering and sorting of stone and debris, and reassembly according to the principles of restoration set as follows: documentation and data collection, use of original material, respect to all historic periods, harmonious replacement of missing stones, collection of new data throughout the process;
- Façade cracks in the Madrasa Abû al-Fidâ have been repaired;
- Infrastructure works at the property are progressing to encourage the return of inhabitants. These include installing solar powered light columns (a project funded by the French Islamic Organization with the support of the Syrian Red Crescent and the Municipality of Bosra), digging wells for drinking water, and repairing roads and the sewage system, as well as electricity and water networks;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment is being prepared for the rehabilitation of the Kalybe monument (Cradle of the King's Daughter) in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and with the support of an international expert, prior to any decision about implementation;
- The property suffers from long-term neglect resulting from insufficient funding and lack of international support. Financial support is needed for site management and master plans.

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

The State Party has undertaken emergency consolidation and restoration work at the Citadel/Theatre and Madrasa Abû al-Fidâ, two monuments that presented structural instability. Several pictures are provided showing the state before and after restoration work. The repair works to the façade of the Madrasa Abû al-Fidâ are welcome. At the Citadel/Theatre, the State Party determined that cracks were too critical to be consolidated without dismantling and re-building. In addition, some vulnerable corner stones were replaced. Such an extensive intervention should not have proceeded without prior notification to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, which would have provided an opportunity for technical review and discussion to reach the most optimal approach. It would be appropriate to remind the State Party of the obligation to submit information on any proposal that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before works commence, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, along with a Heritage Impact Assessment following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The infrastructure improvement work undertaken at the property is welcome, as it contributes to the revival of the site and encourage the return of inhabitants.

The Committee previously requested, through Decision **45 COM 7A.46**, the State Party to continue emergency consolidation work at the property but to limit other restoration works, and to instigate preparation of a site management plan and master plan. The financial and human resource challenges facing the property, are acknowledged, but the management plan and the master plan remain key instruments and their absence raises queries regarding the rationale for decisions taken for ad-hoc

restoration works, and the sustainability of development projects. The Committee should encourage the State Party to consider initiation of a site management plan as a high priority. In the absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, the State Party should develop a detailed conservation intervention methodology for buildings and monuments, including principles and technical requirements, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Work on the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has been initiated remotely through collaboration between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the DGAM. An online technical meeting took place on 22 April 2024, with further meetings and substantial follow up planned for 2024, in order to develop the DSOCR with related corrective measures and present it to the 47th session of the Committee.

Given the previously reported extensive illicit excavation at the property, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the Member States of UNESCO to fulfil their obligations under international law, especially the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017.

Given the progress achieved in planning the recovery of the property, the previously requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission will be crucial as soon as the situation allows.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.41** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Taking note of the conservation work carried out to the Citadel/Theatre and at Madrasa Abū al-Fidā, encourages the State Party to develop a detailed conservation intervention methodology for buildings and monuments at the property, including principles and technical requirements, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before finalisation;*
4. *Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit information on any proposed project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and before the commencement of work, along with Heritage Impact Assessments, which should follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Welcomes the infrastructure work undertaken to contribute to the revival of the property and the return of inhabitants;*
6. *Acknowledging the financial and human resource challenge facing the property, recalls that the site management plan and the master plan remain key instruments for the adequate conservation and management, as well as decision-making on restoration and sustainable development, and also encourages the State Party to consider as a priority the initiation of steps for the development of a site management plan, addressing principles and strategies for the management of the property;*
7. *Also reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;*

8. *Calls again* on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
9. *Further encourages* the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and a set of correctives measures, for potential examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
10. *Further reiterates* the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
11. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. ***Decides to retain Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

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

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

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7685>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7685>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7685>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 186,050

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 10,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.
Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

Previous monitoring missions

March and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the King Faisal Street project; April 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Society valuing of heritage (Poor state of conservation)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Inappropriate restoration techniques)
- Legal framework (Lack of a buffer zone) (issue resolved)
- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of a management plan)
- Housing (Development projects threatening the emblematic historic fabric)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Development projects threatening the emblematic historic fabric) (issue resolved)

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (Damage due to the armed conflict)
- Other factors (Fire due to an electrical incident at al-Asrooniya and elsewhere in the property)
- Management activities (Lack of maintenance of the sewage system due to the conflict)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 January 2024, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>, and include updated information on progress in a number of conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- In October 2023, a project implemented by UNDP on early recovery planning was launched for the property. Five committees were formed through the project, which aims to arrive at an early recovery plan for nine neighbourhoods of the ancient city with the integrated participation of the local community, enhance inclusive participation in local decision-making processes, and engage a socially responsible private sector;
- The action plan for the 'digital transformation' project (2022-2025) includes four components with 25 actions, three of which relating to digital studies have been implemented;
- The goals of the Master Plan entitled 'Integrated Plan for the Preservation and Development of the Ancient City of Damascus' include developing a long-term strategy for sustainably integrating and developing the property within its larger context, protecting it from development pressures, encouraging participatory planning, controlling and undertaking rehabilitation works, applying restoration and reconstruction standards also for neighbouring historical districts, providing traditional building material and training craftsmen, developing tourism activities in relation with the historical values of the property, maintaining environmental integrity (reduction of water, air and noise pollution) and raising awareness among communities;
- Under the supervision of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), restoration was undertaken at several monuments, including at al-Sibaei, Qwatli, Nizam and al-Azem Palaces, at al-Jieenia Mausoleum and Khan Assaad Pasha, as well as at Beit Abdulrahman Pasha al-Yusuf;
- Further details have been provided on the restoration and adaptation project relaunched in 2021 for Khan Suleiman Pasha, a building owned by the Municipality of Damascus, which is to be converted into a five-star hotel. Excavations revealed archaeological levels that were documented and partly showcased;
- The International Youth Chamber and the Ministry of Industry organized an exhibition featuring more than 20 traditional crafts and the Crafts Support Committee provided a three-month free training course.

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

The State Party has continued to engage in an integrated and ambitious recovery phase, through the early recovery planning project and the 'digital transformation' project, by which numerous activities

aimed at sustainably developing the property are planned and being implemented. Driven by strong participatory approach and largely targeting the involvement and benefit of communities, the initiatives are welcome.

The Committee previously requested the State Party to provide further information on how the digital transformation project and comprehensive development plan are linked with the overall Master Plan to ensure the long terms sustainable development of the City, and to inform the World Heritage Centre once the Master Plan is approved. It is understood that the committee in charge of developing the Master Plan is being formed, and that the plan would address major issues, such as building control, rehabilitation works, and maintaining historical and environmental integrity, notably by establishing restoration standards, promoting craftsmanship and the provision of traditional construction materials, and carrying out restoration works. This integrated plan is likely to become a major instrument for the preservation of the property, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a draft version of the plan, that is in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies before finalization, to ensure that the city's development contributes to the well-being of communities and to the conservation of cultural heritage.

