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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee

Thirty-fourth session

Brasilia, Brazil

25 July - 3 August 2010

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/34COM/>

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I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1982

Criteria
(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) Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea;
- b) Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve;
- c) Insufficient institutional structure.

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 defined.

Corrective measures identified

For the part of the property situated in Guinea, the following corrective measures were identified by the 2007 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007):

- a) Strengthen the capacities of the management authority (Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement du Nimba et du Simandou – CEGENS) in the field, in particular by providing the necessary financial and technical resources to accomplish its mission;
- b) Strengthen the surveillance of the property in cooperation with the local communities, in particular by recruiting the necessary eco-guards and by strengthening the capacities of the newly created Village Surveillance Committees;

- c) Define a buffer zone for the property, in consultation with the local stakeholders concerned, with an appropriate legal status and strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;
- d) Put in place an ecological monitoring system and a geo-referenced database for all scientific data collected on the property;
- e) Conduct a feasibility study to define a sustainable finance mechanism for the property;
- f) Develop a strategy for the conservation of the Déré Forest and Bossou Hills;
- g) Prepare a management plan for the property and the Biosphere Reserve.

For the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire, the following corrective measures were identified by the 2008 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008):

- h) Re-establish the presence of the protected area authority (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves - OIPR) within the property and resume management activities, establish cooperation mechanisms and strengthen communication with the local communities;
- i) Conduct a wildlife survey of key fauna and flora species to clarify the status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and establish a comprehensive monitoring programme to monitor and control threats in particular from poaching;
- j) Define a buffer zone, in consultation with the local stakeholders concerned, with the appropriate legal status to strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;
- k) Develop a management plan in close cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the local community, and harmonise this plan with the plan being developed in Guinea
- l) Define a sustainable finance mechanism for the entire property together with the State Party of Guinea;

The World Heritage Committee also made recommendations regarding mining threats to the property in Guinea and in Côte d'Ivoire, which have been included in Decision **31 COM 7A.3** and in Decision **32 COM 7A.3**, and can also be considered as corrective measures in relation to the Desired State of Conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.3; 32 COM 7A.3; 33 COM 7A.3

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 473,349 for equipment and training.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: UNESCO mission; May 1993: UNESCO / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; June 2008: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Mining;
- b) Influx of refugees;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Deforestation;
- e) Poaching;
- f) Weak management capacity;
- g) Lack of resources;
- h) Lack of transboundary cooperation.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155>

Current conservation issues

On 22 January and 22 April 2010, summary reports on the state of conservation of the property were submitted by the States Parties of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. These reports indicated limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures for the property:

For the property located in Guinea:

- a) Strengthen the capacities of the management authority (Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement du Nimba et du Simandou – CEGENS) in the field, in particular by providing the necessary financial and technical resources to accomplish its mission

The State Party notes the presence of CEGENS personnel in the property, but does not indicate the financial and technical resources allocated for this mission. Nevertheless, it mentions the lack of institutional, financial, technical and material capacity building as concerns the management authority. The report notes that due to the delay in the signing of the updated Decree for the listing of the property, certain financial resources foreseen in the framework agreement with the mining company (Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée – SMFG) for some activities in the annual Action Plan remain blocked.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no progress appears to have been made as regards the institutional strengthening of the CEGENS since the 2007 mission. Without an effective management and appropriate human and financial resources it will remain very difficult to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee.

- b) *Strengthen the surveillance of the property in cooperation with the local communities, in particular by recruiting the eco-guards necessary and by strengthening the capacities of the newly created Village Surveillance Committees (VSC);*

In the report the State Party highlights the increase in the number of eco-guards from 16 to 32 and the creation of nine Village Surveillance Committees (VSC) in the villages adjacent to the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that this information was already included in the previous 2009 report and no information has been provided on the capacity of current surveillance to mitigate the numerous threats that weigh on the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also consider that the number of eco-guards remains insufficient in relation to the threats and the extent of the massif.

