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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Thirty third session
Seville, Spain
22-30 June 2009

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 thirty four natural and cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

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

The full reports of reactive monitoring missions requested by the Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/33COM/>

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II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State party not received)

2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

2003

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

- a) Potential impacts of civil unrest;
- b) Decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching;
- c) Lack of effective management mechanisms.

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

The desired state of conservation has yet to be defined.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified during the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures;
- b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property based on the management plan framework developed for the national system of protected areas. The management plan should give special attention to:

- (i) Establishing a revised zoning system for the property to guide management activities that fully consider the status of the property as a World Heritage property and Biosphere Reserve;
 - (ii) Establishing participatory management arrangements with local communities to reduce pressures and impacts associated to the management of areas in particular on the periphery of the property;
- c) Enlarge the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Five year timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

- 2007: Preparatory work and developing contacts for technical and financial support, as well as implementation of emergency measures linked in particular to surveillance of the property;
- 2008-2009: Preparation of a management plan and implementation of priority activities;
- 2009-2011: Implementation and monitoring of activities under the management plan.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.2 ; 31 COM 7A.2; 32 COM 7A. 2

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for Technical Assistance.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities.

Previous monitoring missions

June 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Conflict and political instability;
- b) Lack of management control and access;
- c) Poaching;
- d) Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure;
- e) Bush fires.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227>

Current conservation issues

Comoé National Park was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003 following the loss of control by the State Party over the property as a result of the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire in 2002 and fears that this would lead to a further degradation of its integrity and Outstanding Universal Value. Since the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, wildlife populations have been declining dramatically, mainly as a result of poaching. Since 2006, the security in the property has been improving and there has been some progress in

implementing the corrective measures related to management structure and zoning system of the property.

On 2 February 2009, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. It presents a brief outline of progress in implementing certain corrective measures and the need for increased international support to address the remaining threats and recommendations of the World Heritage Committee such as the completion and implementation of the management plan.

The State Party also submitted a report on a rapid wildlife assessment (RWA) conducted in June 2008 by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (wcf) with funding from the World Bank. During the assessment, several transects on foot and by air were conducted, with direct and indirect observations on wildlife species and on illegal human activities. While the dataset was not large enough to allow a population estimate of the different species, the results clearly indicate that animal populations have suffered a severe decline. Signs of illegal human activity were found across the entire property. At the same time, the RWA was able to confirm the presence of 29 different mammal species, indicating that, while populations are low, there is a potential for recovery. There was a notable absence of chimpanzee evidence which merits further research. It should be noted that communities outside of the property, to the west, have observed chimpanzees therefore it seems likely that they are present within the property, but perhaps in limited numbers.

The State Party report provides the following information on the progress in implementation of the corrective measures:

a) Establish an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property

The State Party report confirms that poaching remains the major threat to the integrity of the property and that all wildlife species have seen a continuous decline since the time of inscription on the World Heritage List. This is confirmed by the rapid assessment, which notes that signs of poaching can be found throughout the property, but that poaching pressure is especially high along the Comoé River, which is used as an entry point for illegal activities. Other illegal and damaging activities documented during the RWA include wild honey collection, illegal fishing, subsistence agriculture, wood cutting and bush fires. A surveillance structure has been put in place for the property, composed of 5 sector teams and a mobile unit. There are currently 45 staff for the property (up from 15 in 2007 and with a further increase to 65 planned by June 2009). The report notes that this structure will make it possible to implement a surveillance strategy based on targeted patrols and increased cooperation with the local communities through village surveillance committees. This strategy was already tested and implemented with success in the Taï National Park. However, it is unclear from the report if implementation of this strategy has yet commenced. No information is provided on on-going anti-poaching activities in the 2008-2009. The report further notes efforts to sensitise the local communities on the poaching problem, mainly by using a local radio station. The report also mentions that most of the Park infrastructure and equipment was destroyed or looted during the crisis but provides no information rehabilitation efforts.

b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan

The report notes that the management plan for the property was not finalised in 2008 but that this is planned as part of a new World Bank funded project. No specific timeframe is provided for this.

c) Enlarging the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property

According to the report, the deployment of Park staff has now been reestablished across the entire property, as part of a normalisation of the political situation in the area. The entire area is under Government control. All military forces have been withdrawn, with the army camp of Nassian dismantled and currently occupied by the national police and the mobile brigade of the Park.

With regard to the funding of the property, the State Party report notes that a new USD 8.8 million project has started to support the national protected area system, with funding from the World Bank (“Projet d’Appui à la Relance de la Conservation des Parcs et Réserves de Côte d’Ivoire”). However, it is unclear how much of this funding is earmarked for the property. IUCN has received reports that question whether significant progress has been made in raising funds for critical activities.

The State Party report also mentions that three mining exploration licences have been granted which cover parts of the property. So far, no exploration activities are reported to have started. No progress was reported on establishing an ecological corridor with Burkina Faso and Ghana.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the RWA which was carried out, and which provides a first insight in the impacts of the crisis on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property. While this information can be useful for initiating strategies for the recovery of the values of the property, it is clear that the present data set is too limited to draw firm conclusions on the conservation status of the property. A more comprehensive survey is needed to fully assess the state of conservation of the property. Such a survey should establish the baseline to monitor the recovery of the wildlife and to set the the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should also be drafted and adopted.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned that the data of the RWA show that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property appears to have been seriously degraded. Urgent action is therefore needed to address the most serious threats, in particular poaching. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN strongly recommend that the State Party urgently makes every effort to transfer the knowledge and training gained at the Taï National Park to the Comoé National Park to maximise the effectiveness of its management. As the State Party has now regained control over the entire property, the conditions are in place to initiate the recovery process. However, it will be crucial to increase funding to the property to fully resume management activities and expedite the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2006 mission. It also seems clear that given the apparently very significant reductions in wildlife populations, it will take some time before the values and integrity of the property will be able to recover.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned that no further progress was made in preparing the management plan for the property. This management plan will have to set out the strategy for a recovery of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN encourage the State Party to engage with the local community and other stakeholders to finalise and implement this plan. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recommend that the State Party urgently focus on implementing corrective measures to halt threats to the property and establish ecological monitoring to allow the restoration of the values of the property and its integrity to be measured.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are also concerned about the information in the State Party report that mining exploration licences covering the property have been attributed to several companies and reiterate their position that mining exploration and exploitation activities are not appropriate within a World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has now regained control over the entire property, thus creating the basic conditions to start the process of recovery of its integrity and Outstanding Universal Value;
4. Expresses its concern on the results of the rapid wildlife assessment, which indicate that wildlife populations are at critical low levels and that poaching and illegal activities are occurring across the property;
5. Urges the State Party to increase its efforts to fully implement all the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2006 mission within the agreed timeframe, in particular by establishing an effective patrolling system for the whole property and developing and implementing a management plan which will set out a strategy for recovery of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Calls upon the State Party and the international community to increase their financial support for the management and rehabilitation of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to organise a comprehensive wildlife survey to fully assess the state of conservation of the property, which can be used as a baseline to monitor the recovery of the wildlife and to develop the Desired state of conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party might wish to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to finance this survey;
8. Expresses its utmost concern about the granting of mining exploration licences covering the property and urges the State Party to take the necessary steps to ensure the withdrawal of these licenses;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, including a copy of the draft management plan, an overview of current and projected budgets for the management of the property, status of anti-poaching activities, and information on wildlife populations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
11. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (Consultation meeting at State Party level)

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are to be read in conjunction with Item 31 of the present document, page 97

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(vii) (viii) (x)

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

1994

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32).

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Adverse refugee impact ;
- b) Unauthorized presence of armed militia and settlers inside the property ;
- c) Increased poaching, deforestation, pressure of fishing villages inside the Park.

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

The Desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Identified corrective measures

The following corrective measures have been identified by the 2006 World Heritage Centre mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Establish a « Committee to Save Virunga » (CSV) which will help address the threats to the property;
- b) Reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property, and ensure a close follow up of illegal activity by military personnel;
- c) Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence;

- d) Continue the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated way all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their region of origin;
- e) Strengthen cooperation between the managing body of the Park, ICCN, and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan;
- f) Develop a strategy to share any profits, such as from tourism related to gorillas, with the local communities in order to improve relations;
- g) Strengthen law enforcement in the property, concentrating on priority areas and motivating Park staff. Also propose specialized training of staff to improve efficiency.
- h) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The Reinforced monitoring mission of August 2007 reaffirmed the importance of points b) and f) identified in the additional urgent actions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) :

- i) Halt all charcoal production within the property and promote alternative sources of energy;
- j) Strengthen the role of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Congo (MONUC) to establish security in the property and its periphery;
- k) Strengthen communication and awareness raising activities targeted at the competent authorities and local populations.

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been adopted.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.7; 31 COM 7A.4; 32 COM 7A.4

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,000 for equipment and staff salaries.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for RDC World Heritage properties ("DRC Programme") funded by the UNF, Italy and Belgium. (2001–2005) : approximately USD 900,000. (2005-2008) : USD 300,000. In January 2007 financial support (USD 30,000) granted by the Rapid Response Facility.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006 : World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2007: World Heritage Centre/IUCN in the framework of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism. Several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity and political instability;
- b) Poaching by armed military groups;
- c) Encroachment;
- d) Extension of illegal fishing areas;

- e) Deforestation and cattle grazing.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63>

Current conservation problems

In 1994, the year of the genocide in neighbouring Rwanda, the massive influx of populations fleeing Rwanda to seek refuge in Virunga National Park (PNVi), has directly impacted the Park with an unprecedented increase in pressure on the natural resources and causing the conditions for the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. In 1996, the outbreak of the Great Lakes conflict, resulting in the establishment of armed bands and rebel groups within the property and the loss of control by ICCN over a large part of the property would precipitate the increase in poaching, acceleration of deforestation, proliferation of fishing villages and exacerbate the state of conservation of the property. The unsatisfactory state of conservation of the property and the continuing lack of security despite the official halt of the conflict and strong support provided to the property, led the World Heritage Committee to consider a more global approach to the question regarding the deteriorating situation of all the DRC World Heritage properties. In 2007, the reinforced monitoring mechanism, recently adopted by the World Heritage Committee, was applied to the property (**31 COM 7A.32**).

On 2 February 2009, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. This report contained information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures.

Since the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, security in the PNVi has clearly deteriorated due to the resumption, at the beginning of October 2008, of clashes between Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the rebels of the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP). The new military offensive has caused a large area of the Park to be occupied by the CNDP, including the Rumangabo Station, that ICCN staff were forced to abandon. Thanks to support from the World Heritage Centre, the Park has benefitted from emergency financial assistance from the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) to provide urgent assistance to the guards and their families following the attack at Rumangabo.

In December 2008, stabilization of the situation allowed ICCN to negotiate the renewal of conservation activities in the south and north sectors of the property with the CNDP. Nevertheless, the situation remains very delicate as regards to security. The attack on the Tshiabirimu Station on 8 January 2009 by a group of Mai Mai rebels, during which a guard was killed, clearly illustrates the situation.

The political and military situation is also evolving very rapidly. At the end of January 2009, the Congolese and Rwandan authorities met to organize a joint operation against the Rwandan Liberation Democratic Forces (FDLR), a Rwandan rebel movement, largely responsible for insecurity in the eastern part of the country. There is strong apprehension that this operation will lead to new clashes in and around the Park. A reconciliation between the two countries brings hope, in the long term, for an improvement in security in North Kivu.

Moreover, the World Heritage Centre was informed of the granting of petrol prospection and exploitation permits in several areas overlapping the property to two companies, Dominion Petroleum and Heritage Oil. However, to become valid, these permits must still be ratified by a Presidential decree. In response to a letter from the World Heritage Centre requesting information concerning the granting of these permits, the DRC Minister of Environment indicated that he had informed his counterpart responsible for Hydrocarbons of the matter, recalling the existence of national legislative provisions forbidding this type of activity in a protected area.

The breakdown in security has delayed the implementation of the corrective measures. Nevertheless, some progress has been noted:

- a) *Create a «Committee to Save Virunga » (CSV) to help address the threats to the property*

As indicated in the previous report, the CSV has been operational since 2007.

- b) *Reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property and ensure a close follow up of illegal activity by military personnel*

The Park Direction has carried out lobbying which has resulted in the transfer of the 9th brigade initially based in Rwindi, in the centre of the Park, and more than 99% of its advance positions. However, the resumption of hostilities in the east gives cause for the reinstallation of troops. To avoid further illegal activity, the Direction of the property continues to carry out awareness raising actions targeted at the military authorities of the FARDC 8th military region.

- c) *Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke training and reunification camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence*

No progress has been achieved with regard to this issue and the camp is still operational.

- d) *Continue the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated manner all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their region of origin*

On the western side of Lake Edward, the initiatives for peaceful and consensual evacuation began with accompanied voluntary return of families to their original villages. To date, 523 families have been evacuated. The resumption of armed conflict in the region in October/December 2008 and the occupation by armed groups of the areas usually designated for return operations have brought a halt to the process. These evacuation operations will resume as soon as the security situation permits. They will further be reinforced thanks to the establishment of a control mechanism involving all the concerned parties (police, customary chiefs, etc.), thus avoiding the return of families already evacuated. These activities have the support of the « DRC Programme ».

With regard to encroachment in the Kirokirwe region, no progress has been noted due to lack of security preventing access to this area.

- e) *Strengthen cooperation between the managing body of the Park (ICCN) and its partners by developing a joint plan for all the interventions within the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan*

A consortium bringing together the ICCN Management Authority and its partners in the field of conservation (WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, Gorilla Organization, Zoological Society of London), political and administrative authorities at the provincial and territorial levels, customary authorities, humanitarian NGOs, representatives of civil society, the army and local police, was established in November 2006. The planning of all conservation activities of the property is carried out jointly, through the Coordination Committee of the Site (CoCoSi). The PNVi Direction has, further, developed a « Virunga National Park Annual Plan» together with an operational plan for each of the sectors of the property.

- f) *Develop a strategy to share any profits, such as from tourism related to gorillas, with the local communities in order to improve relations*

A preliminary study on the sharing of income with local communities was carried out. Based on this study, a diagnostic in terms of SWOP analysis of the different reconveyance mechanisms implemented by the Park was made. The next step will be the definition, in a participatory manner with local communities, of more efficacious income-sharing mechanisms in terms of funding development projects for the benefit of the communities. It should be noted that the principle of income-sharing is already practised with ICCN whereby the texts foresee a reconveyance of 30% of tourism income to local communities.

g) *Strengthen law enforcement in the property concentrating on priority areas*

Actions to strengthen the application of the law within the property have principally been aimed at awareness raising of the populations through diverse media, at national and provincial levels. Themes regularly discussed at the national level generally concern the legal status of the property, the statement of its boundaries, its type of management, the impact of carbonisation on the protection of the southern sector (Mikeno and Nyamulagira) as well as activities of community interest involving the adhesion by adjacent communities to the laws relating to conservation in the PNVi.

Surveillance activities are always very difficult due to security problems. The poaching of large mammals remains a serious issue. Nevertheless, since the 32nd session, no new case of the slaughter of gorilla has been reported.

h) *Create a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

The Pilot Committee for the Trust Fund for the protected areas of the DRC was created by Ministerial Decree on 11 February 2009. The members of the Pilot Committee (17) were nominated by the Ministerial Decree of 15 February 2009. The Pilot Committee, chaired by the Minister of Environment, met for the first time on 26 February 2009 in Kinshasa. The Belgian Government announced a second contribution of 1 million Euros for the Fund. Other donors, like France, Germany and United Kingdom also expressed their interest.

i) *Halt all charcoal production within the property and promote alternative sources of energy*

The management authorities of the property have begun a programme for the production of biomass briquettes with the aim of encouraging this technology as an alternative energy to charcoal from the property. This programme also aspires to creating employment thanks to the construction and availability to the local communities of carpentry workshops to produce these briquettes. Furthermore, WWF has reinforced reforestry activities around the property. However, deforestation for the production of charcoal remains one of the greatest threats to the integrity of the property.

j) *Strengthen the role of the (MONUC) to establish security in the property and its periphery*

Since the May 2008 joint mission of the World Heritage Centre and the MONUC focal point on issues relating to conservation, MONUC's role in the improvement of security in the property and its periphery has become more significant. Mixed ICCN-MONUC patrols were regularly organised, allowing ICCN to gain access, prior to the resumption of the October/December 2008 clashes, to areas previously inaccessible due to insecurity.

k) *Strengthen communication and awareness raising activities targeted at the competent authorities and local populations*

A « *Forum on the problematic of the management and enhancement of Virunga National Park, World Heritage site* » was held, under the auspices of the Governor of North Kivu, on 13 and 14 August 2008. More than 80 participants attended among whom can be cited the principal Mwami (customary chiefs), provincial parliamentarians, ICCN partners, representatives of the private sector, etc.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain very concerned regarding the situation of this property. Due to the deterioration of security since the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, it is difficult to initiate a verifiable « ecological restoration of the property ». The emphasis continues to be placed on damage limitation and safeguarding of the ecological capital. However, recent political and military developments provide hope of an improvement in security over the long term in eastern DRC.

Since the 31st session, reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property is in force and the World Heritage Centre ensures the continued monitoring of the state of conservation of the property through its « DRC Programme». In view of the current situation at the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend the continued application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed during protection operations at the property as well as its support to the guards and families who have lost homes following the attack and occupation of the Rumangabo Station in October 2008 ;*
4. *Regrets the breakdown in security that continues to delay the implementation of conservation activities and threatens the Outstanding Universal Value of the property but expresses the hope that new cooperation between the Congolese and Rwandan Governments will result in the restoration of security in and around the property;*
5. *Urges the State Party, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), to reinforce its efforts to disarm all the armed groups, national and foreign, operating in and around the property;*
6. *Expresses its deep concern with regard to the envisaged oil prospecting projects overlapping the property and also urges the State Party to exclude the territory of the property;*
7. *Reiterates its position regarding the incompatibility of oil exploration and exploitation in respect of World Heritage status;*
8. *Also regrets that the State Party has not yet undertaken the necessary measures to relocate, beyond the boundaries of the property, the training and reunification camp of the army based at Nyaleke;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee following the 2006 monitoring mission and the 2007 reinforced monitoring mission;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the progress of oil exploration and exploitation projects overlapping the property, an update on the disarmament of armed groups within the Park, and information on the situation of flagship species of the property, the extent of encroachment and deforestation in the region, the degree of poaching, as well as progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*

11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism;
12. **Also decides to maintain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(x)

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

1997

Application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32).

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Adverse refugee impact ;
- b) Irregular presence of armed militia and settlers at the property ;
- c) Increased poaching ;
- d) Deforestation.

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

The Desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were recommended by the 2006 World Heritage Centre mission and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) :

- a) Establish a strategy for the evacuation of all the armed groups in the property. The strategy should also take into consideration the closing of all illegal mining operations inside the property;
- b) Substantially strengthen the presence of ICCN Park guards in the lowland sector of the Park;
- c) Reclaim, as soon as the security situation allows, the farms situated in the ecologically important corridor between the lowland and highland sectors;
- d) Strengthen cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park;

- e) Conduct, as soon as the security situation allows, a survey of flagship species present in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular gorilla and other primates;
- f) Strengthen law enforcement in the property thereby gradually increasing the area of the Park covered by guard patrols;
- g) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been adopted.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.6; 31 COM 7A.5; 32 COM 7A.5

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,848 for equipment and staff salaries

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for DRC World Heritage properties (DRC Programme) financed by the UNF, Italy and Belgium; (2001-2005): approximately USD 300,000. (2005-2008): USD 300,000. Financial support (USD 30,000) granted by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) for the rehabilitation of a control post at Itebéro.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006 : UNESCO Missions; several UNESCO missions in the framework of the DRC Programme.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability;
- b) Poaching by armed military groups;
- c) Encroachment, in particular in the corridor between the highlands and lowlands sectors;
- d) Illegal mining and deforestation.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137>

Current conservation issues

In 1994, Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB), located in the region of South Kivu, in eastern DRC, like Virunga National Park, had to cope with the massive influx of refugees fleeing Rwanda where the genocide had just begun with, as consequence a significant increase in pressure on the natural resources characterized by the acceleration of deforestation and increased poaching. The outbreak of the Great Lakes conflict in 1996 and the installation of armed militia in the property had deprived ICCN of its authority and caused its loss of control over a large part of the property, thus allowing the establishment of illegal occupants in the PNKB. The unsatisfactory state of conservation of the property and the continued lack of security despite the official halt of hostilities and in spite of important support for the property, led the World Heritage Committee to consider a global approach to the issue of the deteriorating situation in all the World Heritage properties of the DRC. In 2007, the

reinforced monitoring mechanism, recently adopted by the World Heritage Committee (31 COM 7A.32), was applied to the property.