As requested in Decision **45 COM 7A.42**, the State Party submitted further information on the rehabilitation of Khan Suleiman Pasha, supported by illustrative material. The study for the implementation of a rehabilitation project was conducted in 2011, while works were only initiated in 2021, integrating the impact of recent damage owing to further deterioration over time, and worsened by sewage leakage, in addition to taking into consideration archaeological remains that were revealed during works. Although the quality of repair and restoration works undertaken appear appropriate, it is regrettable that this project was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies before the works were commenced, as certain recommendations may have been timely provided, notably for the central court and dome. No information has been submitted on the implications of the proposed hotel conversion of this significant building, which should be separately reported and subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), that is submitted and reviewed by ICOMOS before the hotel conversion works proceed. More generally, it would be appropriate to remind the State Party again of the obligation to submit, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, information on any proposal that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse and before any further works commence, along with a HIA that follows the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Substantial progress is being achieved towards the implementation of the corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). In particular, this pertains to the management system, and the planning for enhanced building control and restoration. However, the State Party report does not include either a systematic update on progress with the adopted corrective measures and achievement of the DSO CR, or a specific response to each of the requests made by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.42**. The State Party should be encouraged and requested to report to the World Heritage Centre on the achievements of these measures by providing a table that sets out evidence for each corrective measure that has been implemented. The State Party should also be reminded of the need to address and report on the Committee's decisions.

Given the progress achieved in resuming regular conservation and management work at the property, it remains crucial that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission take place as soon as the situation allows, to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.42** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the progress accomplished in planning the recovery of the property, notably through the projects for early recovery planning and 'digital transformation', which are driven by strong participatory approach and largely targeting the involvement and benefit of communities, and through which numerous activities are being planned and implemented in view of sustainably developing the property;
4. Welcomes with satisfaction that the committee in charge of developing the Master Plan for the property is being formed, noting that this plan will address major issues related to the preservation of the property such as building control, rehabilitation works, and maintaining historical and environmental integrity, notably by establishing restoration standards, promoting craftsmanship and the provision of traditional construction materials, and carrying out restoration works;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a draft version of the integrated plan for the preservation and development in the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before finalization, to ensure that the city's development contributes to the well-being of communities and to the conservation of cultural heritage;
6. Welcoming the information provided on the rehabilitation of Khan Suleiman Pasha, as previously requested, and while acknowledging the quality of the reported restoration work for the most part, nevertheless regrets that the project was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies before works commenced, and also requests that prior to proceeding with the conversion of this structure to become a five star hotel, a comprehensive set of project documentation, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;
7. Reminds the State Party to submit information on any proposed project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and before the commencement of work, along with HIAs, which should all follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Also reminds the State Party of the obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee and, in relation to Decision **45 COM 7A.42** notably, encourages the State Party to seek funding support for the elaboration of the Management Plan, prepared in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), which remains a crucial tool for the adequate long-term management of the property;
9. Commends the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and in particular with regard to the management system, and planning for enhanced building control and restoration, and further requests the State Party to report on the achievements of corrective measures by providing a table that sets out evidence for each implemented corrective measure that has been implemented;

10. Reiterates its calls upon the international community to support the conservation of the property;
11. Reiterates its request that the invited World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

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

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

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 identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2007)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain.

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Legal framework (Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes)
- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Housing (Development or infrastructure projects)
- Management System/Management Plan (Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan)

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Illegal activities (Use of ancient stones as building material, illegal constructions and excavations, use of the sites by internally displaced people)
- Military training (Use of the sites by armed groups)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Quarrying
- Land conversion
- Earthquake (February 2023 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 January 2024, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>, and include very brief information about the property and its state of conservation, as follows:

- Access to the property is still extremely limited and consequently, the extent of the damage cannot be assessed;
- Extensive damage has been reported by the media at the monastery buildings and fortress structures at Qala't Sem'an, in the archaeological park of Jebel Sem'an, due to the February 2023 earthquake.

No further information is provided in the State Party report.

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

The State Party confirms some of the information provided by third parties last year that there has been damage to Qal'at Sem'an caused by the February 2023 earthquake, with no new details provided.

Reports previously received from third parties included photographs of collapsed walls and ceilings, and cracks in walls at the archaeological parks of Jebel Zawiye, Jebel al-A'la, Jebel Barisha, Jebel Wastani and Jebel Sem'an, which is when the collapse of an arch of the western basilica at Qal'at Sem'an was first reported.

Owing to the inaccessibility of the property and ongoing conflict in the region, very little substantive new information has been reported since the 41st session of the Committee in 2017, other than sporadic third part reports and examination of satellite imagery. This lack of verifiable information about the state of conservation of the property remains a great source of concern, which has been aggravated by the lack of detailed information related to the impact of the 2023 earthquake.

A full detailed on-site assessment of the damage remains essential to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and to identify the measures needed for ensuring its conservation and protection. Such assessment should be undertaken as soon as the security situation allows. In due course, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) would need to be developed and the associated set of corrective measures identified.

Given the previously reported illicit excavation at the property, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the Member States of UNESCO to fulfil their obligations under international law, especially the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.43** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Remains greatly concerned about the situation at the property, which does not allow for an overall assessment of its state of conservation, and the lack of sufficient available information on damage, including the impact of the February 2023 earthquake;
4. Calls again on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the property, including through its use for military or other purposes;
5. Also reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;
6. Also calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
7. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the security situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
9. **Decides to retain Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Adopted, see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8207/>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8207/>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8207/>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 65,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount: 200,000 Euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 Euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain; USD 139,609 from the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of conservation and/or management plans)
- Management activities (Inappropriate restoration works)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)
- Quarrying (Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties)

Since 2011:

- Armed conflict (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Cable car project at Qal'at Salah El-Din) (issue resolved)
- Earthquake

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 January 2024, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges with conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- At Crac des Chevaliers, and with the support of the Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, through the Saint Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee, restoration and reconstruction of the northern façade of the southern stable (northern wall overlooking the moat) has been undertaken. Other works have been carried out such as the restoration of a door lintel in the inner castle and an entrance pillar at the hall of the knights. The vault of the cistern in the inner courtyard, identified as a priority in the 'First phase of the Master Plan for the site of Crac des Chevaliers' report is also being restored and reconstructed;
- The area previously excavated in the dormitories has been secured by guardrails;
- The Syrian-Hungarian mission stabilized the frescoes in the chapel and removed the scaffolding (thereby completing the final phase of these works);
- Information on the impacts of the February 2023 earthquake at both castles is provided. At Crac des Chevaliers, the wall connecting the Commander's and the Knights' Towers has partially collapsed, preexisting cracks between Towers no.101 and no.114 (Eastern entrance) have widened and other cracks appeared on the arched entrance of Tower no.146, as well as on the eastern wall adjacent to the chapel. The upper section of Bint al-Malik Tower partially collapsed and is still at risk, stones collapsed at Tower no.137 north of al-Zahir Baybars Tower and at the Commander's Tower, causing structural risks. At Qal'at Salah El-Din, where structures were

already impacted by continuous degradation, cracks appeared in the eastern defense wall, at the defense wall located north of the Royal Tower, and existing cracks widened and/or extended;

- Identifying funding for the emergency rehabilitation work as well as for structural maintenance remains a challenge.

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

Following the online workshop of 12 April 2023, organized to exchange on the restoration of the stable and counterscarp walls, which was considered to be the most urgent priority owing to structural instability, further information and documentation were exchanged with the State Party, including a technical review by ICOMOS provided in June 2023. The review concluded that the presented documents were informative and compelling and the need for physical intervention was acknowledged, but ICOMOS advised that the works should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as the intervention extends beyond regular conservation and the optimal approach should be identified. Due to the limited timeframe for funds allocated to implementation, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) decided to proceed with the work taking into consideration the ICOMOS recommendations.