On 2 February 2009 a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. This report, more complete than those of previous years, contained information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures.

Security problems continue to render access to a large part of the property difficult by staff of the management authority (ICCN). The militia of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) still occupy a part of the lowland sector. However, since the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, repatriation of the FDLR Rwandan militia in the framework of the Amani Plan has begun. The Amani Plan was developed following the signature, on 23 January 2008, of the « Act of Commitment » at the closure of the « Goma Conference for Peace, Security and Development in North and South Kivu ». It foresees the disarmament of armed groups present in the region. According to OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), as at 18 February 2009, the total number of persons repatriated to Rwanda was 2,211 (including women and children of the militia). The State Party is actively involved in repatriation negotiations with Rwanda.

As is mentioned in the report on Virunga National Park, since end-January 2009, a reconciliation between the Rwandan and Congolese authorities has occurred and a combined operation against the FDLR is planned.

However, conservation activities continue in the accessible parts of the property (the highland sector and the areas around the Nzovu and Itebro Stations in the lowland sector).

With regard to the implementation of the corrective measures, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the following progress has been noted:

- a) *Establish a strategy for the evacuation of all the armed groups in the property. The strategy should also take into consideration the closing of all illegal mining operations inside the property*

As mentioned above, the repatriation of FDLR Rwandan militia has begun. However, armed groups are still active in several sectors of the property, impeding access by the surveillance staff. Several mining quarries have been closed following patrols carried out in particular in the Itebero Sector and at Katasomwa, in the northern sector of the highlands. Despite the closure of nine mining quarries many are being worked. However, the repatriation of the FDLR militia is beginning to have an impact on reducing illegal mining activities in the property.

Furthermore, cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Congo (MONUC) has been strengthened following a joint World Heritage Centre and MONUC focal point mission on issues relating to World Heritage properties in the DRC, carried out in May 2008. The Kahuzi-Biega ICCN team may now benefit from the support of MONUC for some of its patrols.

- b) *Substantially strengthen the presence of ICCN Park guards in the lowland sector of the Park*

The number of guards has remained the same in the lowland sector but operations of guard surveillance have increased, particularly during 2008. The rapid intervention unit carried out two large-scale patrols in the lowland sectors at Itebero (North Kivu). The number of patrols increased from 4,047 to 4,812 between 2006 and 2008.

Moreover, ICCN has strengthened its presence in the lowland sector with the initiation of a work site for the construction of a first station at Itebero (North Kivu Province). This construction was made possible thanks to funding from the Rapid Response Facility.

In order to increase the number of ICCN agents in the different intervention sectors, the agents responsible for community conservation are now based in their respective

intervention sectors. This will allow them to conduct regular relations with the local authorities and with the different groups within the population. Despite these efforts, the Park area covered by the patrols remains less than 50%.

- c) *Reclaim, as soon as the security situation allows, the farms situated in the ecologically important corridor between the lowland and highland sectors*

No progress has been made regarding the issue of the evacuation of the ecological corridor that links the highland and lowland sectors still squatted by illegal occupants and this, despite the transmission of substantial dossiers to the competent legal and political authorities. The Park authorities are still awaiting a policy decision following the field visit of the Minister of Environment in March 2008, already mentioned in the previous report.

Several meetings were held on this subject with the Governor and Vice-Governor of the South Kivu Province who made the commitment to support the Park authorities in the resolution of this dispute. In the meantime, patrols have been intensified in the corridor sector and an agent responsible for community conservation is now installed at Nindja.

- d) *Strengthen cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park*

Since 2008, the PNKB has an annual plan of operation based on the objectives and programmes established when preparing the management plan that includes an overview of a ten-year programme. All PNKB partners contribute towards the establishment of the plan of operation and the Coordination Committee of the Site (CoCoSi), set up during the first phase of the « DRC Programme », will be the focal point to assess the progress achieved in the activities and expected results of each of the actors.

- e) *Conduct, as soon as the security situation allows, a survey of flagship species present in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular gorilla and other primates*

As mentioned in the previous report, a partial inventory of the sectors of Itebero and Nzovu has been completed. It covers 20% of the lowland sector. The results indicate an important reduction in flagship species, in particular the elephant. Work on the inventory should begin in February 2009 to complete these results.

- f) *Strengthen law enforcement in the property thereby gradually increasing the area of the Park covered by guard patrols*

ICCN has prepared, with WWF support, an instruction manual for patrol operations. In particular, it proposes the establishment of a grid-type strategy. From now on, patrol reports will inform property managers more precisely of the area under surveillance and hence determine the sectors requiring reinforced surveillance. As indicated previously, currently the area covered remains largely insufficient.

- g) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)*

See the report on Virunga National Park (Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A*)

No new information concerning the mining concessions granted within the property by the Ministry of Mines has been communicated.

The revised version of the environmental impact study containing new proposals regarding the mitigation measures retained and the rehabilitation of the RN3 road, crossing the highland sector of the property, requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session, has not yet been transmitted to the World Heritage Centre. At the beginning of February, the property manager informed the World Heritage Centre of the imminent commencement of the rehabilitation work in the framework of support from the United Nations Organization Mission for the Congo (MONUC) through UNOPS. Following this, on 17 February 2009, the World Heritage Centre addressed a letter to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, informing him of the concerns of the

World Heritage Committee regarding the impact that the rehabilitation of the road would have on the state of conservation of the property. A similar letter was also addressed to the Minister of Environment of the DRC. The MONUC, overseer of the work, postponed commencement of the rehabilitation work until such time as a compromise has been found with the Park authorities to minimise the direct and indirect impacts of this rehabilitation on the property. On 29 February 2009, UNOPS, responsible for rehabilitation work, and ICCN/PNKB signed an agreement in principle for the management of environmental impacts during rehabilitation of the 23 km of the RN 3. It also defines the responsibilities of UNOPS and the ICCN/PNKB. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have received a copy of this agreement, but at the time of this report, were unable to form an opinion as they had not received the revised version of the environmental impact study from the State Party.

Although some progress in the implementation of the corrective measures has been noted, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain concerned about the situation at the property. Despite ICCN efforts, a large part of the property remains beyond its control. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also regret the lack of progress achieved in the resolution of the dossier on the illegal occupation of the corridor, the granting of mining concessions in the property as well as the revision of the environmental impact study for the rehabilitation work of the RN 3.

Since the 31st session, the reinforced monitoring mechanism has been applied to the property and the World Heritage Centre ensures the continuous monitoring of the state of conservation of the property through its "DRC Programme". In view of the current situation at the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision **33 COM 7A.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec, 2008),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the beginning of repatriation operations of FDLR Rwandan militia present in and around the property and requests the State Party, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), to redouble its efforts to disarm all the national and foreign armed groups operating in and around the property;*
4. *Notes with concern the fact that despite efforts made by the management authority of the property (ICCN), a large part of the property remains beyond its control;*
5. *Regrets the lack of significant progress in the resolution of the dossiers concerning illegal occupation of the corridor and the granting of mining concessions in the property;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Committee the revised version of the environmental impact study for the repair of the RN3, including adequate mitigation measures to ensure the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property prior to taking a final decision regarding this project, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

7. *Also requests the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius 2006);*
8. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for the establishment of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, updating the necessary corrective measures and the timetable for their implementation;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity as well as a proposal for the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
10. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2010, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the state of the mining concessions granted in the property, progress achieved in the resolution of dossiers relating to illegal occupation of the corridor, the rehabilitation of the RN3 as well as that accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010 ;*
11. *Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;*
12. ***Also decides to maintain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1997; previously inscribed between 1984 and 1992

Application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Increased poaching;
- b) Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the flagship species of the property.

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

The Desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Identified corrective measures

The following corrective measures were recommended by the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Ensure the protection of the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan within and adjacent to the property ;
- b) Improve the efficacy of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped;
- c) Ensure that the ICCN guard force is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition;
- d) Undertake, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to the DRC (MONUC), a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property, whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region;
- e) Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into the DRC and the property;
- f) Maintain and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of Northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey;
- g) Strengthen efforts to improve relations with local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme;
- h) Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba Park guard force;
- i) Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in ICCN and the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG);
- j) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties.

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been adopted.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.4; 31 COM 7A.6; 32 COM 7A.6

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 157,845 for equipment and Park staff salaries.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property : Conservation Programme for the RDC World Heritage properties ("RDC Programme") financed by the UNF, Belgium and Italy: (2001-2005) approximately USD 400,000; (2005-2008): USD 600,000. Two additional amounts from the Rapid Response Facility (totalling USD 60,000) training of guards and more recently replacement of communication equipment.

Previous monitoring missions

2006: World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the « DRC Programme ».

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by nationals and Sudanese;
- c) Ill-adapted management capabilities.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136>

Current conservation problems

In 1996, the consequences of the outbreak of the Great Lakes conflict that raged through the region for more than ten years, the retreat into the property of the armed bands and rebel groups, with the accompanying poaching and over-exploitation of the natural resources, led to the inscription of Garamba National Park (GNP) on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997. The unsatisfactory state of conservation of the property and the continuing lack of security despite the official decree concerning the end of the conflict, and in spite of strong support to the property have led the World Heritage Committee to consider a more global approach to the issue of the deterioration of the situation in all the DRC World Heritage properties. In 2007, the reinforced monitoring mechanism, recently adopted by the World Heritage Committee (**31 COM 7A.32**), was applied to the property.

The World Heritage Centre received the state of conservation of the property on 2 February 2009. It is evident that most of the property's conservation problems are connected to the presence of Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) who have installed their base of operations in the GNP and in the surrounding hunting domains. Lack of security is particularly critical in the frontier region with Sudan.

Since the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, the security situation has greatly deteriorated, particularly following the joint operation carried out by MONUC, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (AFRDC) and the Ugandan army against the LRA rebels installed in and around the property. This operation began in December 2008. Lack of security in the region has a negative impact on the Park.

Following this military operation, the LRA rebels resorted to guerrilla warfare directed against the local population and also targeting the road networks around the Park. These clashes with the LRA are the origin of a serious human crisis. Numerous civilians have been killed or taken hostage, women have been raped, houses ransacked and burnt and numerous people displaced. The Park has not been spared by the actions of the LRA who, on 2 January 2009, attacked the headquarters of the Park, resulting in several killed and seriously wounded. To this human toll, major material damage at the Nagero Station, the biggest in the Park, was sustained. Several buildings have been destroyed as well as extensive damage caused to transportation and communication equipment. Fuel stocks and rations for the patrols were also looted. Through the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), the World Heritage Centre was able to provide USD 30,000 for the replacement of essential communication equipment and the resumption of surveillance operations. On 10 February 2009, a Park vehicle was attacked and the three occupants were killed. On 23 March 2009, a new attack was reported at 5 km from the Nagero Station where a guard was killed.

At the request of the Park management authorities, the World Heritage Centre has undertaken to contact MONUC to request its support to the Park staff and to ensure a minimum of security around the Nagero Station.

The breakdown of security has had important repercussions on the implementation of corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). As has been mentioned in earlier reports, an emergency plan which was being implemented at the property was beginning to produce positive results in the Park. Control of large-scale ivory poaching and bush meat had greatly improved. Furthermore, community conservation activities supported by the World Heritage Centre and aimed at improving relations with the local communities was pursued despite the conditions.

Another concern is the presence of the remaining Northern white rhino. In fact there is serious alarm that this sub-species has currently disappeared. Intensive searches have been unsuccessful. In view of the above-mentioned situation, discussion regarding translocation is no longer appropriate.

As indicated above, the breakdown of security has greatly perturbed the implementation of corrective measures:

- a) *Ensure the protection of the border between the DRC and Sudan in and around the property*

Armed groups continue to operate between Sudan and the DRC. As indicated above, the constant presence of Ugandan rebels of the LRA is responsible for the continuing lack of security in the region.

- b) *Improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that has undergone the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped*

As mentioned in the previous report, the military brigade posted around the Park was withdrawn in 2007 in the wake of serious incidents involving some of its members. Following the 2 January attack, military brigades of the AFDRC were temporarily deployed in the region, mainly around Dungu (region of the Azandé hunting domain), Faradje, Nagero and at Gangala na Bodio. The AFDRC military deployed in the region had logistic support from MONUC. Nevertheless, in the face of the guerrilla techniques used by the LRA, they have not yet been able to restore security in the region.

- c) *Ensure that the ICCN guard force of the property is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition*

Most of the clothing and bivouac equipment provided by the African Parks Foundation (APF) in 2007 for the guards to work in optimal conditions for three years, was burnt during the LRA attack. According to the APF, the replacement of this equipment should be settled rapidly.

The major problem confronting the guards is the non-availability of arms and ammunition. This problem leaves them very vulnerable and is an important obstacle in the control of more distant regions occupied by the LRA and/or by Sudanese poachers. The AFRDC Headquarters has been approached with respect to the provision of appropriate scheduling of equipment.

- d) *Undertake, in cooperation with MONUC, a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region*

A MONUC brigade is posted permanently at Dungu but, as indicated in the previous report, little progress has been achieved in the implementation of this recommendation due to priority given to civilians. However, in the framework of the combat against poaching and thanks to a new « Information » team, the guards have been able to recuperate military weapons as well as those of artisanal manufacture from the neighbouring populations.

- e) *Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into the DRC and the property*

On 24 September 2008 a technical meeting was held at the Nagero Station between the South Sudan authorities, the ICCN Management Authority and authorities of the Garamba and Lantoto National Parks, with support from the African Park Network (APN). The objective of the meeting was the resumption of discussions concerning, on the one hand, transborder cooperation between the two countries and the strengthening of the combat against poaching to ensure the transborder conservation of these contiguous protected areas, on the other. This cooperation should entail the exchange of information regarding poaching, surveillance and research between the two parks. Cooperation in the field would depend upon the security situation in the region. The two parties also discussed a possible transborder extension of the property.

- f) *Maintain and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey*

In 2007, a strong presence of guards was maintained in the southern sector of the Park. An average of 1,500 man/day patrols per month was maintained. A recruitment plan and training programme have been established to strengthen the surveillance team, with recruitment of an additional 59 guards. Between January and April 2008, guards received special training and benefitted from support in the field throughout the year. The total current force of active guards numbers 120.

Moreover, numerous missions were carried out in the hunting areas of Gangala na Bodio and Mondo Missa as well as in the territory of Faradje to identify poachers and gather information on illegal activities. Twenty-seven poachers were arrested during these missions and ten weapons seized.

The property also benefits from aerial surveillance using an ULM. Two ULMs were burnt during the 2 January attack, but should be replaced rapidly.

- g) *Strengthen efforts to improve relations with the local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme*

Staff of the Department for Community Conservation continue activities and collaboration with the thirteen local committees for Community Conservation (CLCD). Specifically, it facilitated the identification of 26 project proposals in three chieftaincies adjacent to the Park. Its teams visited 15 villages and organized numerous awareness raising meetings, workshops and training activities with the participation of more than 5,000 persons. The meetings organized by the Department of Community Conservation emphasized in particular the need to conserve the nature and to cooperate in rhino research. They also dealt with socio-economic issues and the presentation of micro-projects. Problems of security, notably in the Azande region, prevented any work in that area.

- h) *Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba Park guard*
i) *Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team building on the know-how available in ICCN and the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG)*

Throughout the year, the Department of Research and Monitoring has concentrated on the search for evidence of the presence of Northern white rhino. In accordance with the recommendations of the last meeting in May 2008 of the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) the research team concentrated its efforts on the hunting area of Gangala na Bodio (DCGB). The preconceived methodology was used during the intensive search operations carried out between July and December 2008. In April 2008, two Zimbabwean expert trackers reinforced the research team. They were relieved from October to December 2008 by two expert Kenyan trackers. In total, 4,709 km

were covered between the hunting area of Gangala na Bodio and the southern part of the Park, with no conclusive results.

- j) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties, to which the Government of the DRC committed to contribute at the 2004 UNESCO Conference on Heritage in Danger in the DRC*

See the Report on Virunga National Park (Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A)

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are very concerned with regard to the breakdown in security in the property and the loss of human lives which could endanger the achievements of these past years, notably halting large-scale poaching of elephants and other flagship species. The Centre and IUCN are also very concerned by the fact that the major efforts deployed to seek the last Northern white rhino have been unsuccessful and it seems more and more probable that this sub-species is now extinct.

Since the 31st session, the property is the subject of the reinforced monitoring mechanism and the World Heritage Centre ensures a permanent monitoring of the state of conservation of the property through its « DRC Programme ». In view of the current situation at the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend the continued application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision : 33 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the course of operations linked to the protection of the property, as well as to those victims of the different attacks against the Park;*
4. *Notes with deep concern the most recent breakdown of security that continues to delay the implementation of conservation activities and risks to threaten the achievements of these past years that had halted large-scale poaching of elephants and other flagship species;*
5. *Expresses its great concern as regards the possible extinction of the Northern white rhino of which no evidence has been identified to date, despite intensive searches within the property and in the adjacent hunting areas;*
6. *Urges the State Party, in cooperation with the Mission of the United Nations Organization for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), to strengthen its efforts to disarm all the national and foreign armed groups operating in and around the property and restore security;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee following the 2006 monitoring mission and the 2007 reinforced monitoring mission;*

8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, establish the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, update the required corrective measures and the timetable for their implementation;
9. Reiterates its requests to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including conditions of integrity and a proposal for the desired state of conservation in view of removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the state of the population of the Northern white rhino and other flagship species of the property, an update on the disarmament of the armed groups in the Park and progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
11. Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;
12. Also decides to maintain **Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1984

Criteria

(vii) (ix)

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

1999

Application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Adverse impact due to conflict;
- b) Increased poaching and illegal encroachment.

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

The Desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Identified corrective measures

The following corrective measures have been identified by the World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission in 2007 and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007):

- a) Organization and implementation of a large-scale combined anti-poaching operation involving the management authority (ICCN) and the Congolese Army Forces (FARDC) in the most threatened areas;
- b) Creation of a permanent consultation mechanism between the provincial political, administrative and military authorities of the four provinces covered by the property in order to address in a coordinated manner, the elimination of illegal activities, specifically large-scale poaching, in the Park;
- c) Implement the recently-developed anti-poaching strategy and an operation system of Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM);
- d) Initiate a process to resolve the conflict concerning the use of Park resources through a participatory approach;
- e) Urgently discuss the issue of the status of the villages in the Park;
- f) Link the two sectors of the property in the framework of a development plan for Salonga National Park by a buffer zone;
- g) Establish a special fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties to which the Government would contribute.

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been adopted.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.5; 31 COM 7A.7; 32 COM 7A.7

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 155,000 for project planning, training of guards and infrastructures (USD 85,000) and for the implementation of the Security Plan for the Park and its surroundings against armed poachers (USD 70,000 – ongoing).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for the World Heritage properties of the DRC ("DRC Programme") funded by the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Italy and Belgium: (2001-2005): approximately USD 320,000. (2005-2008): UNF limited funding.

Previous monitoring missions

2007: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability;
- b) Poaching by the army and armed groups;
- c) Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries;
- d) Impact of villages located within the property.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280>

Current conservation issues

Due to its location, the repercussions of the outbreak of the Great Lakes conflict in 1996 affected the Salonga National Park (PNS) somewhat later. The impact of the conflict concerned illegal encroachment and a significant increase of commercial poaching facilitated by the weakened situation and loss of authority of the ICCN, thus causing inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999. The unsatisfactory state of conservation of the property and the continuing lack of security despite the official halt of hostilities and important support that the property received, led the World Heritage Committee to consider a more global approach to the issue of the deteriorating situation of all the DRC World Heritage properties. In 2007, the reinforced monitoring mechanism recently adopted by the World Heritage Committee was applied to the property (**31 COM 7A.32**).

On 2 February 2009 a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party.

As indicated in the previous report, the implementation of the corrective measures began in January 2008 and is ongoing. These activities are funded by UNESCO (World Heritage Fund), the European Union through WWF and the ECOFAC Conservation Programme of the European Union. The implementation of the corrective measures has however been delayed by internal problems of the ECOFAC project. However, the problems mentioned in previous reports remain present. Security and intensive poaching are the main issues. To this must be added the lack of funding which is a serious obstacle to the successful conduct of activities of participatory delimitation and demarcation of the boundary.

- a) *Organization and implementation of a large-scale combined anti-poaching operation involving the management authority (ICCN) and the Congolese Army Forces (FARDC) in the most threatened areas*

Investigations on the poaching networks operating within the property have allowed ICCN to accumulate sufficient information on the major poaching areas. ICCN has been able to establish, together with the company of the 3rd military region, an efficacious action plan. Combined patrols are organized in the areas badly affected by poaching but their frequency often depends upon the availability of the FARDC units. However, a large-scale security operation to combat armed poaching, supported by the World Heritage Fund, is programmed for the second half of 2009.

- b) *Creation of a permanent consultation mechanism between the provincial political, administrative and military authorities of the four provinces covered by the property in order to address in a coordinated manner, the elimination of illegal activities, specifically large-scale poaching, in the Park*

Following the tripartite meeting « *Secure and Save the Environment of our Salonga National Park, threatened universal heritage* » organized from 14 to 17 April 2008 which resulted in the adoption by all parties concerned of an anti-poaching combat plan, a « tripartite » monitoring and assessment structure was established, and plans to meet quarterly. A semi-annual meeting of governors, together with the ICCN Director-General is also foreseen.

- c) *Implement the recently-developed anti-poaching strategy*

Implementation of the anti-poaching strategy continues, even though delayed by funding problems regarding the ECOFAC project. However, the first results obtained are encouraging. Awareness raising operations have allowed for the recuperation of a certain number of weapons, often voluntarily surrendered to ICCN. In the case of non-voluntary surrender, support from FARDC is requested to proceed with searches around the major

poaching areas. Nevertheless, anti-poaching activities can only be effective if security is restored in and around the property.

- d) *Initiate a process to resolve the conflict concerning the use of Park resources through a participatory approach*

Participatory delimitation and demarcation activities are ongoing but with very restricted means. Participatory structures are established and a procedure for the signature of conveyance contracts with local communities is underway. Furthermore, an awareness raising programme regarding poachers and illegal occupants in the Park has been set up. The activity is complex and will certainly require work over a long period.

- e) *Develop and implement a strategy to minimize and mitigate the impact of villages in the Park*

This activity has not yet begun but is foreseen in the 2009-2011 triennial strategic plan for the property.

- f) *Link the two sectors of the property in the framework of a development plan for the property;*

The procedure was initiated but will require intensive consultations with the different parties concerned. Consultations with the populations and preliminary studies have already been undertaken.

- g) *Establish a special fund for the rehabilitation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo World Heritage properties (DRC)*

See the report on Virunga National Park (Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A*).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have taken note of the progress achieved but, however, are concerned with regard to the accumulated delays in the implementation of the corrective measures, and in particular those linked to the security of the property and the halt of organized poaching. In the case of Salonga National Park, located outside of the area of armed conflict, lack of security is directly linked to the presence of professional poaching bands and without doubt the restoration of security constitutes a prerequisite for the improvement of the state of conservation of the property. This improvement should also, in fact, benefit the local populations. The resolution of the issue concerning the villages located in the property and the use of unsustainable resources of the Park can only be dealt with once security of the property has been established.

Since the 31st session, the reinforced monitoring mechanism is applied to the property and the World Heritage Centre ensures the continued monitoring of the state of conservation of the property through its « DRC Programme ». In view of the current situation at the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend to continue application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Centre,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*

3. *Notes with concern the delay in the implementation of the corrective measures established by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
4. *Urges the State Party to redouble its efforts to implement the corrective measures and in particular those relating to the organization of a combined anti-poaching combat operation in cooperation with the Congolese Army (FARDC), to secure the property and implement the anti-poaching strategy;*
5. *Regrets the lack of funding available for the implementation of the corrective measures, and more particularly those relating to participatory delimitation and demarcation activities, and calls upon the State Party and the donors to strengthen support to the property;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including conditions for integrity, as well as a proposal for the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of all the corrective measures, in particular those regarding the organization of a combined anti-poaching operation in cooperation with the Congolese Army (FARDC,) to secure the property, and on the implementation of the strategy for anti-poaching combat, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010 ;*
8. *Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism;*
9. ***Also decides to maintain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission report)

9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

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

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation by the State Party received late)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(x)

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

2007

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

- a) Poaching;
- b) Livestock grazing.

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

The following criteria to guide the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been proposed by the 2007 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission:

- a) 90% reduction in the number of signs of human activity encountered within the park;
- b) Extension of the area in which signs of large ungulates are encountered, from the present 34% to 85% of the area of the Park;
- c) Increase in counts of all species of larger ungulate for three consecutive years; and
- d) Reduction in animal flight distances along selected sections of road in the Park interior.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified during the 2007 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007):

- a) Implement urgent steps to halt poaching, using the Department of National Park's aircraft for surveillance, with ground support provided by a mobile 'strike force';
- b) Provide urgent training to the newly-recruited staff in the park, focussing on park security procedures and general 'orientation' to integrated management approaches;
- c) Survey and demarcate the park boundary;
- d) Explore the possibility of creating boreholes outside the Park to minimize illegal movements of livestock and local population inside the Park in search of water;

- e) Introduce a long-term moratorium on the hunting of giant eland, and also a hunting quota system in buffer areas surrounding the park based on reliable animal census statistics;
- f) Modify the park ecological monitoring programme to focus on a limited number of indicators and benchmarks which can be measured in a cost effective manner;
- g) Prioritise conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets and take proactive measures to solicit donor support for the management of the property;
- h) Develop Species Survival Plans for Giant Eland, Elephant, Hartebeest, Chimpanzee and other threatened species;
- i) Enhance trans-boundary cooperation and measures to protect buffer zones and ecological corridors outside the park;
- j) Revise the 2000 management plan and start its implementation.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A 12 month time frame was set to implement measures a) to f) and a 3 year time frame for the other measures. If all measures could be implemented within the adopted timeframe, the mission considered that a positive trend towards the rehabilitation of the property would be notable after 5 years.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.1; 31 COM 7B.1; 32 COM 7A.11

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 39,580 for Technical Cooperation and the preparation of a transboundary extension to the property. Early 2008, an additional USD 25,000 was made available from the World Heritage Fund.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission; January 2007: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife;
- b) Illegal logging;
- c) Livestock grazing;
- d) Road construction;
- e) Potential dam construction;
- f) Potential mining activities.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153>

Current conservation issues

Niokolo Koba National Park was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007, following a dramatic decline of wildlife populations, severe management problems and the potential impacts of a proposed construction of a new dam on the Gambia River a few kilometers upstream of the park. The 2007 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission proposed a number of urgent corrective measures to be taken. At the time of the mission, a public private partnership was under discussion with African Parks Foundation to support the management of the property and its rehabilitation.

On 23 February 2009, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party, together with a copy of the 2007-2010 priority action plan developed in 2007.

The following progress in the implementation of the corrective measures is noted in the report:

a) Implement urgent steps to halt poaching

The State Party notes that 170 additional Park agents were recruited in December 2007 and currently, there are 17 functioning guard posts and an additional patrol vehicle was bought. Regular patrols are organised by the mobile anti-poaching brigades. The mobile poaching brigades carry out patrols for about ten consecutive days. During the dry season at least one mobile brigade is engaged in patrols at any time within the property.

In 2008, ground patrols were supported by three over-flights during a total of eight days. Patrols intercepted 19 poachers: five for wildlife and the remainder for illegal fishing, illegal wood harvesting and illegal grazing. The patrols were able to confiscate arms also. Those intercepted were either fined or imprisoned for up to five months. No additional information was provided on seizures and target species.

The State Party also mentions that an agreement was signed in January 2009 with the commander of the military zone in Tambacounda to organize large scale patrols over two to three days at least once every three months. A first joint patrol between the army and rangers was planned for March 2009.

The State Party reports that the increased patrols have resulted in more wildlife sightings in 50% of the property. However, no monitoring information was provided to illustrate these changes.

b) Provide urgent training to the newly-recruited staff

Since December 2007 one training exercise was carried out in October 2008 which focused on anti-poaching methods. No information was provided to indicate if all rangers have been trained in anti-poaching and monitoring.

c) Survey and demarcate the park boundary

A workshop was held in April 2008 on the finalization of the demarcation of the boundary of the Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme. The State Party plans to use ground markers around the core zone of the biosphere reserve to indicate its boundary, and will implement this in 2009. The report also notes that 150 ha of agricultural encroachment has been observed.

d) Explore the possibility of creating boreholes outside the Park to minimize illegal movements of livestock and local population inside the Park in search of water

The State Party has met with pastoralists living around the property to discuss the problems of illegal grazing in the property. As a result, it had been agreed to allow limited access to the buffer zone for grazing and watering during the dry season, reducing the problems. However the State Party reports that limited progress was made in controlling transhumance through the property. A planned forum on transhumance was not implemented during 2008 due to lack of funding. The option of creating boreholes as suggested by the 2007 mission has

been rejected as a result of concerns surrounding concentrating cattle at the boundary of the property.

e) Introduce a long-term moratorium on the hunting of Giant eland, and also a hunting quota system in buffer areas surrounding the Park based on reliable animal census statistics

The report confirms that as the Giant eland is a totally protected specie, there is a *de facto* moratorium in place. In addition, no hunting is allowed within the National Park.

Modify the Park ecological monitoring programme to focus on a limited number of indicators and benchmarks which can be measured in a cost effective manner

Wildlife monitoring currently focuses on elephants, Giant eland and chimpanzees. The State Party reports that there have been no sightings of elephants since an elephant research team was established in August 2007. Traces found through surveys suggest that a small group of elephants is still living in the property. Attempts at radio-tracking of Giant eland since 2007 have not been successful. However, efforts are continuing to collar four individuals to allow tracking of their location and improved protection. Planning for a sub-regional chimpanzee research programme began in November 2008 through project Wula Nafa with funding from the US Government. No activities have been described or begun yet.

f) Prioritise conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets and take proactive measures to solicit donor support for the management of the property

The report notes that the Minister of State secured a substantive increase in the budget for the protection of the property from CFA 58 million in 2008 to CFA 122 million in 2009. An additional budget of CFA 10 million payment for infrastructure improvements has also been made.

g) Develop Species Survival Plans for Giant eland, Elephant, Hartebeest, Chimpanzee and other threatened species

The State Party report does not provide information on this issue. However, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Antelope Task Force notes that the total numbers of the Western Giant eland probably do not exceed ca. 200 individuals, with most of the surviving animals in the property.

h) Enhance transboundary cooperation and measures to protect buffer zones and ecological corridors outside the Park

The State Party did not report any new initiatives to enhance transboundary cooperation on ecological corridors with Guinea since December 2007. Discussions are underway with UNDP on a programme to restore and manage corridors for migratory wildlife. In February 2009, a meeting was held in Mali to discuss opportunities for collaboration that would include the property.

i) Revise the 2000 management plan and start its implementation.

The State Party reports that it is seeking support from the IUCN office in Dakar to evaluate the 2000-2005 management plan and update it. It is hoped that this activity can be completed in 2009. IUCN notes that its West and Central Africa office is not aware of this request.

The State Party further notes that the support of local communities is necessary for the conservation of the property and therefore actions are needed to support local development. The State Party has organised community meetings to promote the collaboration and identify potential income-generating activities with local communities. However, no information was provided on any initiatives underway.

The State Party reports that the Integrated Ecosystem Management Project (PGIES) has supported a variety of monitoring, research, infrastructure and awareness-raising programmes.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the State Party submitted a copy of the 3 year priority action plan it developed following the 2007 monitoring mission. The action plan foresees activities to rehabilitate surveillance infrastructure and purchase equipment, rehabilitate some of the habitats, valorise the park for the benefit of the local communities and implement research activities, with a total projected budget of 21,5 Million Euro over 3 years, of which 90 % is foreseen for infrastructure and equipment. No information is provided on the implementation status of the plan.

The State Party did not report on progress in addressing threats from illegal cutting of Borassus palms, uncontrolled use of fire, spread of invasive species and associated drying of marshes, planned construction of a dam on the Gambia river, or the planned trans-national Tambacounda highway. The report also provides no information on progress in developing a public private partnership agreement with the African Parks Foundation (APF). The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have been informed that the discussions with APF were unsuccessful but that discussions are underway with a Dubai based group. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received reports about public demonstrations against privatisation of the property that took place in January and February 2009 and that were reported in local media. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the State Party provide an update on institutional management planned for the property and if any changes are proposed to include a privatization of the management of the property.

While the State Party report indicates that there is progress in addressing the main threat of poaching and in the implementation of the corrective measures, IUCN has received contradictory reports. According to these reports poaching is actually increasing in the property and

- There are very few patrols and these are only on the main trails within the property. Many ranger camps are said to be closed and there are very few sightings of wildlife. Staff training remains inadequate and the action plan is not being implemented.
- The levels of threat to the property seem not to have diminished and there seems to be no evidence of a recovery in large mammal populations.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are extremely concerned by these reports which seem to indicate continued erosion of the Outstanding Universal Value of Niokolo Koba National Park. Hence, they recommend that the Reinforced monitoring mechanism could appropriately be applied to the property to help to ensure that the utmost is done to support the actions that are now essential to it retaining long-term conservation value. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recommend that the State Party invites a mission to the property in 2010 to determine the extent to which the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is affected.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Expresses its serious concern about reports that poaching pressure is increasing in the property and is further eroding its Outstanding Universal Value;
4. Regrets that it has not been possible for the State Party to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) within the agreed timeframe;
5. Also regrets that the State Party did not provide information on progress in addressing threats from illegal logging, spread of invasive species and associated drying of marshes, planned construction of a dam on the Gambia river, the planned transnational Tambacounda highway as well as its efforts to establish a public private partnership for its implementation, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008);
6. Urges the State Party to increase efforts to urgently implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session as well as the other recommendations of the 2007 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to avoid the potential imminent loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Calls upon the State Party as well as the international donor community to increase their support for the management of the property and in particular the implementation of the corrective measures;
8. Reiterates its request the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to review the state of conservation of the property and to review the corrective measures and timeframe;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures and all other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee above mentioned in Paragraphs 5 and 6, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
11. Decides to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;
12. Also decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA-PACIFIC

12. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1985

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

1992

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

- a) Insurgency resulting in destruction of Park infrastructure;
- b) Depletion of forest habitat and wildlife populations.

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

A series of corrective measures was adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005). Following the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission, the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) updated the corrective measures as follows:

- a) Urgently conduct a baseline survey on recovery of wildlife populations and set up a full monitoring system which will allow monitoring and documenting the recovery of flagship species;
- b) Resolve the problem of fund release which did not progress significantly since the last mission;
- c) Complete the work for the reconstruction and improvement of park infrastructure;
- d) Fill the remaining vacant positions in the park by recruiting the best elements of the volunteers, and/or others, into permanent positions;
- e) Strengthen and consolidate park management operations, in particular the efforts for reducing illegal logging and wildlife poaching in the Panbari Range;
- f) Continue efforts for the reintroduction of the one-horned rhino and assess the need and feasibility for a restoration programme of the swamp deer.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.13; 31 COM 7A.11; 32 COM 7A.12

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 165,000 for purchase of equipment, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community activities.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: As of 2008, the property is benefiting from the UNF funded World Heritage India programme. Project interventions include: enhancing management effectiveness and building staff capacity; increasing the involvement of local communities in the management of the property and promoting their sustainable development; and raising awareness through communication and advocacy.

Previous monitoring missions

1992: IUCN mission; 1997: UNESCO mission; February 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; April 2005: UNESCO/ IUCN monitoring mission; February 2008: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Insurgency 1988-2003;
- b) Forced evacuation of Park staff;
- c) Destruction of Park infrastructure;
- d) Poaching and logging;
- e) Illegal cultivation.

Illustrative material:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338>

Current conservation issues

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992, during a prolonged period of political unrest and insecurity, which resulted in poaching and a dramatic decline in wildlife, as well as deforestation and habitat degradation. With the security situation improving, a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission visited the property in 2005 and established a set of corrective measures, which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005). A further mission visited the property in 2008 to review progress in the implementation. The mission concluded that the rehabilitation of the outstanding universal value of the property had just started, and that the presence of viable populations of key wildlife species and a clear upward trend of these populations were key elements for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 11 February 2009, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party, which provides the following information on the implementation of the corrective measures:

- a) *Urgently conduct a baseline survey on recovery of wildlife populations and set up a full monitoring system which will allow monitoring and documenting the recovery of flagship species;*

The State Party report provides data on the wildlife populations of 27 species of mammals, including elephant, wild water buffalo; swamp deer, pygmy hog and others. Population estimates on eight rare species of bird is also provided, including the Bengal florican. No

information is provided on the data collection techniques used or on the statistical accuracy of the data, making it difficult to do a proper interpretation. The report also does not include an analysis of the data, comparing population estimates with the levels at the time of inscription.

The data seem to confirm the conclusion of the 2008 monitoring mission that recovery of wildlife populations has just started. For several key species, population estimates are significantly lower than at the time of inscription: for instance current estimated elephant population in the park and surrounding buffer areas stands at 1,284, while this population was estimated 2000-3000 in 1990. The report does not include information on the tiger population in Manas, but states that the average population of the entire North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra flood plains, which includes Manas, is estimated at 70 individuals. In 1990, the tiger population in the property alone was estimated at 123. The next tiger census will be carried out in 2009. The report also mentions 163 Golden Langur (population estimated 305 in 1980), 10 swamp deer (population estimated 450 in 1992) and 43 Bengal florican (population estimated 80 in 1980). Several species have populations close to or lower than 50 individuals: sloth bear (17), leopard (29), golden cat (35), fishing cat (35), leopard cat (52), wild dog (52), giant squirrel (52), Indian pangolin (35), Himalayan black bear (35), Himalayan palm civet (17). Populations of pygmy hog and hispid hare were estimated at 192 and 297 individuals respectively.

- b) *Resolve the problem of fund release which did not progress significantly since the last mission;*

The report states that the funding situation has continued to improve. The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) continues to provide regular funding to the property. In 2008, State and Central funds of about USD 113,900 were also provided to the property and the Indian Rhino Vision-2020 programme has provided a further USD 51,800. No information is provided regarding whether the funds provided by the national authorities were released in a timely way at the site level.

- c) *Complete the work for the reconstruction and improvement of park infrastructure;*

Since April 2008 an additional six anti-poaching camps have been constructed, bringing the total to 37. Additional wireless base stations have been installed and other equipment has been purchased to aid patrolling. The southern boundary road has also been re-opened, which facilitates patrol activities, in particular preventing illegal livestock grazing in the property.