In parallel to the execution of works, training on the elaboration of HIAs in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context was delivered by an international expert, taking the stable wall project as a case study. While regretting that the HIA was not submitted before the implementation of the project, the Committee could welcome the opportunity provided for reinforced dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, as well as the capacity building sessions which support application of the methodology at World Heritage sites in Syria in future. A post-works HIA for the stable and counterscarp project and HIAs for other major interventions at the monument, are being prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party did not submit an updated Minor Boundary Modification proposal that would take into consideration the recommendations of Decision **45 COM 8B.67**, but could therefore be encouraged to provide this to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2025.

The State Party is also encouraged to continue engaging in strategic partnerships and to seek further international support and funding in order to progress in the implementation of the corrective measures at both component sites of the property.

Some progress has been made towards the implementation of the corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, the State Party report does not include either a systematic update on progress with the adopted corrective measures and achievement of the DSOCR, or a specific response to each of the requests made by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.44**. The State Party should be encouraged and requested to report to the World Heritage Centre by providing a table that sets out evidence for each corrective measure that has been implemented. The State Party should also be reminded of the need to address and report on the Committee's Decisions.

It remains crucial that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission take place as soon as the situation allows, to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.44** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. While regretting that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was not submitted before the implementation of the project for the restoration of the stable and counterscarp walls, welcomes the opportunity provided for enhanced dialogue with the World Heritage

Centre and ICOMOS, as well as the opportunity provided by the capacity building sessions which support application of the methodology on major interventions at World Heritage in Syria in the future, and encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the HIAs for other major interventions at the property, as planned;

4. Takes notes of the results of works for the restoration and reconstruction of the stable and counterscarp walls, as well as the consolidation and stabilization measures implemented for several other structures at the Crac des Chevaliers;
5. Also encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts for establishing strategic partnerships and seeking international support for the conservation of the property;
6. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
7. Reminds the State Party of the obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee, and further encourages the State Party to report on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures in view of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by providing a table that sets out evidence for each corrective measure implemented;
8. Encourages furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated Minor Boundary Modification proposal that would take into consideration the recommendations of its previous Decision (45 COM 8B.67), aimed at strengthening the protection of Qal'at Salah El-Din;
9. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. Decides to retain Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

32. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Corrective measures identified

Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1989-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 111,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 38,543 by the Flemish Government, USD 18,560 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund, USD 21,000 by the Government of the Netherlands

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Temperature change (Serious weathering of many stone blocks due to capillary rising and variations in humidity and temperature)
- Housing (Urban growth of the neighbouring agglomeration)
- Ground transport infrastructure (International tarmac road crosses the site, heavy automobile and truck traffic inducing vibrations, pollution, and risk of accidents)
- Major linear utility (Pipeline crossing the southern necropolis)
- Localized utility (Brightly-coloured antenna on hill)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Construction of a hotel close to the thermal springs)
- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of a management plan)

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (Destruction due to the armed conflict since March 2011)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Perilous condition of the portico of the Temple of Bel and the Triumphal Arch)
- Illegal activities (illegal excavations)
- Financial resources (Lack of adequate funding for urgent conservation initiatives)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 January 2024, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges relating to some of the conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- Following the workshop 'Visions and Methodologies for the Restoration and Reconstruction of the Arch of Triumph in Palmyra' that took place in May 2023, and the submission of the project to the international scientific Task Force and the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, remote preparatory works have started with testing of certain conservation methods. This research phase aims at ensuring quality performances and swift action during the phase of dismantlement, consolidation and reassembly that will be carried out once high-precision equipment is in place;

- In July 2023, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) in cooperation with the Russian Volunteer Expeditionary Corps started the restoration of the Theatre *proscenium* wall (*pulpitum* and *scaenae frons*). The first phase includes documenting stones and debris, systematically sorting debris and analysing the stability of the platform. The second phase will consist in undertaking restoration work while following international standards;
- In January 2024, the DGAM submitted a detailed list of identified attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as part of the work carried out of the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

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

The technical review carried out by ICOMOS for the proposed project for the restoration and reconstruction of the Triumphal Arch highlighted the exemplary background documentation and impact analysis that has been submitted. It supported the justification of the proposed restoration of this monument, in scientific terms and in relation to the potential impact on OUV. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee, while commending the documents provided, welcomes the implementation of the project that provides a model for other restoration works at the property, as well as at other archaeological sites in Syria. On 4 April 2024, the DGAM organized an online meeting to present to the international scientific Task Force the first results of the research phase.

Regarding the work initiated at the Theatre, it is important to recall that DGAM carried out previous restoration works at the Theatre between 1985 and 1990 and that these included the restoration of the *pulpitum* and of the *scaenae frons* and its 35 columns bearing rich decorations. The current restoration project is addressing part of the same architectural features. It is recommended to request the State Party to provide further information on outcomes of the first phase of work on documentation and investigation and the proposed methodology for the second phase on restoration to indicate how this follows the model developed for the Triumphal Arch, before any implementation work commences, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Two online meetings, organized on 13 December 2022 and 17 July 2023, as well as substantial follow up with the State Party, allowed to progress in the elaboration of the DSOCR, recommended for adoption in the draft Decision below.

Numerous documents including before/after images have been submitted in the process of developing a DSOCR, present the consolidation and restoration work undertaken at the property. It has also been underlined that the lack of sufficient financial and human resources limited progress in a number of issues, including documenting several destroyed or damaged attributes and initiating an integrated Conservation Management Plan. The documents also clarify that cooperation has been established by the DGAM with the Ministry of Tourism, the Governorate of Homs and the Municipality, in order to put in place a management system to control the implementation of urban and landscape protection regulations, the expansion of the contemporary city, and tourism infrastructure development, as well as strict traffic management measures within and around the site.

Given the previously reported extensive illicit excavation at the property, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the Member States of UNESCO to fulfil their obligations under international law, especially the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017.

Given the progress achieved at the property, the previously requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission is to be organized as soon as the situation allows.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.45 and 45 COM 7A.46 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*

3. *Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;*
4. *Commending the exemplary background documentation and impact analysis submitted for the project on restoration and reconstruction of the Triumphal Arch, which provides a model for other restoration works at the property and other archaeological sites in Syria, welcomes the progress made towards the implementation of the project;*
5. *Taking note of the first phase of a restoration project at the Theatre, which includes emergency measures, documentation and stability studies, requests the State Party to provide further information on the outcomes of this phase as well as the proposed restoration methodology for the second phase that clearly follows the model developed for the Triumphal Arch prior to commencing implementation work, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to continue to submit detailed information on any major project within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also taking note of the cooperation established to put in place a management system to control urban and landscape protection regulations, the expansion of the contemporary city, and tourism infrastructure development, as well as strict traffic management measures within and around the site, recalls that the elaboration of the Conservation Management Plan, whose preparation was previously reported, remains crucial to inform restoration decisions and ensure coordination among stakeholders;*
8. *Takes note with satisfaction of the works undertaken for the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of correctives measures, and adopts the following DSOCR, corrective measures and timeframe:*
 - a) *Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):*
 - (i) *The property as a whole is in a safe and secure state,*
 - (ii) *The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that have been damaged have been preliminary assessed, documented and secured,*
 - (iii) *Methodologies have been defined, approved and implemented for the manner in which work on documentation, conservation, restoration and reconstruction is agreed upon and taken forward, and on-site work is initiated,*
 - (iv) *Appropriate management is in place at the local, regional and national level,*
 - b) *Corrective measures:*
 - (i) *Improving accessibility and security, by removal of land mines, and addressing identified threats, to allow safe passage of people in the property,*
 - (ii) *Protecting monuments/cultural artifacts from direct threats,*
 - (iii) *Undertaking urgent emergency measures at monuments damaged by the conflict and at further risk, through preliminary assessment, documentation and stabilization,*