- d) *Fill the remaining vacant positions in the park by recruiting the best elements of the volunteers, and/or others, into permanent positions;*

Staffing levels have improved significantly since the 2008 mission with a reduction in the number of vacancies from 123 to 32. There are currently 319 staff, including 71 armed rangers. There is additional support from conservation workers, armed guards and forest protection officers provided by the Bodo Territorial Council, Indian Rhino Vision-2020 and the Assam Forest Protection Force.

- e) *Strengthen and consolidate park management operations, in particular the efforts for reducing illegal logging and wildlife poaching in the Panbari Range;*

Patrolling has been reinforced in the Panbari Range and the Bhuyanpara Range, the areas most affected during the crisis. Anti-poaching camps in these areas have been reinstated and are staffed. According to the State Party report, poaching and illegal logging in both areas is now under control.

- f) *Continue efforts for the reintroduction of the one-horned rhino and assess the need and feasibility for a restoration programme of the swamp deer.*

In 1990, the population of one-horned rhino in Manas was estimated at 80 individuals, but the species was poached out during the crisis. A reintroduction programme began in 2006,

with the translocation of several rescued females. Two males were successfully translocated from other National Parks in April 2008 and three rescued female rhinos were released in November 2008. The report notes that all translocated individuals have adapted well to their new surroundings. It is planned to translocate a total of 20 rhinos under the reintroduction programme "Indian Rhino Vision-2020" which is supported by the Government of Assam, Bodoland Territorial Council, WWF, International Rhino Foundation and United States Fish and Wildlife Services. The rescue programme is also supported by the Wildlife Trust of India.

The report notes that the presence of 10 swamp deer was confirmed during the census. While it will take time, it is thought that this group could provide a sufficient basis for a future recovery and no translocation is necessary.

The State Party report further notes that while the property for the moment has no approved management plan, a draft is available which addresses the concerns included in Decision **32 COM 7A.12**. The draft notes the vision for the future management of the property, wildlife monitoring, management of invasive species, land use management, fire management and tourism. Unfortunately, no copy of this draft management plan was submitted by the State Party, thus it has not been reviewed. The report mentions that the Bodoland Territorial Council has taken the initiative to enlarge the Park on its western flank, from 500 to 974 sq. km, in line with the recommendations of the 2008 mission.

The report also notes the support for the property through UNESCO's World Heritage Programme in India, via project components related to strengthening capacity for effective management; local communities; habitat connectivity; research and monitoring; management and governance and raising profile of World Heritage properties in civil society.

No information was provided on the following recommendations of the 2008 monitoring mission: transboundary cooperation, tourism planning, capacity building for volunteers and field staff, status of invasive species and need to clarify responsibilities between the Government of Assam and the Bodoland Territorial Council on the management of the property. IUCN notes the publication of several research papers on habitat changes in Manas National Park ('Land-use and Land-cover change and future implication analysis in Manas National Park, India using multi-temporal satellite data' published in June 2008 by P K Sarma et al in the Journal Current Science and 'A study of habitat utilization patterns of Asian elephant *Elephas maximus* and current status of human elephant conflict in Manas National Park within Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve, Assam' in Aaranyak Technical report by Lahkar, B.P., Das, J.P., Nath, N.K., Dey, S., Brahma, N & Sarma, P.K. 2007). Findings of these reports include that for the period 1998 to 2006 woodland decreased by 8.97sq. km, alluvial grasslands decreased by 38.84sq. km, and waterbodies decreased by 1.68sq. km. In contrast, savannah grasslands have increased by 29.13sq. km, and encroached land has increased by 4.93sq. km. Alluvial grasslands are particularly important for pygmy hog and the paper suggests that invasive plants and fires may be contributing to the siltation and drying of the alluvial grasslands. Reduced rainfall appears to be a further factor contributing to the reduction in the area of waterbodies and alluvial grasslands.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the continued progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures and believe these are creating the conditions for a recovery of the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property. They also welcome the data on wildlife populations which have been submitted through the State Party report. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that these data seem to confirm the conclusion of the 2008 mission that, while the recovery of wildlife populations has started, it is still at an early stage. The successful reintroduction of rhino to the property is also encouraging but it will be necessary to continue the programme to create a viable new population. While the re-discovery of swamp deer is encouraging, it remains to be seen if

the population is sufficient to be viable. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) that a clear upward trend of populations of key wildlife species needs to be demonstrated to justify a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger remains the clear and appropriate basis for consideration of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The current population data can be considered as a baseline to monitor these trends. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN hope that the State Party will be able to demonstrate these positive trends over the next two to three years, in order for the World Heritage Committee to consider removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also invite the State Party to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for a removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the presented baseline data. The monitoring of the outstanding universal value of the property should also include data on habitat change in relation to criterion (ix) and the mentioned research papers can provide a useful baseline for this.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party reports that a draft management plan has recently been completed and invites the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre. The monitoring of the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property should be fully integrated into the implementation of the new management plan, taking into account concerns about invasive species, changes in land-cover, reduced rainfall, and the need to monitor possible climate change impacts, and consider developing appropriate adaptive management measures.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the reports that the Bodoland Territorial Council has taken the initiative to expand the National Park to the west and note that this would contribute to improve the integrity and landscape connectivity of the property and its wildlife.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes the State Party's efforts to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) and the initiative by the Bodoland Territorial Council to expand Manas National Park to the west which will contribute to the improved integrity of the property;*
4. *Takes note of the results of the comprehensive wildlife survey which seems to confirm that the recovery of wildlife populations has started but is still at an early stage, and reiterates its position that a clear upward trend of these populations needs to be demonstrated in order to allow for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
5. *Requests the State Party to base further monitoring of wildlife trends on the results of the comprehensive wildlife survey and encourages the State Party to consider expanding the monitoring of the property to include the habitat ;*

6. Also requests the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session, as well as the other recommendations of the 2008 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission, in particular the finalization of the management plan, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for information;
7. Reiterates its request that the State Party develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the available baseline data on wildlife populations and habitat, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures and recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. Decides to retain **Manas National Park (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

13. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1978, extension in 2001

Criteria

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

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

2007

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

- a) Inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos and lack of enforcement;
- b) Poor governance;
- c) Inadequate regional planning;
- d) Inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures;
- e) Illegal fishing;
- f) Instability of Park Director's position;
- g) High and unregulated illegal in-migration and resulting impacts of development on biodiversity;
- h) Unsustainable tourism development;
- i) Educational reform not implemented;

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

A large number of different individual activities are grouped under the following 15 main components:

- a) Reducing the number of access points to the Galápagos Islands, by sea and by air, to decrease the probabilities of new invasive species being introduced;
- b) Optimizing of resources allocated to the Galápagos conservation agencies, particularly in relation to GNP (Galápagos National Park), INGALA (Instituto Nacional Galápagos/ National Institute for Galápagos) and SESA (Servicio Ecuatoriano de Sanidad Agropecuaria - Ecuadorian Animal and Plant Inspection Service);
- c) Strengthening of the selection process for the highest ranking posts in INGALA and SESA;
- d) Reducing significantly the number of illegal immigrants in the Galápagos Islands, and the resulting impacts of unregulated population growth;
- e) Regulating recreational fishing activities;

- f) Controlling the number of tourists coming to the Galápagos Islands;
- g) Applying regulations on inspecting and fumigating aircrafts;
- h) Applying quarantine measures and the phytosanitary practices in cruisers and freighters both between the islands and between the mainland and Galápagos;
- i) Counteracting the overexploitation of fish resources and providing opportunities for alternative employment for the small-scale fishing sector;
- j) Counteracting opportunities for the dispersal of invasive species through movement of people and freight between islands and between the mainland and Galápagos;
- k) Increasing staff and infrastructure at departure points on the mainland and entry points on the Galápagos for effective inspections;
- l) Ensuring that cabotage boats meet the basic conditions for cargo and food transportation, decreasing the risk of introduction of invasive species;
- m) Planning and implementing a capacity-building strategy among local residents to enable them to be better prepared to undertake technical or professional work traditionally done by foreigners;
- n) Implementing the Integral Educational Reform which had been in the LOREG (Organic Law for the Species Regimen for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Galápagos) since 1998 yet without realisation;
- o) Building capacity for early detection and eradication of invasive species arriving from the mainland or other islands.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Time frames for the various activities of the Action Plan range from 2007 to 2012.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.29; 31 COM 7B.35; 32 COM 7A.13

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 506,250 for Emergency, Training and Technical support.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million for the capitalization of an introduced species trust fund, management of introduced species, tourism management studies and other technical support.

Previous monitoring missions

June 1996: UNESCO / IUCN mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: UNESCO / IUCN mission; April 2007: UNESCO / IUCN mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); April 2009: UNESCO informal visit.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos and lack of enforcement;
- b) Poor governance;
- c) Inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures;
- d) Illegal fishing;

- e) Instability of Park Director's position;
- f) High immigration rate;
- g) Unsustainable tourism development;
- h) Educational reform not implemented.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1>

Current conservation issues

The principal threat to this property's Outstanding Universal Value arises from the breakdown of its ecological isolation due to the growing population in the islands. The resulting increase in transport of goods and people between the continent and the islands, and between islands opens up many opportunities for the introduction of alien species, which displace and/or predate native and endemic Galapagos species. Additional threats are linked to excessive fishing pressures in the Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR), whereby uncontrolled fisheries led to the severe depletion of key commercial species. Growing institutional instability further eroded the integrity of the property, as governmental agencies could not fulfil their conservation related mandates. These conditions led to the inscription of the property onto the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007, following the request of the State Party.

On 13 February 2009 the World Heritage Centre received a substantial state of conservation report for this property. It outlines key actions implemented during 2008 towards achieving the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee, providing quantitative information on trends for various indicators.

Based on the information provided in the State Party report and the other information gathered, following progress towards the implementation of the corrective measures can be noted:

a) *Reducing the number of access points to the Galápagos Islands, by sea and by air, to decrease the probabilities of new invasive species being introduced*

Modest improvements have been made, but a significant issue remains. The total number of continental departure points and island access points has been decreased to 13, although this is far more than the one central air and marine access point in Galapagos recommended by the 2006 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission. Fewer access points allow for the concentration of necessary modern phytosanitary inspection and control infrastructure investments (port facilities, storage of fresh goods, fumigation, baggage control, aircraft control etc.)

b) *Optimizing of resources allocated to the Galápagos conservation agencies*

The regularization of 154 GNP staff is reported along with the achievement of the USD 15 million capitalization target of the Introduced Species Trust Fund. In 2008, the GNP received USD 5.04 million, and another USD 630,000 were provided for GMR management from the Park entrance fee. Furthermore, USD 3 million of compensation for the environmental damage caused by the fuel spill of the tanker Jessica in 2001 was obtained and will be invested in key management and conservation activities in GNP and GMR. The SESA - Ecuadorian Animal and Plant Inspection Service) remains chronically underfunded and understaffed. The State Party report makes no mention on establishing a cost recovery system for the services of SESA, as recommended in the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission report.

c) *Strengthening of the selection process for the highest ranking posts in INGALA and SESA*

No mention is made of efforts under this corrective measure.

d) *Reducing significantly the number of illegal immigrants in the Galápagos Islands*

Significant effort has been made in systematizing the tracking of permanent and temporary residents, and tourists by the use of computerized Transit Cards. This system has already demonstrated its efficacy, having led to the identification and repatriation of several hundred people. If effectively applied and strictly adhered to, it promises to help control the presence of non-authorized people in the islands. Over 5,000 people received "temporary resident" status in 2007-2008. This status is typically granted to people coming to Galapagos to fill a labour gap. For example, of the 1,980 jobs posted in Galapagos in 2008, only 150 were filled by permanent residents (13%).

e) *Regulating recreational fishing activities*

Progress is reported under the system of concessions being developed for recreational fishing, though it is still too early to gauge its effectiveness.

f) *Controlling the number of tourists coming to the Galápagos Islands*

The State Party report notes that during 2008, 173,420 persons entered Galapagos, which represents a nearly 100% increase since 2003. Only 52% embarked on a cruise, indicating a very rapid growth of non-cruise visitation (some of which is not tourism related – e.g. family visits, short term business). Land based visitation is increasing due to the promotion of relatively cheap land based (non-cruise) tour packages not necessarily focusing on the traditional distinctive attributes of Galapagos. Though the number of boat based tourists has increased by 36% in the past 5 years (explained by higher occupation rates, shorter cruises and a higher turnover of clients, as the total boat based capacity has not increased significantly), hotel based visitation has increased by over 450%. The number of hotel rooms available in Galapagos increased by 12% in the past twelve months, according to Galapagos Chamber of Tourism.

g) *Applying regulations on inspecting and fumigating aircraft*

This objective appears to have largely been met, according to the State Party report, which provides quantitative data on the implementation of phytosanitary activities, such as i) the carrying out of 8,831 inspections in aircraft and ships; ii) inspection of cargo on board 1,159 inter-island flights.

h) *Quarantine measures and the phytosanitary practices in cruisers and freighters*

The State Party reports that aircraft and ships are being sprayed with insecticides, and that inspection rates are up. Strict record keeping in this regard is in place. There is a continued lack of port facilities meeting strict phytosanitary protocols in Guayaquil. The SESA plan for such facilities is a first step, but until they exist, a major entry point for alien species remains open and not under effective control at Guayaquil.

i) *Counteracting the overexploitation of fish resources and providing opportunities for alternative employment for the small-scale fishing sector*

There is progress in regards to structuring marine related tourism activities for which fishermen will have priority access. The Fishery Registry was purged by eliminating 113 fishers and ten vessels that had not been active for three consecutive years. In addition, 56 fishers and ten fishing vessels are now exclusively devoted to artisanal fishing tours whereas 50 fishers are now trained as Dive Masters, authorized to work alongside the tourism sector.

j) *Counteracting opportunities for the dispersal of invasive species*

Initial efforts in terms of the application of phytosanitary protocols to ships have been made. In 2008 SESA confiscated a total of 2,661 non-permitted or restricted products that were in

poor condition or pest infested, representing a 21% increase over 2007. An “*Optimal Cargo Transportation System*” was approved for implementation in April 2008 and a coordinator has been hired to implement it. There is no information on attempts to reduce the number of ships, or number of ports visited, nor the frequency of visitation.

k) *Increasing staff and infrastructure at departure points on the mainland and entry points on the Galápagos for effective inspections*

The State Party report indicated that total staff numbers at SESA is 46, but claims that the actual number required is “much larger”. Given that SESA must maintain inspection capacity in a total of 13 distinct aircraft and marine entry and departure points, along with maintaining the capacity to carry out monitoring activities elsewhere, numbers are indeed extremely limited.

l) *Ensuring that cabotage boats meet the basic conditions for cargo and food transportation*

Inspections for inter-island transport have increased, and the rate of product decommissioning has increased. There is no information on technical specifications required on inter-island transport of goods (e.g. refrigeration, regular decontamination, authorized docking facilities).

m) *Capacity-building strategy among local residents*

The most notable effort is linked to the eventual establishment of a vocational training institute in Galapagos, focusing on skill-sets in demand in the islands. The vocational training institute is not yet operational, but should be a priority. There is a growing number of private universities establishing campuses in Galapagos, or expressing an interest in doing so, although these are understood to primarily target English language students.

n) *Integral Educational Reform*

Implementation of the reform is a shared responsibility of several government and non-government agencies, including UNESCO, with whom the Ministry of Education has signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect. Several substantial activities were implemented in 2008 indicating that significant progress is underway, though important overall financing remains a challenge. Recent discoveries of 104 giant turtle carcasses killed for meat on Isabela Island near the town of Villamil attests to the urgent need to implement targeted Galapagos adapted education reform.

o) *Building capacity for early detection and eradication of invasive*

The early pest detection and control system was activated as of August 2008, when the GNP, SESA-SICGAL, and other entities joined forces to control and eradicate the recently detected Mediterranean fruit fly. Latest monitoring results reveal significantly reduced numbers, but an ongoing presence. The exotic freshwater tilapia fish, found in El Junco Lake less than ten years ago, is reported to have been eradicated. CDF has reported the first sighting of the “bigheaded ant” (*Pheidole megacephala*) in 2008, considered one of the world’s most invasive ant species by IUCN’s Invasive Species Specialist Group. This ant is known to displace native species. Studies on the introduced *Philornis downsi* bird parasite, first detected in 1964, have revealed that it is present in up 97% of Darwin’s finch nests, causing an average 50% mortality in nestlings. It has spread through at least eleven islands and is considered a major factor in the shrinking population trend of several Galapagos bird species, leading to potential extinction.

In addition to the points above, the State Party report explains that the new constitution for Ecuador, adopted on 20 October 2008, contains special provisions for Galapagos. Though it will remain a province within Ecuador, it is to be governed no longer by an elected provincial prefect, but rather by a Governing Council, presided over by a representative of the national president, and comprised of the municipal mayors, and representatives of other settlements. It is not clear how the mandate for the conservation of the National Park lands (97% of the

land surface in Galapagos) and of the Marine Reserve will be articulated with this new Governing Council.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN take note of the depth of information provided within the State Party's report and a number of other sources of information. The regularization of staff and achievement of the capitalization target of the Introduced Species Trust Fund are amongst a number of key points noted above that deserve commendation. The State Party has invested heavily in the implementation of many necessary actions. If sustained, these are likely to result in measurable progress in reversing some of the trends that have led to the property's inscription onto the List of World Heritage in Danger. If complemented with actions focusing on areas of continuing concern, and if resulting in measurable improvements, it is anticipated that there should be growing scope for consideration of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger within the next three-five years. IUCN notes that this is also the timescale anticipated in the official Action Plan prepared by the Minister of the Environment at the time of the 2007 reactive monitoring mission.

Despite the positive action on several fronts, the reports also indicate the significant challenges that remain to Galapagos and indicate the need for consolidation of efforts in a number of key areas. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note with satisfaction that the levels of cruise based tourism and fishing have stabilized and no longer appear to constitute a growing major attraction for economic migrants. However, despite the successes in controlling fishing and cruise ship industries, there is concern over the reported 450% surge in hotel based visitation in the past five years. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that this trend will not be able to be managed under the current framework of laws and regulations being implemented in Galapagos. As a result, given the link between rapid economic growth, immigration and introduced species, the issue of land based visitation emerges as the most fundamentally challenging and immediate threat to the long-term conservation of the islands. The lack of a clear Galapagos policy on tourism that is strictly linked to conservation, and the absence of any control measures on numbers of arrivals is laying the foundation of future major threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, undermining the significant efforts made to date by the State Party.

Additional points requiring attention are noted by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as follows:

- a) The establishment of one central access port to Galapagos remains a requirement. The 13 entry and departure points of the current transportation system is a critical design flaw that will permanently undermine all other introduced species control efforts.
- b) The Invasive Species Trust Fund needs to be made operational. It is important to ensure that its resources should be strictly limited to dealing with introduced species concerns and not to supplant regular operations of government agencies.
- c) Adequate funding and staffing needs to be provided to SESA. As the control and eradication of new species is much costlier than preventing their arrival in the first place, the lack of capacity of SESA continues to be a major gap in the State Party response to the threat of introduced species.
- d) Further investment in strengthening the application and effectiveness of the Transit Card system is strongly recommended. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned over the level of use of "*temporary resident*" status and measures are needed to ensure this is not a loophole through which immigration control will be seriously undermined.
- e) The tourism concession system requires a strong process of implementation, noting this could be challenging, especially in relation to de-facto recreational fishing operations implemented without permission.
- f) Confirmation is required that the new constitution will strengthen the role of the Galapagos National Park service in the management of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also note that the State Party has not developed a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as requested by the Decision **31 COM 7B.35** and reiterated by the Decision **32 COM 7A.13**. These statements are essential to establish a framework within which it can be assessed at what point the conditions are in place for removing this property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It would be beneficial to focus on their establishment as a priority for the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee, and IUCN is in a position to provide technical advice on these matters to the State Party.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes the recent progress achieved by the State Party on the implementation of some of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and included in the Action Plan produced in response to the Presidential Decree No. 270;*
4. *Notes with concern the continued threats to the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property, arising from very rapid growth of land based tourism and from invasive alien species;*
5. *Urges the State Party to continue to strengthen its efforts on the implementation of all of the corrective measures established for the property;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010. The State party is encouraged, if it wishes to do so, to prepare and submit an International Assistant request to support this process;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, with particular emphasis on the identified corrective measures in its 15 point Action Plan and on its response to land based visitation trends, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010. The report should also address how corrective measures are contributing to addressing the requirements associated to the anticipated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and the anticipated Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
8. ***Decides to retain the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

14. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(iii)

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

2004

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

Deterioration and decay leading to the collapse of the historical and archeological structures for which the property was inscribed

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

- a) Rehabilitation of at least 70% of the heritage monuments;
- b) Surveyed and demarcated boundaries as well as the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje Ya Kati;
- c) Established proper land-use plan;
- d) Demonstrated progress in the implementation of the management and the conservation plan;
- e) Fully established on-site administrative structures;
- f) Halted sea-wave action;

Corrective measures identified

- a) Implement urgent measures to halt sea-wave action;
- b) Survey and demarcate the boundaries of the property including extension;
- c) Improve and implement the management and conservation plans;
- d) Provide for on-site management staff;
- e) Halt the vegetation growth within and around monuments;
- f) Halt of illegal removal of monuments stone for private constructions.

Timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures

- a) Changes within two years:
Delineation of the boundaries of the property and buffer zones. This should also include the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje Ya Kati, the

boundaries and the extension to be submitted for consideration by the 35th session of the Committee;

b) Changes within three years:

- (i) Implementation of the management plan should be advanced, and there should be signs of rehabilitation of architectural heritage;
- (ii) Management structures should be well established in each serial site with an operational office and staff;
- (iii) Establishment of a proper land-use plan to protect sites integrity and resolve future land conflicts;

c) Changes within five years:

Recovery of most of the architectural heritage should be completed (though full recovery will take much longer and will require sustained effort for over a decade).

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.15; 31 COM 7A.15; 32 COM 7A.14

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: Technical co-operation (USD 24,320 in 2001) for the preparation of a management plan and extension of the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: Support from the French and Japanese governments to UNESCO project (USD 1,438,000). The Norwegian Funds-in-Trust provided support for UNESCO rehabilitation project (USD 201,390).

Previous monitoring missions

February 2004: ICOMOS mission; June 2008 and March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric;
- b) Lack of approved statement of outstanding universal value;
- c) Lack of using the management plan as the main vehicle for managing the property;
- d) Lack of approved boundaries for the property and its buffer zone linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection;
- e) Need to extend the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje Ya Kati;
- f) Lack of functioning local consultative committee;
- g) Lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144>

Current conservation issues

At the time of the writing of this report, the State Party has yet not submitted the state of conservation plan requested by the World Heritage Committee.

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee requested a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assist the State Party in developing the previously requested Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and in exploring how to ensure that the site's management plan can function as the key, central co-ordinating mechanism in managing the property, and finally to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property.

This mission took place from 2-9 March 2009. Its report notes the following main outcomes in site conservation since the previous mission, 9 months earlier:

- b) An improved state of conservation through systematic consolidation of monumental structures at Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara;
- c) An improved participation by local stakeholders in property management through the already established "Ruins Committees";
- d) An improved understanding of the management plan as a guiding document for targeted action on-site;
- e) An increase in visitation that opens up possibilities for more sustainable operations at the site;
- f) Significant impacts of international donor aid and actions on site, and potential for their renewal and extension.

The mission also provided recommendations in the following areas:

Statement of outstanding universal value

A workshop on outstanding universal value took place in Dar es Salaam from 2 to 4 March 2009, organized by the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities. The Statement of outstanding universal value for the property agreed upon during this workshop will be forwarded to the World Heritage Centre after review by stakeholders at national level.

Delineation of boundaries of the property and the buffer zones

At present, the property and the buffer zones are undefined, and land uses and inhabitants not documented. The mission recommends however looking beyond a possible delineation of the property and buffer zones as contiguous entities, but rather to defining key monumental structures with their adjacent spaces as a series of small cores embedded in a larger conservation zone. The Antiquities Act provides for the establishment of such zones by bylaw. This approach to zoning should identify current land use, and the extent of permitted change. The mission notes that the conservation zones could also be defined to include visual axes to be respected, or important intangible heritage to be respected, e.g. ancient traditions and functions. The mission also notes that this comprehensive mapping is a matter of urgency.

Conservation of monuments

The mission reported that the state of conservation of the monumental structures at Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara was encouraging, and that currently 25% of the monumental structures have been successfully stabilized.

In Kilwa Kisiwani, the Gereza has to a great extent been consolidated under a Norway Funds-in-Trust arrangement, which will be continued and finalized under a cooperation

scheme with the World Monuments Fund. The situation is the same for the Great Mosque and Great House, the Small Domed Mosque, and the Husuni Kubwa, while a major clean up was underway at Husuni Ndogo. Structures still needing urgent attention include the Makutani Palace complex, Malindi Mosque, and the Tombs of the Kilwa Sultans.

In Songo Mnara, the mission noted that large sections of the property have been cleared of destructive vegetation, especially at the most important buildings. Although it is noted that stabilization of structures has not advanced as far as at Kilwa Kisiwani, the Sultan's Palace and adjoining house, as well as the Mosque, have already been successfully stabilized and to a limited extent restored. The mission noted excellent repair work on the reconstruction of deteriorated or lost niches, arches and decoration details at the Sultan's Palace, and that 30 people have received job training as part of the programme initiated by the French Government. The mission further suggested that the stabilization of all remaining structures, itself an enormous task, was perhaps neither feasible nor necessary. The mission suggested exploring the possibility of identifying and stabilizing the main architectural and urban spatial typologies.

The mission notes that, in addition to the expenditure of USD 200,000 made thus far, an additional amount of USD 400,000 would be required over a 5-year period in order to meet the World Heritage Committee's target of 70% stabilization as per the Desired state of conservation. The mission notes that this seems achievable given the possible interest of new donors in continuing the works.

Concerning beach erosion at Kilwa Kisiwani, the mission also noted that this is critical in four locations only: the Gereza and its wider setting, Malindi Mosque, Husuni Kubwa and the on-the-beach structure of the Makutani Palace where very urgent shoring is needed.

In this case, the mission recommends low-cost and straightforward solutions, such as rows of wooden poles in the water to dampen wave action and currents, with gabion walls at the beach and terraced cliff sides behind, as opposed to complex and full-blown engineering works. While each of these low-cost solutions requires research, including measuring impacts on the bio-physical environment and on the outstanding universal value of the property, such an approach would allow for the use of local labour, require limited investment and phased implementation capable of monitoring, for any necessary in-process adjustment.

Concerning site encroachment, the mission noted only a few such instances on the site.

The mission reviewed implementation of the management plan, and considers that its effectiveness could be enhanced by accompanying it with annual action plans to guide the site manager's annual operations, while helping synchronize and integrate donor-funded projects. The mission also noted the importance of regular coordination meetings among key stakeholders, i.e. the Department of Antiquities, the Kilwa Cultural Centre and the local community residing on the islands, to ensure the management system brings greater coherence to the protection of the wider setting of the sites.

As regards a possible extension of the property, the mission noted the inclusion of Sanje Ya Kati and the specified Omani component of Kilwa Kivinje, in order to more fully represent the fullest spectrum of representation of Swahili settlement, trade and cultural achievement in this region, from its origins to eventual submergence into a short-lived German colonial epoch. However, the town of Kilwa Kivinje is impoverished and there is serious deterioration of its heritage, and any preparation of this site for inclusion on the World Heritage List will be long. In this context, so as not to preclude the possibility of future nomination, the mission

proposes providing possible assistance to undertake the stabilization of some structures, and to set up appropriate management structures.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies feel progress has been made by the State Party, working in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and international donors, in improving the state of conservation of the property:

- a) Preparation of a draft Statement of outstanding universal value for the property at a workshop in March 2009, now being reviewed by local and national stakeholders;
- b) Proposals generated during the joint reactive monitoring mission of March 2009 to establish a new approach to delineating the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones, using the provisions of the Antiquities Act which provide for conservation zones being established surrounding monumental structures;
- c) Proposals also generated during the recent mission to strengthen application of the management plan through preparation of annual Action Plans, linked to the Plan;
- d) Proposals generated during the recent mission to encourage an extension of the World Heritage property to include Sanje Ya Kati and part of Kilwa Kivinje, and to consider priority stabilisation of key components of both sites in the interim period, given severe deterioration of both sites;
- e) Repair, restoration and stabilisation works carried out on structures in Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara with the aid of international donors, bringing to 25% the extent of stabilisation achieved (relative to the 70% level of stabilisation sought after 5 years by the World Heritage Committee in its 32nd session);
- f) Work carried out to stabilise beach erosion at Kilwa Kisiwani, and to reduce encroachments in the World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not provided the state of conservation report requested by the World Heritage Committee during its 32nd session;*
4. *Notes the State Party's effectiveness of its recent efforts to strengthen the conservation of the World Heritage property and to improve implementation of its management mechanisms;*
5. *Acknowledges efforts made by the State Party, with the support of international donors, in the last year to respond to its requests;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including the progress in*

implementing the corrective measures, and the re-evaluation of the timeframe for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;

7. **Decides to retain the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

15. 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

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

- a) 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;
- b) 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;
- c) 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

The State Party has not submitted a proposal for the Desired state of conservation of this property.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Implementation of a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures against earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- b) Lowering of the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area;
- c) Establishment of an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones;
- d) Preparation of a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);
- e) Consultations with stakeholders with the objective of preparing 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.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In its report presented in 2007, the State Party announced the completion of the works by 2010.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.19; 31 COM 7A.16 ; 32 COM 7A. 15

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 14,000 for Technical cooperation

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: Expert mission; 2005: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Rise in the water table;
- b) Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- c) Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);
- d) 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.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90>

Current conservation issues

During its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee took note of the information provided by the State Party on the actions being taken to address the existing threats, and urged the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). As well, the World Heritage Committee invited the State Party to consider submitting a request for International Assistance to support the preparation of the conservation and management plans, and reiterated its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

The State Party's report was received on 1 February 2009 and notes the following:

a) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The State Party report also includes what is presented as a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, as requested by the World Heritage Committee during its 32nd session. However, although this section of the report provides an interesting account of the principal sources of interest in the history and archaeological excavation of this property, the account provided does not conform to the expectations of the World Heritage Committee (as described in the *Operational Guidelines*) in preparing a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (reflecting articulation of the criteria identified for inscription, authenticity, integrity and management mechanisms).

b) Rise in the water table

The State Party report also provides an overview of threats posed to the property by the raising of the water table in the vicinity of the property, resulting from a land reclamation

programme for agricultural development of the region, and by the building of a large road to facilitate movement through the site. The lowering of the water table has resulted in the property's dry clay soils becoming semi-liquid and the collapse of a number of structures. Measures taken by the Supreme Council of Antiquities to counteract this phenomenon has thus far proven insufficient. The State Party concluded this part of its report by summarizing findings of the 2005 mission (which have been previously reported to the World Heritage Committee).and by describing current plans to respond to the problems.

The State Party report notes that a Ministry of Culture project for reducing the water table by 5m has been developed, scheduled to begin soon, has a three year time line for implementation. The report notes the importance of implementing this project in ways cognizant of economic and political aspects and integrating the full participation of the region's farmers, and which will ensure careful monitoring of hydrological results.

c) Other matters

The State Party report describes preparing a request for an international campaign for 4-5 million dollars along the lines of that the one launched for the Nubian monuments of Abu Simbel in 1959. This international campaign would « support the implementation of a more elaborate site management plan that will not only include restoration and rehabilitation, but also education, training, awareness, local community participation etc. for the conservation and management of the site and its vicinity ».

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies would note that while the effort to launch an ambitious international campaign for the conservation of this property is laudable, that its definition and objectives will be shaped by development of the conservation plan and management plan previously requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session, and described in the State Party report as essential support for long term care of the property's archaeological resources. Realization of both plans would be best and most expeditiously accomplished by the State Party preparing a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund as previously suggested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies would also note that the preparation of effective conservation and management plans depends on the preparation of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value approved by the World Heritage Committee, and would urge that preparation of such a statement according to the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines* be given priority.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
- 2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
- 3. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party on the actions being taken to address some of the corrective measures and urges the State Party to continue its work on all the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);*
- 4. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to the World Heritage Committee to support the preparation of the requested conservation and management plans, and to provide a basis for shaping and articulating priority needs within the context of developing an international appeal;*

5. Requests that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess progress on the implementation of all the corrective measures, to review the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and revise the timeframe;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, 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 34th session in 2010;
7. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (Delay in the translation of the State Party's state of conservation report)

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (Delay in the translation of the State Party's state of conservation report)

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

Criteria

(ii) (iv) (vi)

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

2000

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

- a) Serious deterioration of the built-up heritage (a high percentage of the residential houses being replaced by compact cement and multi-storey buildings);
- b) The remains of the houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- c) Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- d) The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- e) The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

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

The State Party did not submit a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for this property.

Corrective measures identified

In its Decision **31 COM 7A.19** (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee defined the measures to be taken urgently to reverse the downward decline :

- a) Adequate legal and institutional framework to be set up in one year:
 - (i) Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 - 2006;
 - (ii) Government provision to General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) in Sana'a and Zabid of adequate budget to stabilize the degradation of the World Heritage property;
 - (iii) Completion of heritage protection laws;
 - (iv) Completion of the draft conservation plan, with translation into Arabic. Provision of short version for wide dissemination;
- b) Physical degradation to be stopped immediately and reversed within two years:
 - (i) Stopping of poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets;
 - (ii) Approval of contractors and individual specialists for carrying out emergency conservation works,
 - (iii) Appropriate house improvement design - bathrooms and kitchens, infrastructure and air conditioning;
 - (iv) Good designs for new houses within Zabid;
 - (v) Starting demolition of the concrete walls on the streets and other public spaces and replacing with brick walls;
 - (vi) Planned, costed and programmed schedule of medium and long-term actions;
 - (vii) Prescription rules and regulations to be followed by inhabitants and owners;
 - (viii) Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

As set out in Decision **31 COM 7A.19**: “adequate legal and institutional framework set up in one year (2008); the physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years (2009)”.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM7A.21; 31 COM 7A.19; 32 COM 7A.19

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 127,918 for 2001-2007 (Emergency and Technical Assistance).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 10,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 4,000 from the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement.

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission.

Main threats identified in previous report

- a) Serious degradation of the city's heritage (many houses and the ancient souq are in an alarming deterioration state);
- b) Large percentage of the city's houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings;
- c) Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up;
- d) Lack of conservation measures and supportive developments.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611>

Current conservation issues

At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee agreed to defer consideration of delisting the property from the World Heritage list if specific and agreed measures were taken to reverse the severe decline in the conservation and economy of the city through a *legal and institutional framework being set up in one year (2008) and the physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years (2009)*". The World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) agreed to allow the State Party more time to demonstrate progress in the light of joint German Technical Assistance (GTZ), Yemeni Government and Social Fund for Development (SFD) rehabilitation project, whose first phase is due for completion in 2010, but reiterated the need for a Statement of *Outstanding Universal Value* to be developed as a basis for progress and adequate monitoring to demonstrate the reversal of decline.

On 1 February 2009, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. A World Heritage Centre mission visited the property in January 2009, at the request of the State Party, to be shown the progress that has been made. The State Party report provides an overview of measures taken in response to the World Heritage Committee's requests over the past two years and the detailed recommendations of the ICOMOS mission in 2007 about the corrective measures.

A summary is given below. Overall the report stresses that improvements are now visible and the situation is changing: the city seems to be now on the track to reverse the trend of deterioration and to improve in the future. But there is still a long way to go before this is achieved and national and international support needs to continue. In conclusion the State Party requests that the World Heritage Committee allow more time and specifically that the property is kept on the List of World Heritage in Danger for an additional period of three years before an assessment of progress is made.

a) Adequate legal and institutional framework set up by in one year by 2008

The Cabinet decree, issued in November 2007, created a Higher Ministerial Coordination Committee for Zabid (HMCCZ). This Committee now meets regularly and the role of the various governmental stakeholders, such as Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Public Works and Awqaf, the Planning Authority are now clearly defined and budgets allocated to each of them.

The Minister of Culture is providing additional annual allocations from the Fund for Cultural Development, to the local office of GOPHCY while SFD/GTZ is for the duration of their project, supporting 6 architects and other experts, together with the provision of capacity building support. Today, GOPHCY office hosts 28 staff members and is said to be in a position for the first time to fulfil its obligations towards safeguarding the city.

The enactment of the heritage protection law is still awaited.

b) Completion of the draft conservation plan

An architectural survey carried out in 2008 by master-degree students from a French University and co-financed by GTZ and the World Heritage Fund, now offers a classification of plots according to their heritage. A GIS system is being prepared that will allow the production of thematic maps and help with the finalisation of the conservation plan. The survey has shown that more than 70% of the original heritage of the city is still there even though in a bad state of conservation and that the previous estimates of 50% remaining were inaccurate. The survey also suggested an approach to conservation and the aim and suggested contents of a conservation plan.

c) Physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years: Stopping poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets

In September 2008, a Presidential letter was sent to the Governor of Hodeida, instructing him to take all the required actions in order to stop violations, ban new constructions and monitor the progress of the ongoing safeguarding measures.

The absence of clear rules and regulations defining what is permitted and what constitutes a violation has been, until now, at the very core of the challenges facing the conservation of the towns' buildings. The SFD/GTZ project, is working with GOPHCY to revise and renew the regulations, In order to better deal with violations, a number of positive steps have been achieved:

- making the stopping of new violations a highest priority;
- preparing an inventory of violations,
- demolition of illegal constructions;
- strengthening a rapid response to violations;
- developing and beginning to enforce appropriate regulations that permit construction;
- opening new areas for construction outside the city (new development zone to the north-east of Zabid).

In the meanwhile, illegal interventions have only partially been stopped. The procedure for the demolition of four illegal buildings has been launched by the Director of GOPHCY-Zabid.

The need for strong support from the authorities, in particular from the police, is absolutely essential for its success.

d) Measures to improve material, methods and capacity building

GTZ, GOPHCY and SFD are now implementing an incentive-based rehabilitation program (up to 40% of the rehabilitation costs are funded by the project), that aims to rehabilitate some 200 houses during the first three years of the Project. Fifty have already been implemented and there are now more than 400 applications to join the programme.

During the first year, traditional builders were surveyed and a profile of their skills established. A number of specialist restorers have been trained and are now working in the field. A wood conservation laboratory has been set up to restore the old wooden elements of the city. A team of eight women from Zabid has been trained and has been carrying out wood restoration for more than six months. The production of bricks has improved due to a new scheme guaranteeing that all bricks produced would be purchased by the SFD/GTZ project, if not sold to local consumers.

The souq rehabilitation subsidy scheme has recently been started.

The mission noted that the pilot phase for a Storm Water Drainage and Street Paving Project had been completed. While the project is noteworthy and necessary, the members of the mission (both World Heritage Centre and GTZ) remained unconvinced of the implementation of the pilot segment which appears to not correspond to the original study and design proposed, nor its materials and techniques. In particular cement appears to have been used for pointing and render.

e) Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan

f) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

g) Statement of the Desired state of conservation for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value

Those issues have not been addressed in the report.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that progress has been made in gaining political will and commitment to the conservation of Zabid and that a much more positive approach appears to have been generated through the SFD/GTZ project. The mandate of this project is to improve social capacity and economic development for poverty alleviation, and conservation of cultural heritage is supported if it becomes a basis for development and economic gain for the local population. Nevertheless difficult challenges remain in terms of defining parameters for what constitutes violation and providing the necessary rules and regulations within the framework of a conservation plan to allow GOPHCY staff to have a clear mandate and to allow other departments to support their actions.