- (iv) *Establishing, approving and implementing methodologies for documentation, assessment, conservation, restoration and reconstruction, that are all based on the methodology implemented for the Triumphal Arch,*
 - (v) *Developing conservation plans for damaged attributes, and defining priorities for their implementation,*
 - (vi) *Recovery of objects and statuary damaged during the conflict,*
 - (vii) *Reinstating the relationship between the City of Palmyra (Tadmor) with the property and surroundings, and rehabilitation of the oasis,*
 - (viii) *Setting up of a management system, including a management plan, and facilities to ensure the adequate management of the property and its buffer zone, including through the integration of the City of Palmyra (Tadmor) and the oasis,*
- c) *Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures by end of 2027;*
9. *Calls upon the international community to support the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;*
10. *Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;*
11. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
12. ***Decides to retain Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

34. Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen) (C 1700)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2023-present

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

- Collateral and deliberate damage related to the armed conflict
- Vandalism and looting
- Development pressures related to population growth in the area of Ma'rib city
- Environmental factors having negative impact on the archaeological sites

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 identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1700/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1700/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
Factors affecting the property identified at the time of inscription:

- Collateral and deliberate damage related to the armed conflict
- Vandalism and looting
- Development pressures related to population growth in the area of Ma'rib city
- Environmental factors having negative impact on the archaeological sites

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1700/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1700/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session is presented as follows:

- Unstable conditions continue to prevent the local authorities from implementing field inspections and projects. Despite ongoing contact with donors and international organizations regarding research funding, the prevalence of armed conflict and the unsecure situation, particularly in the component of the city of Sirwah, are discouraging project implementation;
- In the absence of fences to improve site control, the State Party is reporting increased damages at the property;
- Lack of available budget, training, and limited availability of skilled human resources, has created additional challenges for the conservation and preservation of the property;
- Engagement initiatives with the local community will be important in an effort to raise awareness;
- Correctives measures to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) are suggested in the State Party's report.

The State Party ensures that no encroachment took place within the boundaries of the property since its inscription in early 2023, and the current laws are still enforced. According to the report, most of the sites in the Marib Oasis are in a good security situation, and suitable for implementing projects.

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

Despite the evident instability and security conditions prevailing in Yemen, non-field actions such as urban master plan revision, scientific coordination and archiving, conservation strategy and capacity building are strongly recommended to the State Party.

All recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the site (Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.3**) are still in need of application and should be recalled.

There is still a lack of detailed and comprehensive information about the state of conservation of the property. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to submit, when conditions allow, detailed documentation on all damage incurred at the World Heritage property. The required information should include systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics, quantitative data and the identification of potential risks.

The Committee may also wish to advise for all future interventions to be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks, and for a comprehensive Conservation Plan to be prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is important to recall that any elements found at the property and resulting from conflict-related damage such as intentional destructions, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, and that the boundaries of the property be protected from illegal excavations and looting.

The State Party has invited a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as recommended by the Committee in Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.3**. It is recommended that this mission take place once conditions allow.

The Committee is advised to appeal to States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Yemen and to contribute towards the safeguarding of its cultural heritage.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.3**, adopted at its 18th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the efforts of the State Party in providing an informative report, with indications on the damage and challenges incurred, as well as in seeking partnerships and support for funding;*
4. *Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations outlined at the time of inscription, as follows:*
 - a) *Halting the implementation of the 2018 Master Plan until a full assessment has been undertaken, through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), of its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its setting, and, based on the results of the HIA, undertaking necessary revisions of the Plan,*
 - b) *Reinstating funding for management and conservation,*
 - c) *Developing as a matter of urgency risk preparedness plans for each component part of the property, to address vandalism and looting as well as overall protection,*
 - d) *Including local tribes as traditional custodians of the component parts in the management and protection of the property to ensure buy-in from local communities and prevent potential conflicts,*
 - e) *Extending protection measures onto the post-Sabaeen vernacular architecture in the ancient cities of Ma'rib and Sirwah, as part of the safeguarding of the historic and traditional context of the property, and involving local populations in the protection and management of these heritage resources,*
 - f) *Completing an inventory of Sabaeen monuments and sites,*

- g) *Enhancing the coordination of inputs from varied research institutions and international agencies to ensure that there is no duplication of work or resources and to maximise and sustain the initiatives aimed at capacity-strengthening, knowledge production, protection, and management of the property,*
 - h) *Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects (including fencing) which may affect the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to submit, when conditions allow, detailed documentation on all damage incurred at the property, comprising systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics, quantitative data and identification of potential risks;*
 6. *Recommends that the State Party undertake protection and urgent stabilization work only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention, and that future interventions shall be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive Conservation Plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
 7. *Reminds the State Party that any elements found at the property and resulting from conflict-related damage such as intentional destruction, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, and the boundaries of the property protected from illegal excavations and looting;*
 8. *Also notes with appreciation the invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and also requests that the mission take place once conditions allow, in order to report on the overall state of conservation of the property; to assess the protection of the property and its buffer zone, and consider the effectiveness of the property's boundaries; and to advise on the development of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures;*
 9. *Calls on all Member States of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
 10. *Appeals to States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Yemen and to contribute towards the safeguarding of its cultural heritage;*
 11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session,*
 12. ***Decides to retain Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

35. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

36. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

39. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0 (from 2017-2017)
Total amount approved: USD 30,000
For details, see page <https://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 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 26,232 for technical support to Nan Madol, Micronesia (List of World Heritage in Danger) from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions
January 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (Legislation LB392 not yet passed and implemented)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Management system not extended enough; Lack of a risk preparedness strategy as well as of a comprehensive tourism strategy into the management plan)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition (Need to remove silt from the waterways without jeopardizing possible cultural layers on the sea floor)

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

Current conservation issues

On 14 February 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/>, presenting the following information:

- The borders to Pohnpei opened in October 2022, allowing progress with tasks to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, but opportunities at other development project have restricted worker availability;
- Vegetation removal has progressed, funded by the US Office of Insular Affairs (Department of Interior) 'Technical Assistance Program' (TAP) and Pohnpei State Tourism Authority and has focused on five islets and the canal. Funding for further ongoing vegetation management has been obtained from the US Forest Service, whose arborist has provided advice on intrusive tree removal;
- Further work is required to remove sludge and excess sediment in the canals. An emerging issue is growth of mangroves and seaweed in the lagoon near Pahnwi Islet. There has been some suggestion of reconstruction of stone structures, which is not being pursued owing to concerns that they are sacred, and practical challenges. A tentative plan was prepared for a walkway through mangroves to Nan Dowas;
- Legislation LB392, which would protect the property and establish the Nan Madol Trust, has not been passed and a workshop to progress the legislation is yet to occur, but Pohnpeian customs, traditions, and sociopolitical system continue to be respected;
- The proposed Property Manager has not been appointed, pending revenue from foreign visitation, but an Administrative Officer is acting in that capacity;
- The Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the property, site Management Plan, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan have been prepared, but are not formally adopted, pending arrangements for the Nan Madol Historic Preservation Trust and Board;
- The Visitor Centre is complete, with funding from Japan, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Congress, and the Pohnpei Tourism Office, the design and production of the exhibits in the Visitor Centre were made possible by the United States of America' State Department 'Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Large Grant Program', FSM National Government, State of Pohnpei Division of Resources and Development, and the U.S. National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund. Activities were carried out by the Pohnpei State Government, the FSM Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation (FSM NACH), and Cultural Site Research and Management (CSR/M) Foundation. However, it has not yet opened;
- The tourism resort on Nahnningi Island, within the buffer zone of the property, continues to be constructed, including commencement of a meeting house/conference centre, despite a request to stop work. Issues raised in a 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review have not been addressed. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is in progress;
- Processes for HIA will be developed by the FSM NACH;
- The Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has not yet been drafted, but State Party understands there are four matters which endanger Nan Madol and need to be addressed in the Desired state of conservation process, namely: (1) Erosion and siltation/ deposition, (2) Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation, (3) Legal framework, and (4) Management systems/management plan, and (4) Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation. Brief commentary has been provided on each of these issues.

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

There has been some progress with actions directed at managing the property and protecting attributes which support its OUV, including removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation, with support provided by the US Forest Service, US Office of Insular Affairs (Department of Interior) TAP and Pohnpei State Tourism Authority. Nevertheless, the rate of deterioration remains concerning and vegetation management and clearing of canals, and a system for monitoring the health of mangroves areas require ongoing implementation and resourcing. The completion of the Visitor Centre, with support from the government of Japan, is welcome, and should contribute to the quality of visitor experiences.

Continuing collaboration with the CSRM is of great benefit, and preparation of the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation, the site Management Plan, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan are significant achievements which are unfortunately diminished by the fact that political and organizational processes have prevented their formal adoption. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to report on progress with implementing these important documents.

The legal protection system for the property is not yet in place, despite the State Party's previous assurances. The passing of the law LB392, which would protect the property and establish the Nan Madol Trust, has been outstanding since the property was inscribed in the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger in 2016. The crucial position of 'Property Manager' remains vacant despite repeated commitments.

It is of great concern that construction work for a tourism resort on Nahnningi Island, within the buffer zone of the property, has continued and been expanded to include a meeting house/conference centre, despite a request from the State Party that works cease. Work on this project should halt and the entirety of the project should be reviewed following completion of a HIA prepared in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. The fact that this project has proceeded despite significant concerns raised in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review, a specific Decision of the Committee, and the State Party's own request, calls into question the effectiveness of the protection system for the property, which is part of its OUV.

The ongoing ascertained and potential threats to attributes which support the OUV of the property, and continued absence a draft DSOCR, with associated corrective measures, suggest that further support is required. It is therefore suggested that the elaboration of the DSOCR be initiated remotely through collaboration between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the representatives of the State Party, with the aim of presenting it and related corrective measures to the 47th session of the Committee. Once the DSOCR has been adopted and the corrective measures have been implemented, it may be appropriate to consider a future joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission review the state of conservation of the property.

Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.53** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes progress with some actions to manage the property and protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation, completion of the Visitor Centre with support from the governments of Japan and the United States of America, and preparation of the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the property, site Management Plan, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan, with support from the Cultural Site Research and Management (CSRM) Foundation, and also welcomes support for past and future conservation work provided by the US Forest Service, US Office of Insular Affairs (Department of Interior) 'Technical Assistance Program' (TAP) and Pohnpei State Tourism Authority, and requests the State Party to

report on the process and actions being taken to adopt and implement the three above-mentioned plans;

4. Notes with concern that there has been only limited progress in addressing matters which are essential to the state of conservation of the property, including statutory protection, adoption of the proposed management system for the property, and appointing a Property Manager, despite previous assurances by the State Party, the conclusion of the border and travel restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and previous requests by the Committee; and therefore reiterates again its previous request to the State Party to address and implement previously identified matters of high priority, including:
 - a) Continuing implementation of vegetation management actions and clearing mangroves from the main canals,
 - b) Appointing and establishing a long-term commitment to the post of 'Property Manager',
 - c) Finalising and approving legislation LB392 to provide essential legal protection to the property and establish the Nan Madol Trust or an appropriate managing authority for Nan Madol,
 - d) Adopting the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the Nan Madol World Heritage Site, the site Management Plan and the Sustainable Tourism Plan,
 - e) Establishing processes for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, as part of the management system,
 - f) Preparing and submitting a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their completion, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also reiterates its concern that the development of a proposed tourism resort on Nahnningi Island, within the buffer zone of the property has continued and expanded to include a new meeting house/conference centre, despite a request to stop work and before an HIA was prepared, and that the issues raised in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review have not been addressed, and further reiterates its request that the State Party ensure that construction is halted and that an HIA is prepared, in conformity with the aforementioned Guidance, and provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before work resumes;
6. Further reiterates its request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, including HIAs carried out according to the aforementioned Guidance, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the approval and/or implementation of any project, including construction of new walkways, and significant conservation programmes;
7. Considers that the OUV of the property remains subject to both ascertained and potential danger from: Inadequate protection and management system, including lack of long-promised legislation and an adopted Management Plan; Physical and biological impacts including overgrowth of vegetation and stonework collapse; Effects of storm surges; Erosion and siltation/ deposition; and Impacts of visitation;
8. Also requests the State Party to initiate remote elaboration of the DSOCR, a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their completion remotely through collaboration

between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the representatives of the State Party, with the aim of presenting the DSOCR and related corrective measures to the 47th session of the Committee;

9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;*
10. ***Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

40. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

41. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1993-2007, 2010-present

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

The property was re-inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, on the request of the State Party, due to concerns that the property's aquatic ecosystem continues to deteriorate, in particular as a result of:

- Alterations of the hydrological regime (quantity, timing, and distribution of Shark Slough inflows)
- Adjacent urban and agricultural growth (flood protection and water supply requirements that affect the property's resources by lowering water levels)
- Increased nutrient pollution from upstream agricultural activities
- Significant reduction of both marine and estuarine biodiversity in Florida Bay

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1062>

Updated, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1062>

Updated, see pages <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348> and <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4958/>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 1999: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2006: IUCN participation in a technical workshop to identify benchmarks and corrective measures; January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (Quantity and quality of water entering the property)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)
- Surface water pollution and Pollution of marine waters (Agricultural fertilizer pollution, Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife)

- Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife
- Water infrastructure (lowered water levels due to flood control measures)
- Storms (Damage from hurricanes)
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species (exotic invasive plant and animal species)
- Adverse impact of the planned extension of the SR 836 / Dolphin Expressway on the Greater Everglades wetland ecosystem
- Increasing impacts of climate change

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was not requested by the World Heritage Committee until its 47th session in 2025 (Decision **45 COM 7A.17**). This decision was based on the view expressed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in 2013 that the implementation of the corrective measures and the improvement of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) will require more time.