Overall the Danger listing appears to have been beneficial in galvanising support for conservation of buildings and promoting economic regeneration. However the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the timescale for addressing the two main issues set by the World Heritage Committee must remain tight in order to demonstrate that the serious decline has been reversed.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Notes the progress that has been made in generating political support and commitment to the conservation of Zabid and the increase in resources for General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) and supplemented by the German Technical Assistance (GTZ), Yemeni Government and Social Fund for Development (SFD) socio-economic development project;
4. Notes however that many difficult challenges remain in terms of defining violations and putting in place an adequate legal framework, developing a conservation plan and to allow GOPHCY staff to have a clear mandate to deal with violations and construction permits and to support their implementation work;
5. Also notes that notwithstanding capacity building in building skills, further support and training is still needed in traditional materials and techniques;
6. Urges the State Party to continue to give the optimum support to the regeneration and conservation of Zabid;
7. Requests that priority is given to developing the conservation plan in line with the aims outlined as part of the architectural survey;
8. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. Also requests that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess progress on the 2007 action plan for the implementation of the corrective measures, to review the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and revise the timeframe;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** a progress report on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
11. **Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2002

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2002

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

- a) Lack of legal protection;
- b) Lack of an effective monuments protection agency;
- c) Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel;
- d) Lack of a comprehensive management plan.

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

- a) Increased capacity of the staff of the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the preservation of the property ensured;
- b) Precisely identified World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones;
- c) Long-term stability and conservation of the Minaret of Jam ensured;
- d) Site security ensured;
- e) A comprehensive management system including a long-term conservation policy developed and implemented.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Development of adequate capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture by developing and implementing an adequate training programme in conservation and management;
- b) Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by:
 - (i) Undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys and re-defining the property and buffer zones, as well as identifying zones affected by illicit excavations;
 - (ii) Marking of the property as "World Heritage protected area";
 - (iii) Officially revising the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys in order to complement the already identified outstanding universal value;

- c) Long-term consolidation and conservation of the Minaret and the archaeological remains by:
 - (i) Completing the documentation and recording of the Minaret and the archaeological remains;
 - (ii) Undertaking soil investigation in the vicinity of the monument in order to obtain information on the cause of the inclination of the Minaret and to define the long-term consolidation measures;
 - (iii) Regular and systematic monitoring of the Minaret's inclination;
 - (iv) Establishing a full inventory of decoration including digitalization and reference system for all eight sides of the base of the Minaret;
 - (v) Implementing emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret.
- d) Ensuring site security by:
 - (i) Exerting strict control of illicit excavations and protecting the site against looting, notably through hiring of an adequate number of trained site guards;
 - (ii) Implementing measures for enforcing the 2004 Preservation Law for Cultural and Historical Monuments.
- e) Development and implementation of a management system by undertaking appropriate training for the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A minimum of four years has been agreed in 2007, i.e. by 2011.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.22; 31 COM 7A.20; 32 COM 7A.20

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: 1995-2001: USD 17,200 (Emergency Assistance) for the construction of a protective wall; 2003: USD 100,000 (Emergency Assistance) for the training for national and local authorities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Afghanistan.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 845,000 provided by the Government of Italy and USD 138,000 by the Government of Switzerland.

Previous monitoring missions

Although there has been no reactive monitoring mission as such, there were several UNESCO expert missions sent every year since 2002 in order to implement the operational project for the property, except in 2007 and 2008, due to the deteriorated security situation and UN Security restrictions.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability;
- b) Inclination of the Minaret;
- c) Lack of management plan;
- d) Illicit excavations and looting.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211>

Current conservation issues

The Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam was inscribed on both the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2002. In April 2007, the property sustained damage to the gabion walls on the Hari Rud River side from flash flooding. The Government of Afghanistan urgently mobilized USD 200,000 from the national budget in order to carry out emergency conservation work including the replacement of existing gabion walls with new stone walls to protect the Minaret from future flooding events.

As of 21 April 2009, the State Party has not submitted a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, nor a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Decision **32 COM 7A 20**).

However, updated information on the state of conservation of the property has been received by the UNESCO Kabul office, which has kept in close contact and co-operation with the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture (hereafter called MoIC). Conservation progress has been reported as follows:

- a) After the reconstruction of the stone walls on the Hari Rud side of the minaret in 2007, the MoIC decided to carry out further preventive conservation work in 2008 on the gabion walls on the Jam Rud side, funded with the remaining amount from the initial USD 200,000. The MoIC elaborated a work plan which was provided to UNESCO Kabul office and the World Heritage Centre for technical advice and comment. After having received clearance from UNESCO experts, MoIC started conservation work *in situ* in August-September 2008. The existing gabions on the Jam Rud side have been removed and new stone retaining walls were built to a length of 35 metres, with the use of lime mortar to prevent water infiltration. In November 2008, walls were further extended to 55 metres in length. It is hoped that the 2008 conservation work will prevent any further serious damage from future flooding.
- b) The *UNESCO Expert Working Group on the Preservation of Jam and Herat* took place in Rome (9-10 June 2008), which adopted a series of recommendations for the property. The recommendations address a range of conservation issues. As a follow-up to the recommendations, the World Heritage Centre, in close consultation with the relevant authorities in Afghanistan and UNESCO Kabul office, is planning to carry out the following activities in 2009-2010, within the framework of the Italy/UNESCO and Swiss/UNESCO Funds-in-Trust projects:
 - i. Completion of the river defense wall with the construction of a diaphragm under the retaining wall along the rivers, in order to prevent the erosion of the soil underneath the Minaret resulting from underwater currents, and the setting up of a monitoring system for the water currents;
 - ii. Monitoring of the inclination of the Minaret and assessment of its state of conservation including through geotechnical investigation of the foundations;
 - iii. Mapping of the area surrounding the Minaret with a view to clearly identify the boundaries of the World Heritage property; and
 - iv. Training of site guards and staff from the MoIC. This activity will benefit from the involvement of ICCROM.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the ongoing efforts of the State Party to ensure the preventative conservation of the property against future flood events, as well as the continued technical and financial support and commitment of the international community to achieving the Desired state of conservation of Jam. However, they also note

that no state of conservation report, nor Statement of outstanding universal value, have been submitted, and therefore no further information from the State Party is available regarding the progress on the implementation of the corrective measures for the property. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will be able to provide assistance to the State Party in the preparation of the Statement of outstanding universal value within the framework of the upcoming Periodic Reporting for the Asia Pacific region.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session;*
4. *Notes the State Party's efforts and resources deployed to safeguard the property in extremely difficult circumstances and the commitment of the international community in reaching the Desired state of conservation for this property;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts towards the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
6. *Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
7. *Calls upon the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support with an aim to implement the agreed corrective measures, and particularly those identified as priority in the recommendations of the Expert Group meeting in Rome (June 2008);*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2003

Criteria

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

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

2003

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

- a) Risk of imminent collapse of the Giant Buddha niches;
- b) Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings;
- c) Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets;
- d) Continued use of certain heritage areas for military posts;
- e) Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances (i.e. munitions).

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

- a) Site security ensured;
- b) Long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches ensured;
- c) Adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings achieved;
- d) Management plan and cultural master plan (the protective zoning plan) implemented.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Ensure site security by:
 - (i) exerting strict control of illicit excavations and looting through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards, and
 - (ii) clearing unexploded ordnances and anti-personnel mines from the property;
- b) Ensure long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches by installing a permanent monitoring system;
- c) Ensure adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings by:
 - (i) completing the conservation of the fragments of the Giant Buddha statues;
 - (ii) completing the conservation of the mural paintings in the prioritized Buddhist caves;
- d) Implement the management plan and the cultural master plan (the protective zoning plan) by developing institutional capacity, notably for the Ministry of Culture and the intersectoral Bamiyan Cultural Landscape Coordination Committee (BCLCC).

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

The Desired state of conservation should be attained by 2011, if security conditions allow.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.23; 31 COM 7A.21; 32 COM 7A.21

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 150,000 (in 2002 and 2003) for Preparatory assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 4,781,737 (2003-2010) through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

No reactive monitoring missions have been carried out, but UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2002 in the context of the implementation of specific projects.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Risk of imminent collapse of the Giant Buddha niches;
- b) Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings;
- c) Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets;
- d) Continued use of certain heritage areas for military posts;
- e) Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances (i.e. munitions).

Illustrative material

- <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208>
- *Recommendations of the Seventh UNESCO/ICOMOS Expert Group Meeting for the Preservation of the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley.* 12/13 June, Munich (Germany) :
<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-563-1.pdf>

Current conservation issues

The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley was co-inscribed on the World Heritage List and World Heritage in Danger List in 2003 due to damage it sustained from abandonment, military action and dynamite explosions. At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee had requested the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value.

As of 23 April 2009, the State Party has not yet submitted to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, nor a draft Statement of outstanding universal value. However, information on the current state of conservation of the property is contained in two documents prepared by UNESCO in the framework of a Japanese funded “*Project for the safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site*”. These include a ‘*Progress Report on the Bamiyan 2008 Emergency activities Plan*’ (16 October 2008) and the ‘*2008 Implementation Status Report on the “Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site” project - Phase III*’ (January 2009).

These reports indicate progress in implementing the corrective measures as follows:

a) Site security

From June 2008, through the Bamiyan phase III project, UNESCO has been providing support to the Ministry of Information and Culture, for the provision of security and surveillance at the property. This included overall protection for the sensitive archaeological areas, prevented illicit excavations and guarded expensive equipment left on site for planned

activities in 2009. Six guards permanently monitor the property and carry out daily surveillance patrols, particularly in the area of the two Buddha niches and Shar-e-Gholgholah.

b) Demining

Activities in Bamiyan were initiated in September 2008 in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Centre in Afghanistan (UNMACA) and financed by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) with separate Japanese funding. The UNESCO Kabul office, together with one UNESCO architect-archaeologist expert, and in close collaboration with the Bamiyan Governor's Office, the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture and the Office of the Bamiyan Chief of Police have monitored the de-mining intervention in sensitive archaeological areas, and have documented damage done to archaeological sites or historical monuments and any archaeological objects discovered, disturbed or removed in the course of de-mining activities. They have also assisted UNMAS in prioritizing areas within the property for de-mining and ensured that UNMAS's activities make as much allowance as possible for access by the public to archaeological sites such as Shar-e-Gholgholah, Shar-i Zohak and Dragon Valley. It is anticipated that de-mining activities will be completed by the end of 2009.

c) Long term stability of the Giant Buddha niches

UNESCO has contracted ICOMOS Germany to conduct a scientific analysis of the Buddhas niches surface fragments, with a view to their long-term preservation, and to carry out scientific tests for the consolidation of the back wall in the Small Buddha niche. With funding from the German Foreign Office, in 2008 the ICOMOS team rebuilt the partition walls in one of the caves blown up in 2001 and installed a scaffolding. These measures have created the requirements for the stabilization of the entire back wall of the Small Buddha niche. Furthermore, the ICOMOS team developed a differentiated method for the conservation of the wall with its sculptural remains and conserved the most important parts with original surface that are still in situ (right arm and sections of the robe). A scientific report with recommendations for the long-term conservation of the stone Buddha fragments and the stabilization of the Buddha niches has been produced for possible implementation in 2009.

d) Training of Afghan experts

Owing to the deterioration of the security situation in the country, which prevented the dispatching of international experts to the property in 2008, a '2008 Emergency Activities Plan for Bamiyan' was developed jointly by UNESCO and the Afghan authorities. This Plan identifies the training programmes that could not be undertaken in Afghanistan and had to be held abroad. These included a six-month training programme (from late June to late December 2008) at the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (NRICP) for two Afghan archaeologists. Two Afghan conservators from the Kabul National Museum were also trained in manuscript conservation (October–November 2008), through the practical conservation of about six hundred fragments of manuscripts excavated by the NRICP in Bamiyan in 2003. Moreover, a training workshop on heritage site management is under preparation together with the Aachen University, Germany, and is due to take place in Bamiyan in September 2009 (subject to appropriate security conditions), or alternatively in Aachen.

e) Cultural Master Plan

The cultural master plan was officially adopted in 2006. In 2008, the UNESCO Kabul Office participated in several inter-ministerial conferences in Bamiyan and Kabul, which were focused on sustainable policy development in Bamiyan, through the effective and integrated implementation of the cultural master plan's guidelines and protective zones.

f) Development of the management plan

The development of a Management Plan for the World Heritage property is still in progress. Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets are being addressed

and progress is being made. However, due to the security situation within the country, it remains extremely difficult to ensure effective governance of the property.

g) UNESCO/ICOMOS Seventh Expert Working Group on the Preservation of Bamiyan

A meeting of the Expert Group for Bamiyan took place in June 2008 in Munich, with the participation of the Afghan authorities and experts, international experts and representatives of the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Kabul Office. This enabled the coordination and harmonisation of ongoing activities by the various international teams working at the site, a review of the main conservation issues and the formulation of specific recommendations, available online from: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-563-1.pdf>

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that, despite the lack of submission of a state of conservation report by the State Party, progress towards achieving the Desired state of conservation has been made throughout 2008. However, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies also note that the draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and the management plan, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), are yet to be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will provide assistance to the State Party in preparing the Statement of outstanding universal value for the property in the framework of the upcoming periodic reporting exercise for the Asia Pacific region.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies acknowledge the continued technical and financial support and commitment to achieving the Desired state of conservation of Bamiyan of the international community.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session;*
4. *Notes the efforts and commitment of the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures, particularly the completion of the management plan for the property;*
5. *Calls upon the international community to continue providing technical and financial support, in particular to achieve the Desired state of conservation;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*

8. **Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

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

2004

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

- a) Severe damage to the property caused by the earthquake in December 2003;
- b) Development pressures related to the post-disaster reconstruction process.

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

- a) Conservation of the Arg-e-Bam and other cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property;
- b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural, and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;
- c) Implementation of the management plan;
- d) Precise understanding and definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property;
- e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Stabilisation and protection of the Arg-e-Bam and other significant cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property by:
 - (i) Stabilisation of both the lower and upper parts of the citadel;
 - (ii) Removal and documentation of debris;
- b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;

- c) Management Plan implemented by:
 - (i) Approval at final stakeholders meeting;
 - (ii) Legal Adoption by late 2007;
- d) Precise definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property by completing the mapping of the archaeology and geomorphology of Bam and its Cultural Landscape;
- e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam by increased number of guards and vehicles;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

2010

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.22; 31 COM 8B.59; 32 COM 7A.22

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: 2004 - USD 50,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 568,000 (2004-2007) from the UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 300,000 (2005-2008) from the UNESCO Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 20,000 (2004) from the World Bank Italian Trust Funds.

Previous monitoring missions

Since January 2004: several UNESCO missions.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of comprehensive management plan;
- b) The boundaries of the property inscribed on an emergency basis were not aligned with the written text of the original Nomination File;
- c) Development pressures related to the post-disaster reconstruction process.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1208>

Current conservation issues

Bam and its Cultural Landscape was originally inscribed on both the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2004 due to damage it sustained from an earthquake in December 2003. The World Heritage Committee requested in 2008 (Decision **32 COM 7A.22**) that the State Party continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), required for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee also requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated nomination file based on the property boundaries approved in Decision **31 COM 8B.59**, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value of the property, and a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures.

The World Heritage Centre received a comprehensive state of conservation report from the State Party on 5 February 2009. The report includes a proposed Statement of outstanding

universal value for the property and describes the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures as follows:

- a) Emergency conservation carried out during 2008 focused on the stabilization and preservation of a range of structures in the Arg-e-Bam area and the continuation of the removal of debris. Techniques for the conservation of earthen architecture, developed in previous years, have been used to reconstruct approximately ten buildings;
- b) Approximately 80% of the debris within Arg-e-Bam have now been removed and documented;
- c) As reported in 2008, the protective boundaries around Arg-e-Bam have been marked by ICHHTO (Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization). All constructions around the Arg-e-Bam are being effectively controlled and the Gardens are being preserved. Mapping of the archaeology and geomorphology of Bam and its Cultural Landscape has progressed and is continuing;
- d) The State Party reported in 2008 that the review process for the legal adoption of the comprehensive management plan was in progress. The 2009 state of conservation report by the State Party does not clarify whether it has yet been adopted;
- e) Archaeological and geomorphology studies are continuing, to precisely define the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property;
- f) Adequate protection of the heritage areas continues to be ensured by the Security Base established in 2007, which currently includes 11 guards and assistance from the police if necessary.

The World Heritage Centre also received on 5 February 2009 an interim updated nomination file which includes new information from ongoing research on the property, in line with the property boundaries approved in Decision **31 COM 8B.59**. This interim report will form the basis of the final updated Nomination file, which the State Party indicates will be submitted in 2010.

The State Party notes in its cover letter for the above two documents its concern that despite the amount of focus and effort being applied to the conservation of the property, it may not be able to complete all of the required corrective measures by 2010. The State Party's main concern is related to the precise definition of the property boundary, which is reliant on the completion of the archaeological work. As the archaeological work progresses, additional archaeology is being revealed, thus extending the timeframe and amount of work required. The State Party indicates that it will clarify the expected timeframe for completion of the corrective measures in late 2009.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.22**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes the commitment and efforts of the State Party and the international community in reaching the Desired state of conservation;*
4. *Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*

5. Requests the State Party to clarify the status of the legal adoption of the comprehensive management plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an up-dated Nomination file based on the property boundaries approved in Decision **31 COM 8B.59**, and a report on the progress made in implementing the corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
7. **Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (Late reception of complementary information)

24. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1995

Criteria

(iii) (iv) (v)

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

2001

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

- a) The abandonment of the terraces due to neglected irrigation system and people leaving the area;
- b) Unregulated development threatening the property;
- c) Tourism needs not addressed;
- d) Lack of an effective management system.

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

The State Party submitted a proposal for the desired state of conservation to the World Heritage Centre in its report. This will be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and

ICOMOS in consultation with the State Party, with a view to consolidating a text that could be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establish a functioning management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels;
- b) Put in place zoning and land-use plans responding to community-based activities and traditional value systems;
- c) Provide regulations over tourism and infrastructure developments to encourage community based tourism which benefits the rice terraces and the local communities;
- d) Develop a resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels and put in place a five year plan, according to the management objectives determined in the Conservation and management plan, with top priority given to the regular maintenance and stabilisation of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems so as to reverse their deterioration;
- e) Establish appropriate development control procedures for development projects in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, including by designating the World Heritage cluster sites of the rice terraces and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed system) as “environmental critical areas”, where an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for any proposed development projects. Cultural heritage conservation expertise should be also included in the EIA review committee;
- f) Strengthen the reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal parts of the rice terraces.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In its Decision **30 COM 7A.28**, the World Heritage Committee had initially requested that the above corrective measures be implemented by 2007. By its Decision **32 COM 7A.24**, and following consultations with the State Party, the World Heritage Committee had requested the latter to develop a more realistic timeframe.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.28; 31 COM 7A.25; 32 COM 7A.24

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 153,200 for Preparatory assistance, Training and Emergency assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 20,000 under Italy Funds-in-Trust for study tour

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: ICOMOS/IUCN monitoring mission; June 2005: UNESCO expert mission; April 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of an effective site management authority and adequate legislation;
- b) Absence of a finalized strategic site management plan;

- c) Development of inappropriate river control structures and irregular construction in the rice terraces;
- d) Diminishing interest of the Ifugao people in their culture and in maintaining the rice terraces;
- e) Lack of human and financial resources.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Committee, at its 32nd session in Quebec City, had requested the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The World Heritage Committee had also requested the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a revised timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009. Furthermore, the World Heritage Committee had asked the State Party to supply further details of the proposed mini-power project, including benefits to local communities, and to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project.