On 29 January 2024, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on the proposed extension of the Florida State Highway known as SR 836/Dolphin Expressway, in response to the request of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **45 COM 7A.17**) for examination at its 47th session. The report states that the proposed extension has been challenged in the State Division of Administrative Hearings Court for planning inconsistency with the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan. As of April 2024, the expected decision is still pending.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The submission of the updated report on the SR 836/Dolphin Expressway Road extension project is acknowledged, noting that the project is temporarily halted due to a legal challenge in the State Division of Administrative Hearings Court for planning inconsistency with the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan, which is pending a decision. The State Party will provide further updates in its next report to the Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend to the World Heritage Committee that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.17** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Acknowledges the submission of the updated report on the proposed SR 836/Dolphin Expressway Road extension project, and takes note that the project is temporarily halted due to a legal challenge in the State Division of Administrative Hearings Court for planning inconsistency with the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan, for which a decision is pending;*
4. *Recalls its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2024** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;*
5. ***Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1982-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 223,628

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

November 1995 and October 2000: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2003, 2006 and 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2017: Advisory mission facilitated by the World Heritage Centre

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities (settlements, livestock grazing and agricultural encroachment, drug trafficking, logging, commercial fishing, poaching and wildlife trade)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Land conversion (deforestation and forest degradation)
- Legal framework (lawlessness and lack of law enforcement)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of clarity of the boundaries of the property, lack of clarity regarding land tenure and access to natural resources)
- Water infrastructure (potential impacts from hydroelectric development projects Patuca I, II and III)

- Overlap with important archaeological sites implying a need to harmonize management of cultural and natural heritage

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/>

Current conservation issues

On 7 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents>, providing the following information:

- The area affected by new deforestation evolved from 5,358 hectares (ha) in 2021-2022 to 1,790 ha during 2022-2023, representing a 66% reduction;
- A remote sensing early warning system has been implemented to identify deforestation and inform control. Forest rangers and technical staff have been hired, an inter-institutional control post and military outpost, and coordination with the Honduran Armed Forces for the green battalion initiative, have been established to monitor and control illegal activities;
- Jaguars are monitored. To reduce conflicts between jaguars and cattle farms near the forest, and feline deaths, a project has been developed to put in place electric fences, other anti-depredation measures and local capacity-building;
- A Management Committee for the Management and Conservation of the Reserve has been formed, including youth, indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial council representation;
- Alliances with non-governmental organizations have been established for training and hiring of community forest rangers, alongside the creation of the Inter-institutional Subcommittee for land tenure and protection of territories and natural resources;
- In total, 394,391 ha have been titled to indigenous peoples and Afro-Hondurans in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve. This includes the entirety of the terrestrial area of the cultural zone of the Reserve, as well as 8,238 ha of the buffer zone, which includes the entire territories of Pech de Jocomico and Culuco, and partially the Misquito territory of Rayaka and the Pech territory of Las Marías;
- For regularization of land tenure in the buffer zone, the State Party has committed to establishing the Family Usufruct Maintenance Unit to oversee the coordination of usufruct contracts in the property. A total of 157 contracts have been established, while 7 new contracts were established for the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve. A total of 51 contracts were established (from 2019 to 2023) within the boundaries of the property, while 13 contracts are still pending;
- Prior to initiating a Significant Boundary Modification process, resources are focussed on efforts to consolidate broader management and governance frameworks and designate protected areas in the vicinity of the property, notably through the Renewed Vision for Conservation and Defence of the Moskitia;
- The Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) is in commercial operation, progressing on the 108 compulsory environmental mitigation measures and beginning implementing the Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS) for the project. The State Party indicates that an Advisory mission is necessary to advise on the actions to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in relation to the dam's operation.
- Proposals to modify the indicators for the Desired state of conservation of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) are presented.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The strengthened and ongoing inter-institutional efforts to address illegal activity in the property, notably poaching, deforestation and illegal settlement, are noted with appreciation, and the State Party should be requested to consolidate the advances made to reduce illegal activities by ongoing enforcement and engagement with local communities.

The completion of the land titling process giving property rights to indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples in the cultural zone of the Biosphere Reserve is welcomed, and the State Party should ensure that management responsibilities and usage rights are assigned through continued issuance and maintenance of Family Usufruct contracts, as appropriate.

Whilst the rate of deforestation is reported to be slowing, according to figures presented by the State Party, it is noted with concern that deforestation persists within the property, and the State Party should be urged to strengthen measures to address illegal deforestation and promote restoration, including through reported initiatives.

It is noted that efforts have been focused on securing relevant management and governance frameworks in addition to the designation of protected areas adjacent to the property prior to developing a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification. It is recalled that in addition, the Committee has requested the State Party to secure the necessary technical and financial resources required for consultations, especially with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils, as a crucial step towards achieving the DSOCR, with full consideration of the archaeological heritage of the property and corresponding actors.

It is regrettable that the HPP has proceeded to operation without adequate assessment of impacts on the OUV. It should be emphasized again that the State Party should urgently identify and monitor any actual and potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property and inform management. The State Party's proposal for an IUCN Advisory mission to provide recommendations on necessary mitigation measures is noted, but such measures can only be identified through a thorough assessment against baseline data, and an assessment of impacts on the values and attributes of the OUV. Considering that the assessment and monitoring of impacts should not be delayed, the State Party should complete this assessment, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, prior to sending an invitation for an Advisory mission.

It is noted that the State Party has submitted draft modifications to the DSOCR indicators with the state of conservation report. These draft modifications will require careful assessment by IUCN and dialogue between the State Party, IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and the site manager, in order to ensure that they adequately reflect the required corrective measures in response to the concerns indicated by the Committee in its Decision **35 COM 7B.31** upon the property's inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, regarding illegal logging, illegal occupation, the reduced capacity of the State Party and the general deterioration of law and order and the security situation.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.1** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the strengthening of indigenous territorial governance alongside the completion of the land titling process in the cultural zone of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve;*
4. *Notes the progress in issuance of Family Usufruct Contracts in the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve and encourages the State Party to ensure management responsibilities and usage rights have been assigned to all residents within the buffer zone who meet the requirements established by law;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the inter-institutional efforts to address illegal activity in the property, notably poaching, deforestation and illegal settlement, and also requests the State Party to further strengthen enforcement and engagement with local communities to reduce illegal activities in the property;*
6. *Notes with concern that, despite reduced rates of deforestation, the coverage of broadleaf forest in the property continues to decline and urges the State Party to maintain and strengthen efforts to halt deforestation and promote recovery of forest cover in the property;*

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to secure the necessary technical and financial resources required for the consultation processes, especially with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils, to submit a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification as a crucial step towards achieving the Desired state of conservation of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and in particular to fully consider the archaeological heritage of the property and corresponding actors;
8. Expresses its utmost concern that the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) is already in operation without the current and potential impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property having been thoroughly assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment and reiterates its requests to the State Party to urgently develop a study to identify and monitor any actual and potential impacts of the HPP on the OUV of the property, and to adopt an adaptive management approach, including through development and implementation of necessary measures to mitigate any adverse impacts on the OUV;
9. Takes note of the State Party's proposal for an IUCN Advisory mission to the property in relation to the HPP to provide recommendations on the development of necessary mitigation measures, and considers that this mission should take place following the finalization of the assessment and consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
10. Also notes the proposed revisions to the DSOCR and requests furthermore the State Party to initiate dialogue with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the site manager, to ensure that revisions adequately reflect the required corrective measures to address the concerns indicated in Decision **35 COM 7B.31** upon the property's inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

43. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2019-present

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

- Imminent extinction of an endemic porpoise species (vaquita) and conservation status of a marine fish (totoaba)
- Insufficient capacity to control illegal fishing and trafficking activities
- Presence of unsustainable fishing practices that endanger non-target marine species

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

Corrective measures identified

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Illegal activities (illegal fishing)
- Serious concerns about the imminent extinction of an endemic porpoise species (vaquita) and conservation status of a marine fish (totoaba)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/documents/>, reporting the following:

- Verifications were carried out at authorized embarkation and disembarkation points, with 99.6% of vessels inspected complying with legislation. Irregularities identified included vessels lacking the necessary fishing permits or transporting prohibited fishing gear, and fines were imposed accordingly;
- Fishery products and by-products were inspected and land-based verification points were established. Road checkpoints were also positioned at relevant transport links. Inspections identified 81 findings of non-compliance;
- Ocean patrol has increased in capacity to ensure continuous presence in the Zero Tolerance Area (ZTA). Between April and October 2023, 88 vessels were detected, marking a 53% decrease compared to the same period in 2022;
- Removal and disposal of ghost nets recovered in the ZTA has been implemented, in collaboration with Sea Shepherd Conservation and other local organizations;
- Training has enhanced capacity in identifying cross-border movements of totoaba products;
- Notice requests have been submitted to INTERPOL to identify trafficking operations, and for information on the identity or whereabouts of specific individuals;
- A financial reporting mechanism has been established, which has identified 53 reports of unusual operations related to totoaba trafficking;
- Conviction processes are ongoing with initiation of 88 investigations, and 32 cases undergoing prosecution;
- The People's Republic of China (China), the United States of America (USA) and Mexico have reached an agreement on the Terms of Reference for the 'Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group' to facilitate cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination of illegally trafficked totoaba products;

- A domestic working group has been established to enhance exchange of information on organized crime;
- Terms of Reference for the 'Fishermen Registration Program' for alternative fishing gear in the Upper Gulf of California and a comprehensive document outlining the structure of the programme has been formulated;
- Between April and July 2023, 23 alternative fishing gear permits were granted, of which 16 permits are for the Gulf of Santa Clara, and seven for San Felipe;
- Training has been conducted in alternative fishing systems. Further development of Alternative Fishing Systems for *Curvina golfini* is underway;
- A Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) was submitted with the report;
- Visual surveys of vaquita in 2023 observed 10 to 13 healthy individuals, including at least one calf;
- 193 concrete blocks with rods were placed in the ZTA to trap gillnets and thereby discourage illegal fishing.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The vaquita population remains of critical concern with the species still on the brink of extinction. While the visual surveys in 2021 and 2023 indicate the population has remained stable, including the continued observation of at least one calf, conservation efforts must be rapidly and drastically improved to ensure their survival and recovery. Regular surveys of the vaquita population to monitor the success of conservation measures and efforts to date are welcomed and should continue.

The ongoing inter-institutional surveillance and law enforcement efforts aimed at eliminating illegal fishing activities in the Upper Gulf are once more noted. However, whilst instances of illegal fishing appear to be reducing in the ZTA, illegal fishing activities continue according to figures presented in the report submitted by the State Party. Therefore, it appears that, despite ongoing efforts (many of which have shown improvement in recent years), further efforts are required in order to halt illegal fishing across the vaquita's entire habitat, including the entire vaquita refuge area.

It is encouraging that the deployment of significant efforts to retrieve ghost nets from the ZTA, resulted in only a relatively small number of nets retrieved, indicating the possible success of efforts towards eliminating ghost nets from the ZTA. However, given the continued observation of illegal fishing operations in the property, it is essential that retrieval of abandoned fishing gear continues alongside increased surveillance and law enforcement to ensure that both abandoned and active gillnet fishing are eliminated from the ZTA, and the area remains completely free of all gillnets.

The novel approach to deterring illegal gillnet fishing in the ZTA using sunken seabed hooks is noted with appreciation and it is essential that the efficacy of this technique is assessed and monitored. Noting also the potential of the hooks to trap gillnets and become a source of entanglement and mortality of vaquita and other marine species, it is also essential that these hooks are regularly maintained and trapped nets removed from them on an ongoing basis.

Whilst the ongoing issuance of alternative fishing gear licenses is noted, the State Party should be requested to increase efforts to improve uptake of the alternative fishing gear across all fishing communities in the Upper Gulf to ensure these technologies are successfully implemented at the required scale.

The cooperation between the State Party and the relevant international institutions and States Parties that are transit and destination countries for illegal totoaba products, in particular the USA and China, including within the framework of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), should also be welcomed. It is important that cooperation is strengthened, in particular with the establishment and operation of the Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group, to effectively address the illegal totoaba bladder trade, including through effective implementation of the Compliance Action Plan of Mexico for Totoaba under CITES.

The submission of a proposal for the DSOCR for the property is noted with appreciation and it is recommended that the Committee approves it.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.2** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reiterates its utmost concern about the critical status of the vaquita, specifically recognized as part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endemic to the Gulf of California, and that illegal fishing of totoaba has continued in the Upper Gulf of California resulting in a threat of imminent extinction of the vaquita species;
4. Welcomes the measures taken to monitor the vaquita population in the property, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts in order to inform conservation measures;
5. Welcomes the confirmation that the sole remaining vaquita population appears to be stable and breeding, and considers it essential that the remaining vaquita are fully protected through all means necessary, in particular by eliminating the illegal use of gillnets in their habitat;
6. Notes with concern that, despite renewed commitments and improvements to inter-institutional surveillance and law enforcement efforts, illegal fishing in the property persists, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to strengthen law enforcement efficiency through increased surveillance and inspection accompanied by improved criminal prosecution procedures and development of necessary legislation to increase the penalties foreseen for illegal traffic, capture, possession, import and export of wildlife species, parts and products considered, threatened, endangered or specially protected and/or regulated under national law, or by international treaties adopted by the State Party;
7. Also welcomes the cooperation between the State Party with the relevant international institutions and States Parties, notably the United States of America and the People's Republic of China, to combat illegal trafficking of totoaba products, including within the framework of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the development of a Terms of Reference for the Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group, and strongly recommends that the State Party of Mexico, together with the transit and destination countries, continue these efforts to establish the Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group and take urgent action in line with all CITES decisions to effectively address the illegal totoaba bladder trade;
8. Further welcomes the ongoing retrieval of abandoned fishing gear, including through collaboration with civil society organizations, and again urges the State Party to continue these efforts alongside surveillance and law enforcement to ensure that the Zero Tolerance Area (ZTA) is completely free of gill nets;
9. Notes with appreciation the novel mechanism to deter illegal fishing through sunken seabed hooks, and also requests the State Party to assess and monitor the efficacy of this technique alongside regular maintenance to ensure that trapped nets are removed from the hooks and do not become a source of entanglement for vaquita and other marine species;
10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently expedite the production and deployment of alternative gear and provide information to the World Heritage Centre on

the uptake of alternative gear across all fishing communities of the Upper Gulf of California;

11. Urges the State Party to implement, with utmost priority, all of the corrective measures for the property and approves the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) proposed by the State Party in its January 2024 state of conservation report on the property, including the following indicators:
 - a) Sustainable fisheries based on legal fishing gear systems that do not cause entanglement of marine mammals, sharks and turtles have been successfully adopted and modified as necessary in the property, the “Upper Gulf of California Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve (marine portion)” in particular, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders,
 - b) As an attribute of the OUV of the property, the vaquita species population has been increasing for at least 5 years, individuals appear healthy and are producing calves,
 - c) The property is effectively protected from illegal fishing activities through increased surveillance and prosecution of illegal acts,
 - d) The Vaquita Refuge and the “Upper Gulf of California - Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve (marine portion)” are free of illegal fishing gear, while the use, sale, possession, manufacture, and transport of gillnets has been eliminated, including among the surrounding communities,
 - e) International cooperation is operating systematically to combat illegal totoaba fish poaching and trafficking;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. Decides to retain **Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

AFRICA

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

Note: the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo need to be read in conjunction with Item 46 below.