The State Party submitted the state of conservation report on 11 February 2009, outlining progress as follows:

a) Corrective measures

i) Establishment of a functioning management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels

The State Party reports that staff have been employed at the Municipal Local Government Units to oversee and monitor the implementation of activities focused on the restoration and preservation of the rice terraces and the associated intangible heritage. Additional staff also function as focal points for the coordination of community initiatives and the Conservation Program established by the Provincial Government. The Provincial Government, through the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office, has assigned technical staff to provide support and to coordinate local initiatives with the provincial and national, private organizations on rice terrace conservation activities and projects. In 2008, the Provincial Government, in partnership with the Philippines' National Economic and Development Agency (NEDA) conducted training workshops for all municipal planning teams to develop project proposals to support the conservation and protection of the rice terraces and their environment, and to promote best practices that foster alternative livelihoods for the rice terrace farmers.

In addition, a Land Summit was held in September 2008 between different agencies at the national, regional and local levels to discuss land issues and harmonise operational guidelines. A Technical Working Committee from the Provincial Government and Provincial Field Offices of the 4 National Agencies: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, was created. The Provincial Government also established the Ifugao Provincial Council for Cultural Heritage, which encompasses multi-sectoral representatives from the community, provincial and national organizations to develop sustainable programs and strategies for the preservation and transmission of tangible and intangible heritage. Rice terrace owners have increased their recognition of the role they play in the management and conservation of the terraces as owners and heirs to the properties and their traditions.

ii) Zoning and land-use plans responding to community-based activities and traditional value systems

The State Party reports that the Barangay Ordinance for the Core, Buffer and Multi-Use Zones of the Nagacadan Rice Terraces and the Heritage Areas is being enforced. It is expected that newly staffed entities will work in developing and enacting similar ordinances in other barangays and municipal local government units. It is also reported that all heritage municipalities have their Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plans since it is a mandated requirement for all local government units.

An additional project is related to the development of Infrastructure Guidelines for the Rice Terraces Heritage Sites of Ifugao, which foresees the implementation of four workshops to produce a comprehensive bibliography, documentation on infrastructure at the heritage sites, Guidelines for Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Development in the Heritage Zones; and Proceedings of the first meeting of the Centre for the Conservation of Cultural property and the Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET) and Ifugao Government Rice Terraces Conservation Partnership.

iii) Regulations over tourism and infrastructure developments

The State Party reports that the Provincial Tourism Development Plan is currently being updated. An initial workshop was implemented with representatives from diverse entities and it is expected that in 2009 an Ordinance on Tourism will be crafted by the Provincial Government to harmonize all local efforts and provide programme guidelines. On this same issue, it is reported that the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMo) is a continuing activity in organising and promoting package tours in the property, in implementing an Eco-Tourism Program of the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement that intended for youth.

iv) Regular maintenance and stabilisation of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems

A project proposal was prepared in which the major damages to irrigation systems in the four sites inscribed are identified and mapped. The lists of damaged irrigation systems, collapsed/eroded terrace walls, and denuded/dwindling watershed areas; and identified indigenous and endemic species for propagation and indigenous knowledge holders were consolidated and completed. A programme has been prepared to address immediate rehabilitation, reconstruction and maintenance, endorsed by the Provincial Government to the Department of Agriculture through the NIA-Ifugao Field Office. Community irrigators or farmers groups through the Barangay LGUs undertook minor irrigation repairs, rehabilitation and improvement. The Provincial Government plans to complete the rehabilitation and maintenance of 45 existing major and minor communal irrigation systems in the four sites composing the property in support of the restoration and preservation of the rice terraces. To facilitate the participation of rice terrace owners and the strengthening of partnerships with LGUs, funds were transferred either to existing recognized farmers organizations or to the Barangay Government. The Provincial Engineering Office, ICHO and NIA-Ifugao Field Office then conducted a regular monitoring of implemented irrigation system in the Rice Terraces.

In addition, the National Government has allocated funding totalling to P20M (approx. 415,000 USD) for the construction, expansion and extension of 56 major community irrigation systems in the province. Of the total amount, 52.9% was invested for 21 community irrigation systems in the four components of the World Heritage property and 47% went to other rice terrace areas.

v) Strategies for the support and introduction of livelihood opportunities for the living Ifugao community

The Provincial Government has strongly supported and provided fund assistance to the "One-Town One Product" Project (OTOP) of different municipalities and in livelihood projects of organizations that guarantee a positive impact on the living standards of members and their communities. The establishment of the Haggiyo Enterprise Development Program (HEDP) has promoted the identification, production and marketing of local products in and outside of the province and defined mechanisms that guarantee the quality of products

bearing the provincial seal. It has also facilitated the participation of community-based production groups to showcase and market their products.

The State Party also reports that the launching of the Dojo Congress in Hungduan and the adoption their OTOP enhanced the rice production, watershed maintenance and the regulation of tree cutting in forests areas above rice terraces to sustain water sources. The ICHO, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and Municipal Agriculture Office in the 4 Heritage municipalities have conducted advocacy in all the heritage clusters for the propagation of endemic tree seedlings in all nurseries, especially the endangered and extinct species. There has also been a greater coverage within school curricula of living traditions to include traditional rice farming practices and associated rituals.

To valorise indigenous knowledge practices and the traditional transmission system, a program called 'Nurturing Indigenous Knowledge Experts' has been designed to work on the living dimension of knowledge transfer aided by modern literacy tools. In addition, initial efforts have been made to establish a community-based program to address the problem of diminishing labour in the conservation of the terraces. A preliminary pilot program has been implemented and entailed capacity-building activities intended for youth.

vi) Development control procedures

The State Party reports that regulations continue to be implemented for the conservation and protection of critical watershed areas and natural resources utilization. The first project in which Environmental Impact Assessment was applied was for the Ambangal Mini-Hydro Project and the results can serve as a model for future development projects. A Technical Working Group has been established to review and finalize the Provincial Environment Code that incorporates provisions such as EIA and other environmental concerns. A draft is foreseen in 2009 and will be the basis for the enactment of a provincial ordinance in that respect.

vii) Strengthening the reforestation programme

A community-based watershed management program of the Provincial Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (PAENRO) and Municipal LGUs is being implemented. The Provincial Government maintains its nurseries in the municipalities of Lagawe, Kiangan, and Tinoc whereas the municipalities of Banaue, Hungduan and Mayoyao have their own municipal nurseries. Also, a Provincial Road Openings Reforestation Program (PRO-REFOREST) is being implemented, in which every road opened is planted with trees to restore the interrupted ecosystems of the area/s affected. In addition, Barangay communal watershed areas are being delineated.

b) Proposed Mini-hydro Power project

The State Party report provided information on a feasibility study for a Mini-Hydro Power Plant to be built at Kiangan (Ifugao Province), i.e. in a different location with respect to the initial proposal and outside of the World Heritage property. The report indicates that the project aims to secure funds that will be used to support local activities for the conservation and management of the rice terraces, thus providing a good example of locally based and sustainable energy development generating employment and other means of livelihood that will improve the economic conditions of the community. According to the State Party, the feasibility study was completed in September 2008 and works have commenced in December 2008. The World Heritage Centre received a copy of the feasibility study (including an EIA) from the Tokyo Electric Power Corporation (TEPCO) on 27 February 2009.

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

Within its report, the State Party proposed a “desired state of conservation” for the World Heritage property, presented on behalf of a wide range of stakeholders, including the local community. This document includes a number of suggested quantitative and qualitative objectives for the rehabilitation of the rice terraces under the following headings:

- i)* Achieve sustained restoration efforts for the Ifugao rice terraces;
- ii)* Strengthen the infrastructure network that support the rice terraces conserve ation programme;
- iii)* Ensure Ifugao’s food security by enhancing agricultural production in the property;
- iv)* Achieve sound environmental management and a balanced ecology with sustainable natural resource management;
- v)* Sustainable tourism development programme, and
- vi)* Achieve ensured health assistance and benefits for rice terrace farmers.

d) Timeframe

A timeframe including proposed dates for the completion of the various corrective measures requested by the World Heritage Committee was provided in the State Party’s report.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the significant progress made by the State Party in the implementation of corrective measures. The State Party is encouraged to secure the necessary resources to guarantee the continuance of the activities currently in place and the sustainability of the management system. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note as well that the new location of the Mini hydro-power project, outside of the World Heritage property, does not pose any problem for its conservation, and welcome the stated intention of the State Party to finance the maintenance of the rice terraces out of the profit generated by the project.

Finally, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies warmly welcome the effort made by the State Party, together with all the stakeholders, in producing a draft Desired state of conservation. They will review it carefully, together with the revised timeframe, in consultation with the State Party, with a view to consolidating a text that could be examined by the Committee at its 34th session in 2010. In due time, a reactive monitoring mission to the property could be proposed for the consideration of the Committee with an aim to assess progress made against the desired state of conservation, in view of the possible removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.11** and **32 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in the implementation of corrective measures towards the removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger, and particularly the inclusive and community-based nature of actions implemented and the efforts made in the valorisation and transmission of traditional practices which substantiate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*

4. Urges the State Party to secure the necessary resources to guarantee the continuance of the processes currently in place and the sustainability of the management system;
5. Warmly welcomes the draft of the Desired state of conservation prepared by the State Party and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to review it, in close consultation with the State Party, with a view to examining it at its 34th session in 2010;
6. Also Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
7. Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

25. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000

Criteria

(iv)

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

2003

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

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the illegal demolition of historic buildings and uncontrolled construction and reconstruction within the Walled City;
- b) Lack of any management system and insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

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

- a) Operational institutional framework for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
- b) Clearly defined and approved framework for the active involvement of all stakeholders;
- c) "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" implemented.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Administrative structure and related programmes within the Cabinet of Ministers defined and supported with adequate resources and fully operational;
- b) Completion of an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating their physical condition as well as expected rehabilitation methodologies;
- c) Completion and implementation of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management with the active involvement of all stakeholders.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

1 February 2010

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.29; 31 COM 7A.26; 32 COM 7A.25

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 15,000 for preparatory assistance (1998); USD 14,800 for technical assistance (2004).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000 (American Funds Special Account 2005/06); USD 22,000 (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, 2005/06)

Previous monitoring missions

February 2002: UNESCO mission; October 2002: UNESCO/ICOMOS mission; January 2003 and April 2003: UNESCO missions; November 2003: ICCROM mission; October 2004: UNESCO mission to participate in the Round Table; September 2005: UNESCO mission (with the University of Minnesota, USA); March 2007 and January 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS missions.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the demolition of buildings and uncontrolled construction within the Walled City;
- b) Overall lack of any management system and in particular insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958>

Current conservation issues

During its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee reiterated its request to the State Party to adopt the completed "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" (including integration of the recently initiated conservation master plan for "Icherisheher") and to integrate the Management Action Plan into the urban planning system of the City of Baku. The World Heritage Committee also reiterated its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009. The World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to prepare guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, and the design of new constructions and street furniture, and to clearly define and approve an institutional coordination framework for the active involvement of stakeholders.

The State Party submitted the report requested by the World Heritage Committee on 29 January 2009.

This report notes that a legal basis for the activities of the new management entity created to protect the World Heritage property (the State Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" - SDHARIS) was approved by the Presidential decree 574 dated 16 May 2007. This entity which replaced co-management by the Ministry of Culture and the City of Baku was designed to strengthen co-ordination of decision-making in favour of World heritage values and reports directly to the Cabinet of Ministers. The report also notes later decrees and regulations which define its powers to act on different types of property. It provides information on the main orientations of the SDHARIS (study, planning, policy

formulation, protection of monuments, project review, approval and monitoring, strategy development for socio-economic development), its internal structure (housing communal service, scientific production restoration workshop, Museum of Icherisheher, scientific cultural centre) and the principal activities undertaken to date, including setting up of Advisory councils: a Scientific Council, and a Council of Elders within the community. The report stresses that all illegal demolitions have been stopped, and project review provisions much strengthened.

The State Party report also describes progress made in launching the Conservation Master Plan, including the signing of a contract for the work in December 2008.

The State Party reports on numerous projects undertaken to support the three main thrusts of the Integrated Area Management Action Plan (stopping all illegal constructions in the area of Icherisheher; restoration of the historical view of Icherisheher, and turning Icherisheher into an international tourism center which meets the modern requirements of the industry). These projects include regular mechanical cleaning of streets and public spaces, improvement of street lighting, limiting and remote monitoring of car entry to the historic core, and many restoration/ repair projects particularly adjacent the fortification wall. In the period 2007-2008, hundreds of projects have been undertaken on public and private structures, re-surfacing of public streets, removal of overhead wires in many areas, refurbishment of existing public gardens, and creation of gardens in small open spaces, repair and revealing works on the city walls, identification and promotion of tourist itineraries, improvement of civic infrastructure and development of numerous exhibits, events and media promotion programs showcasing Icherisheher.

The State Party report notes in particular initiatives taken in relation to removing Baku from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Initiation of the Icherisheher Conservation Master Plan;
- b) Implementation of the "Urgent Actions Plan" of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan";
- c) Inviolability of all monuments and historical buildings provided through placing all the buildings and monuments in the control of the Reserve, by Presidential decree;
- d) Stopping all illegal constructions in the area and creating new provisions for review of all projects relative to stringent criteria for protecting the values of the property;
- e) The management structure, staffing, subordinated bodies and consultation councils of the *Department of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher* now in place, activated, and fulfilling their support functions;
- f) Updated inventory of all historical-architectural monuments and buildings carried out (current condition, photos and other useful information stored in electronic database);
- g) Many projects for the restoration of historical buildings, monuments, residential buildings undertaken by the Department, to appropriate defined standards, in accordance with provisions of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan";
- h) Archeological works carried out within the territory which push back the history of the property by several thousand years.

A joint UNESCO World heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission to the World Heritage property took place from 25 – 30 January 2009.

The conclusions of the mission report indicated that the State Party has put in place all of the corrective measures specified by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of Baku on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- i) The administrative structure and related programmes of the management agency are fully functional and have been provided with an annually approved budget;
- j) An inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructure indicating their physical condition as well as expected rehabilitation methodologies has been completed;
- k) The *Integrated Urban Area Management Action Plan* has been completed and is being implemented.

The mission further noted that since operationalization of the SDHARIS, the many targeted and energetic actions of this body have had a profound positive impact on Icherisheher. Not only have these actions resulted in numerous important upgrades to buildings, streets and public spaces, but the cumulative impact of these efforts and the rapidity with which they have been undertaken has resulted in a change of attitude about the future of Icherisheher. Its historic buildings are no longer seen as degraded obstacles to development, but as important opportunities for investment and for renewal of civic pride in the Icherisheher area.

These efforts have been supported by the IAMAP (Integrated Area Management Action Plan) completed in April 2007, and the development process of the CMP (Conservation Master Plan) for Icherisheher.

The mission also noted however that while excellent progress has been made by the State Party in responding to the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee during the 32nd session, not all targets had been fully met at the time of the mission:

- a) A draft Statement of outstanding universal value has not yet been submitted by the State Party in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Accordingly neither the Integrated Area Management Action Plan nor the Conservation Master Plan acknowledge or reference the property's outstanding universal value as the basis for protection of the World Heritage property;
- b) The CMP was presented to the State Party for the first time during the January 2009 mission. While containing very valuable detailed analysis and prescriptive projections concerning all structures, spaces and features of Icherisheher, this document has not yet been discussed extensively within SDHARIS, or with stakeholders who would be impacted by its many proposals, and at present lacks an overall "introduction" which can provide a full context for its application and use. This document has to date been prepared in English and Italian but is not yet available in Azeri;
- c) At this time, with the CMP essentially a provisional document, awaiting detailed review, the IAMAP and CMP cannot yet be fully integrated, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;
- d) A set of guidelines for architectural change as called for by the World Heritage Committee has been provided in Volume IV of the IAMAP. It would be useful to extend these essentially generic principles for internal use within SDHARIS and for owners or their designers;
- e) The institutional co-ordination framework requested by the World Heritage Committee has not been explicitly addressed at present. This remains important particularly to improve collaboration with the Executive Power of the Municipality of Baku. In spite of the extensive mandate given SDHARIS by Presidential Decree, many goals described within the IAMAP and the CMP (concerned for example with improvements to services, infrastructure, and traffic) require close co-operation with the City of Baku. The statutes

of SDHARIS provide the necessary consultative mechanisms to strengthen collaboration with the Executive Power of the Municipality of Baku, and these should be developed and made operational.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recognize the progress made to date in the implementation of the corrective measures but note that some steps still need to be taken to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is noted that the State Party is making efforts to achieve the Desired state of conservation by 1 February 2010. Therefore, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that a mission take place soon after that date in order to ascertain whether the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Notes the State Party's efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and the significant progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
5. Requests the State Party, concerning development of its several management instruments:
 - a) To review and complete the draft Conservation Master Plan (CMP),
 - b) To integrate it within the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" (IAMAP),
 - c) To extend and develop the design guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, and the design of new constructions and street furniture, already included in the IAMAP, for efficient use by SDHARIS and Icherisheher owners,
 - d) To ensure that both the CMP and the IAMAP acknowledge and reference the Statement of outstanding universal value to be approved by the World Heritage Committee,
 - e) To formally adopt the revised IAMAP in the urban planning system of the City of Baku;
6. Reiterates its encouragement of the State Party to clearly define and approve an institutional coordination framework for the active involvement of stakeholders;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, and progress made in the implementation of the Paragraphs 5 and 6 above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;

8. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, after **1 February 2010**, in order to review the implementation of its requests;
9. **Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v) CL

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

2006

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

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

Four-lane bridge construction project in the property

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

Halting of the bridge project

Corrective measures identified

- a) Discussions with all stakeholders to find alternative solutions so as to ensure the safeguarding of the outstanding universal value of the property;
- b) Review without delay the projects in the property taking into account the results of the visual impact study.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Discussion with stakeholders from July 2006 to February 2008;
- b) Review of projects in the property: ongoing until a solution is found.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7B.77; 31 COM 7A.27; 32 COM 7A.26

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to the Cultural Committee of the German Parliament,; November 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to the Court in Bautzen
February 2008: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reinforced monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

Four-lane bridge construction project in the property

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1156>

Current conservation issues

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Committee had expressed great concern about a bridge project, as approved by the City Council, considering that its construction would “irreversibly damage the values and integrity of the property”, based on an independent visual impact study conducted by the Technical University of Aachen (2006). The World Heritage Committee decided to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) (Decision **31 COM 7A.27**) and decided at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) to delete the property from the World Heritage List in the event that the construction of the bridge has an irreversible impact on the outstanding universal value of the property.

The reactive monitoring mission in February 2008, had reviewed the possible adverse impact of a proposed bridge on the river Elbe on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The mission concluded that the Elbe crossing of the Waldschloesschen Bridge would, through its sitting, have a considerable negative and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property and the integrity of the cultural landscape.

At its 32nd session, the World Heritage Committee regretted that the authorities, having allowed the construction works to proceed, had seriously compromised the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; and expressed its deep concern that the work planned will irreversibly damage the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property. The World Heritage Committee asked the State Party to halt immediately the current construction works and restore the property to its former state of conservation and urged it to reconsider the alternative tunnel option.

The 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (**32 COM 7A.26**) decided to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property and requested the State Party to provide progress reports as relevant and to submit a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

No progress reports were submitted during 2008. An update report on the situation was submitted by the Permanent Delegation of Germany on 28 January 2009. The report provides information on the establishment and operations of a “Dresden Elbe Valley World Heritage Centre” and a report on management of the World Heritage site from February 2006 to January 2009. This report covers the state of conservation of single monuments and measures taken in the property including architectural conservation, urban development, transport, road construction and other infrastructure issues, nature and environmental considerations, public relations and tourism, collaboration in committees and associations.