46. General Decision on the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

50. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

51. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

52. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add

57. 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; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6965>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7423>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7423>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2006 to 2012, 2024)

Total amount approved: USD 85,835

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 56,689 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (2015): Technical Support to East Rennell; USD 35,000, UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2015): Support to East Rennell; USD 38,398, UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (2019-present); and USD 298,000, UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (2022-present): Developing sustainable livelihoods in 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; May 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes to oceanic waters
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources)
- Forestry/wood production (Commercial logging)

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Storms
- Mining
- Management systems/management plans (Management planning and administration of the property)
- Legal framework (Legislation)

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 February 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/>, which reports the following:

- Despite limited resources made available by the national government, some progress has been made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), notably addressing issues of invasive alien species (IAS), establishing an effective network of protected areas, and developing sustainable livelihoods in East Rennell;
- A carbon financing project is being implemented led by “Live & Learn Environmental Education” in collaboration with local communities and national and provincial governments to support forest conservation and community development through the sale of carbon credits;
- “BirdLife International” together with “Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association” (LTWHSA) and in collaboration with the concerned ministries is supporting efforts to establish sustainable IAS/rodent control in four communities and province-wide biosecurity, to contribute to food security, livelihood resilience, conservation of endemic species and national and regional IAS responses, including recruitment of local rangers, installation of rodenticide baits, establishment of community-based monitoring and undertaking of a socio-economic baseline assessment;
- Meetings took place with customary landowners to apply the Protected Areas Act 2010 in East Rennell with support from the Global Environment Facility GEF-6 funded project ‘Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in Solomon Islands’ led by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM). As a result, the State Party indicates that twelve “tribal groups” submitted their Expression of Interest (EOI), while four are yet to submit theirs. A new Management Plan will be developed following the finalization of a land use map;
- An investigation was undertaken by MECDM following the mass mortality of flying foxes in 2021, which concluded that they may have become locally extinct in the property;
- The environmental damages caused by the grounding of the barge (SAPOR 2302) in the property in 2021 persist. Landowners are facing challenges to take legal action to pursue the case;
- Planning of livelihood activities is underway with support of the UNESCO/Netherlands and UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, including consultation meetings planned for May 2024;
- An International Assistance request was submitted by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) to accelerate the implementation of the DSOCR. The current timeframe for achieving the DSOCR by 2025 is feasible.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party’s continued efforts towards the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the DSOCR within the current timeframe, in close cooperation with local communities and provincial, national and international partners are appreciated. In order to ensure long-term, sustainable allocation of budget for the property, the Committee should reiterate once again its request to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a new Cabinet Paper with the commitments and associated budget of the respective ministries.

The support by international NGOs “Live & Learn Environmental Education” and “BirdLife International” to explore carbon financing as a viable alternative to logging and other land use and to control rodents and IAS is welcomed, as they are addressing three out of five corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, i.e., forest cover, extractive activities (logging and mining) and IAS. It is reiterated that, if the assessment confirms that it will not be possible to

completely eradicate invasive rats, the State Party might wish to propose an update of the DSOCR, in which the eradication of rats is currently listed as a method of verification, and the State Party should develop and implement an adequately resourced strategy to focus on minimizing the impact of already introduced invasive species and fully operationalize effective biosecurity measures.

The significant progress made by the State Party in obtaining consensus from the customary landowners to apply the Protected Areas Act 2010, which resulted in the submission of the EOIs from three-quarters of the “tribal groups”, to be followed by the development of a new Management Plan is welcomed. It should be encouraged that the consultations continue to obtain full consent from all the customary landowners to ensure legal protection for the entire property, in particular, against existing and potential threats of mining and commercial logging in the area adjacent to the property.

It is regrettable that no information was provided by the State Party concerning the previously reported bauxite mining exploration proposal, recalling that local communities have opposed the proposal. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to clarify the status of the mining proposal, recalling the Committee’s position that mining, including exploration, is considered incompatible with the World Heritage status (Decision **37 COM 7**).

It is of utmost concern that an investigation undertaken by MECDM following the mass mortality of flying foxes in 2021, appears to confirm the flying fox to have become locally extinct in the property. Given that the property is inscribed under criterion (ix) for attributes including flying fox species, one of which is endemic to Rennell Island, further details of the results of the investigation are needed. It is requested that the State Party undertake further study and clarify whether flying fox have become locally extinct from the property, and further investigate the cause of mortality. Noting the reported possible sightings of a flying fox species in West Rennell that may have disappeared from the property, the State Party is encouraged to survey to determine if measures to promote restoration of the population across the Island could be identified and implemented.

It is also of utmost concern that communities still suffer from the damages caused by the grounding of the barge (SAPOR 2302) in 2021, and that no compensation has been made following the assessment which estimated USD 1.6 million damage to the coral reefs. It is recommended that the Committee reiterates its request to the responsible company and licensee of SAPOR 2302 to adhere to the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment, with regards to compensation of the ecological, cultural and socio-economic impacts of the grounding and urges the State Party to support the communities in their claims for compensation.

The State Party’s continued efforts to develop livelihood activities for local communities with support of the UNESCO/Netherlands and UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust as well as to accelerate the implementation of the DSOCR through applying to the International Assistance are welcomed. The international community should be encouraged to continue providing necessary support to the State Party, both financially and technically, to meet the current timeframe to achieve the DSOCR by 2025, as well as climate change funding to conduct an integrated vulnerability assessment of the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.16** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Appreciates the State Party’s continued efforts towards the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) within the current timeframe, in close cooperation with local communities and provincial, national and international partners,*

4. Reiterates once again its request to the State Party to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a new Cabinet Paper with the commitments and associated budgets of the respective ministries reflected in the budget allocation for the next fiscal year;
5. Welcomes the support provided by international NGOs for the implementation of some corrective measures, notably the carbon financing project led by “Live & Learn Environmental Education” and the IAS/rodent control project led by “BirdLife International”;
6. Also welcomes the significant progress made by the State Party towards obtaining consensus from the customary landowners to apply the Protected Areas Act 2010 to the property, and the intention to develop a new Management Plan, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to obtain full consent from all the customary landowners in East Rennell to ensure legal protection for the entire property including the adjacent area in order to address ongoing and potential threats of mining and commercial logging;
7. Regrets that no information was provided by the State Party concerning the previously reported bauxite mining exploration proposal, recalling its position that mining, including exploration, is considered incompatible with World Heritage status, reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the status of the mining proposal;
8. Expresses its utmost concern that the flying fox species which are recognized as an attribute of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), appear to have become locally extinct in the property according to a recent investigation following a 2021 mass mortality event, also requests the State Party to clarify further the results of the surveys by submitting information for each species of flying fox, and further investigate the cause and the reported possible sightings in West Rennell to determine the potential for natural restoration of the population across the Island;
9. Also expresses its utmost concern that the environmental damages and socio-economic impacts on local communities caused by the grounding of the barge SAPOR 2302 in 2021 persist, and that no compensation has been made to date, also reiterates its request to the responsible company and licensee of SAPOR 2302 to adhere to the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment conducted in 2021, with regards to compensation of the ecological, cultural and socio-economic impacts of the grounding and urges the State Party to support the communities in their claims for compensation;
10. Further welcomes the State Party’s continued efforts to develop livelihood activities for East Rennell communities with support of the UNESCO/Netherlands and UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust as well as to accelerate the implementation of the DSOCR through applying to the International Assistance;
11. Calls upon the international community to continue providing the State Party necessary support, both financially and technically, to meet the current timeframe to achieve the DSOCR by 2025, as well as climate change funding to conduct an integrated vulnerability assessment of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