It also addressed the key question and confirmed that work began on the Waldschlösschen Bridge in August 2007, based on the Dresden Regional Council decision of 8 June 2008. As of mid-November 2008 the foundations for the Elbe Bridge were completed. Work had started in the factory on the steel construction for the supporting structure of the bridge. The report informed that the substructures were finished in January 2009 and that the superstructures which commenced in November 2008 are currently being carried out for completion in June 2011. The road constructions leading to the bridge at the Kaethe Kollwitz Ufer will start in March 2009 for completion in June 2011. On the other side, construction for a connecting tunnel, ramps and road construction started in January 2009 for completion in September 2010.

The report also pointed out that all legal procedures at Courts concerning the halting or changing of the current bridge crossing project had been completed with the result that the bridge is being built as planned.

At the request of the Mayor of Dresden, a meeting between the State Party, the Mayor, the city authorities, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre took place on 14 October 2008 as a follow-up to the World Heritage Committee's decisions and the state of implementation of the bridge to allow for a dialogue about potential solutions. The meeting did not produce any concrete results.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies conclude that the requests by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th, 31st and 32nd sessions to halt the project and the bridge construction have not been addressed. The authorities commenced the construction prior to the 32nd session, at which the World Heritage Committee decided to retain the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It further decided to delete this property from the World Heritage List at its 33rd session in 2009, if the planned works on the bridge continued and the damage already caused was not reversed.

The assessment of all relevant documents now concludes that the planned works on the bridge are continuing, that the project has not been halted and the damage caused to the World Heritage property has not been reversed. The significant infrastructure works so far undertaken have impacted irreversibly on the integrity and outstanding universal value of the property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.77**, **31 COM 7A.27** and **32 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions respectively, and in particular its concern that the construction project of the Waldschlösschen Bridge would irreversibly damage the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the Operational Guidelines,*
3. *Also recalling the report provided by the Reinforced monitoring mission of February 2008 confirming that the current bridge project would irreversibly damage the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property,*

4. *Regrets the fact that the authorities have not halted the project, detrimental to the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property and that the damage already caused has not been reversed;*
5. ***Decides to delete the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) from the World Heritage List.***

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

See Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add (Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

28. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii)

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

2005

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

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings;
- b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years;
- c) Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials;
- d) Damage caused by the wind.

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

The State Party is preparing a Desired state of conservation that will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of the management team with adequate human and financial resources;
- b) Structural consolidation and rehabilitation works for several emblematic buildings, such as the public buildings, the housing sector and the industrial zone buildings, using available materials within the property;
- c) Security measures for the visitors in some buildings, such as those located in the industrial zone;
- d) Specific regulations for the buffer zone.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The work plan for the first phase includes security measures for visitors, cleaning and selection of materials, and low cost corrective measures. The second phase foresees the urgent structural consolidation of all the identified buildings which should be done by 2009;
- b) The implementation of the work plan is depending on the availability of funds.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM7A.31; 31 COM 7A.29; 32 COM 7A.28

International assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000 in 2007 for conservation.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2004: ICOMOS Evaluation mission; May 2007: World Heritage Centre site visit

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, in addition to stucco and lightweight construction;
- b) Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property;
- c) Corrosion of metal cladding and dismantlement of some of the structural elements. A few buildings, such as the Leaching house, are liable to structural collapse if no support is given;
- d) Very little conservation work carried out;
- e) Damage caused by the wind.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178>

Current conservation issues

Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter works was inscribed on the World Heritage List and on List of World Heritage in Danger in 2005 due to the fragile state of conservation of the buildings, derived from lack of maintenance, natural conditions and social factors including looting.

On 26 February 2009, the State Party submitted a report to indicate progress made to in regard to the implementation of corrective measures.

a) Establishment of the management team with adequate human and financial resources

The State Party reports that a study will be undertaken in 2009 to update the management plan, terms of reference for what is foreseen as a participatory process are being developed. The study will be financed by the Programa Puesta en Valor del Patrimonio. No indication for the timeframe for revising the plan is provided and no indication of when to expect a functioning management system.

b) Structural consolidation and rehabilitation works for several emblematic buildings, such as the public buildings, the housing sector and the industrial zone buildings, using available materials within the property

The State Party reports that the assessment and the projects for structural interventions at 19 buildings will be finalised at the end of March 2009. The delay in this complex process is explained by the lack of technical expertise to both carry out the assessment and define sound intervention programmes. Upon finalisation of the current diagnostic phase, the State Party will provide a timeframe for implementation of such interventions. It also indicates that a final report on all the projects funded through International Assistance will be submitted upon completion.

c) Security measures for the visitors in some buildings, such as those located in the industrial zone

Systematic clearing and ordering of the industrial area has been carried out, which has allowed for better knowledge and developing a cadastre of the areas. A project is foreseen for implementation in 2009 to address the perimeter enclosure of the Humberstone and Santa Laura offices. No indication is otherwise provided on specific security measures for visitors.

d) Specific regulations for the buffer zone

A meeting was held in September 2008 with the local authorities to start working on the regulations for the area. The National Monuments Council committed itself to hiring a consultant to develop a preliminary proposal for regulations during 2009.

The State Party also indicates that with the new proposal to re-route Route A-16 entails that the southern edge of the delimited and protected area will need to be modified. The area under discussion is the equivalent of 60 hectares and the State Party considers that it corresponds to a sector with low heritage significance and would not affect the integrity or authenticity of the inscribed property. It is reported that information required for a minor boundary change will be presented shortly for evaluation.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in spite the efforts made by the State Party, remain concerned about the rate of progress in securing the physical conservation of the industrial buildings within the inscribed property, particularly in light of the insufficiency of technical expertise indicated by the State Party to address the issue comprehensively. In addition, the establishment of a functioning management system and application of regulatory measures for the buffer zone are still in the planning stages which entails a significant time lapse before effective implementation.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.28** adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Convention (French and English);*
4. *Notes the progress made in implementing the Priority Interventions Programme and urges the State Party to finalise the assessment phase to begin interventions in buildings at risk and to secure the required resources for effective implementation, to revise the management plan and to finalise the definition of regulatory measures for the buffer zone;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit the intervention proposals to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for evaluation prior to implementation;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity; for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*

7. Also requests the State Party to submit the required documentation for boundary modifications, including appropriate cartography, for approval by the World Heritage Committee;
8. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS monitoring mission to the property to assess progress and to support the State Party in continuing to develop approaches to ensure the stability and long-term conservation of the industrial buildings, to review the draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and revise the timeframe;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
10. **Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29. 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

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

- a) Fragile state of conservation of earthen structures and decorated surfaces due to extreme climatic conditions (El Niño phenomena) and other environmental factors;
- b) Inadequate management system in place;
- c) Insufficient capacity and resources for the implementation of conservation measures;
- d) 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

The State Party reports on the preparation of the proposed Desired state of conservation to the World Heritage Centre.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Full and systematic implementation of the management plan: secure sustainable funding, abide by prescribed courses of action and policies, adhere to prescribed institutional arrangements, for the conservation, presentation and revalorization of the property;
- b) Enforce legislative and regulatory frameworks already passed by the State Party to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities at the property. Collaborate with pertinent authorities for the relocation of settlers;
- c) Broad dissemination of the management plan amongst interest groups to strengthen public and private support in its implementation;
- d) Collaboration with entities in defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the World Heritage property. Precise plans of the property and its zoning need to be circulated amongst stakeholders;
- e) Physical delineation of the property: vegetation barriers, perimeter walls, etc.;
- f) Priority conservation measures: control and mitigation of water table levels, conservation of perimeter walls, backfilling of fragile areas with decorated surfaces;
- g) Development of an emergency and disaster preparedness plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Secured funding for the implementation of the management plan in 2008;
- b) Functioning institutional arrangements in 2008 (as per management plan);
- c) Illegal occupations addressed and activities at the site regulated in 2009 and beyond;
- d) Emergency and risk preparedness plan in 2008;
- e) Drainage works completed by the end of 2007;
- f) Priority conservation works in 2009;
- g) Other conservation and maintenance works 2008 and beyond;
- h) Management and coordination of works carried out by other sectors in the buffer zone in 2008 and beyond.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.32; 31 COM 7A.30; 32 COM 7A.29

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 48,650 for training assistance and technical cooperation. In 2005, USD 30,000 for the opening of a drain to lower the water table level within the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: ICOMOS mission; February 2007: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS and ICCROM mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices;
- b) Illegal occupation of the property;
- c) Unregulated farming activities;
- d) Rising water table levels;
- e) Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National Authorities).

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366>

Current conservation issues

The archaeological zone of Chan Chan has been on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the time of inscription in 1986. The State Party has implemented several actions to mitigate decay at the site, including the development of a management plan, but insufficient resources and discontinuity in implementation have hindered the success of these actions. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission was carried out on 19-23 February 2007 and set out a course of action to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party, in light of the new tourism pressures, to incorporate into the management plan, an approach to public use and visitor management. It also requested it to develop a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The State Party's report was received on 3 February 2009. The report details progress made in implementing the identified corrective measures and in meeting the timeframe for removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

a) Full and systematic implementation of the management plan

The management unit (Unidad Ejecutora 110) continues to operate and implement the Management Plan for the property, prioritizing conservation, dissemination and outreach activities.

b) Enforce legislative and regulatory frameworks

Regulatory measures for Law no. 28261 are pending since 2005; today they are under review for approval by the Ministry of Education. Actions were implemented to stop soil removal (for agricultural purposes) at the "extensive use" zone and to address the illegal occupations in the buffer zone in order to protect a prehispanic road associated to the property. With increased surveillance at the property, unauthorized activities, such as farming and vehicular traffic, and illegal occupations have been better controlled.

c) Broad dissemination of the management plan

The State Party has continued to hold a variety of dissemination activities among public and private entities. The management unit also put in place an outreach programme with primary, secondary students and university students to raise awareness of the significance of the property and to engage them in endeavours required for the conservation of the property. The State Party reports that over 15,000 students have participated in the programme to date.

d) Collaboration with entities in defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the property

The site plan and limits have been updated using modern technology. The revised plan was approved in November 2008 with a National Directorial Resolution (No. 1605 INC). Project was implemented with the collaborative agreement between the Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (ITABC-CNR) Rome, Italy and the INC. In addition to mapping, it is foreseen that a Territorial Information System will be created upon completion. These plans were included with the report from the State Party.

The National Institute of Culture has collaborated with the Municipality of Trujillo in establishing a buffer zone based on the results from the revised mapping. The buffer zone will include archaeological remains related to the site that are outside the limits of the protected zone and new regulatory measures will be established for their protection. The updated site plan and its buffer zone will be included in the territorial development plan and urban development plans for the Municipality of Trujillo, with precise zoning and land use regulations which are currently under review. Upon approval, wide dissemination is foreseen.

e) Physical delineation of the property: vegetation barriers, perimeter walls, etc;

Vegetation barriers have been set to physically delineate the property at the north, east and west limits. Debris from demolition and accumulated garbage was cleared along the south sector of the property, contributing to the recovery of the landscape and promoting environmental conservation.

f) Priority conservation measures

For the control of water table levels, technical files have been developed jointly with the local water authority for additional drains (DM12A and DM14A) to lower current levels at the south part of the complex. Existing drains (10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) were given maintenance, widened and cleaned to improve their efficiency.

Conservation interventions focused on the perimeter walls at Tschudi and Bandelier Palaces, and on priority areas to stabilize architecture in risk of collapse. Regular maintenance was carried out in Palaces including vegetation removal and temporary protection of walls. To prevent effects from rain on the historic fabric, temporary shelters and drainage systems are being evaluated to substitute the existing systems at Tschudi Palace and Huacas Arco Iris and Esmeralda. Funding has been secured for 2009 and 2010 to continue with conservation interventions according to the prioritized course of action set forth in the management plan.

g) Development of an emergency and disaster preparedness plan

The first phase of risk assessment has been completed and is being used as the base document to prepare a revised contingency plan by the National Institute of Culture and the Management Unit. Given that additional studies are still needed, the State Party foresees its completion by the end of 2009.

As for the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, the State Party reports:

a) Secured funding for the implementation of the management plan in 2008

Funding was secured for the implementation of the prioritised course of action in 2008, nevertheless funding for 2009 depends on the national budget planning by the Government for the fiscal year 2009.

b) Functioning institutional arrangements in 2008 (as per management plan)

The State Party has strengthened institutional collaboration and promoted sustainable and permanent synergies for the implementation of the plan, reflected in interventions for the control of water table levels, emergency works and projects for the conservation and protection of the property.

c) *Illegal occupations addressed and activities at the site regulated in 2009 and beyond*
Regulatory measures are currently under review for approval.

d) *Emergency and risk preparedness plan in 2008*
Under preparation, completion is foreseen by the end of 2009.

e) *Drainage works completed by the end of 2007*
Timeframe was met; additional drainages are being evaluated to mitigate potential risks associated with water table levels.

f) *Priority conservation works in 2009*
The proposed plan of action will make progress in continuing to address priority conservation concerns in line with the Master Plan, the execution of the activities will depend on the budget for the fiscal year 2009.

g) *Other conservation and maintenance works 2008 and beyond*
Sustained collaboration between entities on the national and international levels is being explored to guarantee the implementation of the management plan.

h) *Management and coordination of works carried out by other sectors in the buffer zone in 2008 and beyond*
Collaboration between the INC and the Municipality of Trujillo has achieved significant progress in establishing a buffer zone and regulatory measures.

Although significant progress has been made to date in improving the state of conservation of the property, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain concerned that protective and regulatory measures are still not fully enforced to guarantee the protection of the property and its setting. Similarly, progress in implementing the management plan exists but mechanisms and resources to secure long-term sustainability of the management system have yet to be explored. These include not only financial resources but also technical expertise to address the vast challenges faced by preserving such a fragile property and to adequately and efficiently respond to conditions as they arise.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the requested draft Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and the Desired state of conservation have not yet been submitted, but it is understood that the State Party is currently working on these.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction significant progress made in the implementation of corrective measures within the timeframe for implementation, particularly in regard to the implementation of the management plan;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of*

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;

5. *Notes the updating of the plan of the property and the establishment of a buffer zone which will be articulated with other planning tools at the territorial and municipal levels and requests the State Party to submit the new boundaries for the buffer zone, including appropriate cartography as well as the legal framework for its regulation and protection, for approval by the World Heritage Committee;*
6. *Reiterates its concern about the full enforcement of protective legislation and regulatory measures to guarantee the protection of the site and urges the State Party to conclude the revision process to ensure the sustainability of the management system;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory for the Latin America and the Caribbean region to be started at the end of 2009;*
8. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party that in light of the new tourism pressures, to revise provisions for public use and visitor management at the property and to integrate measures into the existing management plan;*
9. *Notes the advances made by the State Party in the preparation of the emergency and disaster preparedness plan and also requests a copy to be sent to World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies upon finalization at the end of 2009;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to provide secure funding to the management unit (Unidad Ejecutora 110) in order to guarantee the implementation of foreseen activities in the management plan;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
12. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add* (State Party's state of conservation report received late)

GENERAL DECISION

31. World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Between 1994 and 1999, the five World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger as a result of the impacts of the conflicts in the Great Lakes region. In spite of the official end to the civil conflict in 2004, the situation in some of these World Heritage properties has not improved and sometimes deteriorated in recent years, mainly as a result of ongoing insecurity. This prompted the Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) to call upon the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to convene a meeting with the DRC authorities to discuss progress in addressing the deteriorating state of conservation of the World Heritage properties in DRC. At the same time, the World Heritage Committee decided to apply the newly established Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the five properties.

Unfortunately, this high level meeting, originally planned for May 2008, was postponed by the State Party. At its 32nd session, the World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to set a date for the high level meeting as soon as possible, in consultation with the Director General of UNESCO, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the President of IUCN and decided to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to all five properties (**32 COM 7A. 31**).

The World Heritage Centre has continued to follow up on the situation in the five DRC properties very closely and is in weekly contact with the management authority ICCN (Institut National pour la Conservation de la Nature) as well as with the different conservation actors working at site level with support of the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for DRC, funded by extrabudgetary sources (Governments of Belgium and Italy, UN Foundation).

Since the 32nd session, the security situation deteriorated significantly in the east and northeast of the country. As a result of the current on-going joint military operations with the Rwandan and Uganda army to oust the Rwandan FDLR (Forces démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda) rebels and the Ugandan LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) rebels, fighting is taking place in and around some of the properties, bringing enormous suffering to the civilian populations.

In addition to the security related issues, a number of other important issues affecting the conservation of the properties remain of concern (mining exploration and exploitation concessions attributed by the Ministry of Mines, the oil exploration concession granted by the Ministry for "Hydrocarbures" in Virunga National Park, the issue of the illegal settlements in the corridor of Kahuzi-Biega, the relocation of the Nyaleke army training camp in Virunga National Park). All these issues are outside the influence of the protected area authority ICCN or even the Ministry for Environment, and therefore necessitate cooperation from other Ministries. At the Conference on Heritage in Danger in DRC, organized by UNESCO in 2004, the Government through its Vice-President had made a commitment to set up an interministerial committee that would be able to address such issues. Unfortunately, this commitment was never put into practice. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that to make progress on the above mentioned issues, it is crucial to get the other Ministries and stakeholders involved, including in particular the regional authorities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain convinced that the high level meeting could create the necessary political momentum to achieve these essential conditions for progress, and continue to advocate its organization. At the time of preparation of this report, the DRC authorities have not yet proposed a new date for the meeting following the cancellation of the May 2008 meeting. However, in a recent meeting in Kinshasa, the Principal Advisor for Environment to the President assured the World Heritage Centre that the President is willing to receive the meeting and that a date would be proposed to the Director General of UNESCO before the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Centre also continued its cooperation with the United Nations Mission to DRC (MONUC). At the last session, it was reported that a World Heritage Centre mission had been able to facilitate a meeting between ICCN and the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG). At this meeting the SRSG committed MONUC to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICCN to facilitate cooperation. Such a MoU would make it easier for local MONUC commanders to cooperate with the park authorities in different ways. Unfortunately, ICCN did not ensure the follow up and so far no general MoU has been prepared. During a recent mission to Kinshasa, SRSG reiterated the commitment for a MoU and ICCN requested the assistance of the World Heritage Centre to prepare a draft.

As mentioned under the report for Virunga National Park, progress was also made with the establishment of a trust fund for DRC properties.

The World Heritage Centre is currently discussing with the Belgian authorities a third phase for its contribution to the DRC Programme. If approved, this will allow the World Heritage Centre not only to continue its support to the emergency action plans of the properties, but will make it possible to post a technical advisor in Kinshasa who could greatly facilitate the follow up on the state of conservation of the properties and provide ICCN with assistance in addressing the conservation challenges. IUCN considers that continued support to this programme of the World Heritage Centre is required, and is also initiating development of complementary project activity within DRC, in conjunction with its newly restaffed office in Kinshasa and its programme for West and Central Africa, which could also assist the implementation of support to the World Heritage properties in DRC.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not yet proposed a new date for the high level meeting requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and urges the State Party to set a date for this meeting as soon as possible in consultation with the Office of the Director General of UNESCO, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the President of IUCN;*

4. *Welcomes the continued commitment of MONUC to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the protected area authority ICCN to improve cooperation for the conservation of the properties and also urges the State Party to follow up on this proposal, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt a comprehensive approach involving the different relevant Ministries to address the urgent threats to the five World Heritage properties situated within the Democratic Republic of Congo, in particular in relation to the outstanding issues such as the cancellation of mining and oil exploration and exploitation concessions, the relocation of the Nyaleke army camp, and the measures required to address illegal occupation of the Kahuzi-Biega corridor;*
6. *Also recalls its request to all States Parties to the Convention to raise international awareness and promote the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;*
7. *Calls upon the State Party as well as the international community to increase their support for the management of the properties and in particular the implementation of the corrective measures.*