- c) *Define a buffer zone for the property, in consultation with the local stakeholders concerned, with an appropriate legal status and strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;*

The State Party notes that the adoption of the draft updated Decree for listing and management acts for areas of the Mount Nimba Reserve has been delayed due to political problems in the country end 2009. The State Party report also recalls that geo-referencing of the boundaries of the Reserve and the mining enclave was carried out during 2008, with the participation of the local community. The procedure to enforce these boundaries was postponed until 2010. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report did not clarify whether the Decree would also define a buffer zone with an appropriate legal status. The establishment of a functional buffer zone is a key recommendation of the 2007 mission.

- d) *Put in place an ecological monitoring system and a geo-referenced database for all scientific data collected on the property;*

The State Party notes the signature of a contract between the Mount Nimba Biological Diversity Conservation Programme (PCB/MN) and the NGO Fauna & Flora International (FFI) for the establishment of an ecological monitoring system. Unfortunately, no indication is provided as to the content of this programme.

- e) *Conduct a feasibility study to define a sustainable finance mechanism for the property;*
The report emphasized the absence of a sustainable finance mechanism for the conservation of the property. The State Party intends to request assistance from the World Heritage Centre for a feasibility study to create an International Foundation for Mount Nimba. The State Party also notes an important reduction in 2009 of funding for the Mount Nimba Biological Diversity Conservation Programme (PCB/MN) financed by the Global Environment Facility.

f) *Develop a strategy for the conservation of the Déré Forest and Bossou Hills;*

Party considers that the illegal occupation and exploitation of the Déré Forest by the New Forces of Côte d'Ivoire are of great concern and it would appear that only through diplomatic channels may a solution be found to avoid armed conflict between the two States parties. Déré Forest is located outside the property but is one of the three central zones of the Biosphere Reserve.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recall that the 2007 mission had highlighted the problems linked to the conservation of the group of chimpanzees of Bossou, and especially the decrease in population, as well as the loss of functionality of the corridor between this site and the property. The State Party report provides no information on the evolution of the situation.

g) *Prepare a management plan for the property and the Biosphere Reserve*

No progress has been reported in this respect. IUCN note that an initiative of the Darwin Foundation and the FFI, to develop a common conservation and management strategy for the property is ongoing.

For the part of the property located in Côte d'Ivoire:

The State Party report underlines that the slow recovery process from the crisis continues to be an obstacle in the implementation of the corrective measures. The report indicates logistical difficulties, in particular the important reduction in the budget of the managing authority since the beginning of the crisis, making it difficult to adhere to a timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures.

h) *Re-establish the presence of the protected area authority (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves - OIPR) within the property and resume management activities, establish cooperation mechanisms and strengthen communication with the local communities*

The State Party report recalls the progressive restructuring of management staff still based at Duékoué, a considerable distance from the property. However, access to the Reserve is limited because of insufficient logistical and material means, and the slow pace of the disarmament process. Discussions are in progress with the Integrated Command Centre (CCI) of the army and local authorities for the restoration of State authority in the Reserve. The State Party notes that contacts have been made for the creation and setting up of a Local Management Committee for Mount Nimba to reinforce cooperation with local communities.

i) *Conduct a wildlife survey of key fauna and flora species to clarify the status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and establish a comprehensive monitoring programme to monitor and control threats in particular from poaching*

The State Party notes that with the normalisation of the socio-political situation, the OIPR plans wildlife and habitat conservation surveys. In this respect, an unsigned funding request to establish an inventory was addressed to the World Heritage Centre end 2009. The State Party notes that the partners of OIPR also envisage, in the short-term, an inventory on certain wildlife species in the Reserve.

j) *Define a buffer zone, in consultation with the local stakeholders concerned, with the appropriate legal status to strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone*

The State Party considers that territorial planning is not adapted to the creation of a buffer zone around the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the 2008 mission had recommended that this buffer zone be defined in close cooperation with local

populations, based on a sustainable exploitation of natural resources, that would not endanger the forest belt and, on the contrary, strengthen biodiversity conservation.

- k) *Develop a management plan in close cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the local community, and harmonise this plan with the plan being developed in Guinea*

The report notes the development of a first simplified draft of the management plan and the development of terms of reference for a workshop project with the State Party of Guinea, submitted jointly for funding to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and to the African World Heritage Fund. For the UNESCO part, the request was approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on 2 March 2010 for an amount of USD 30,000.

- l) *Define a sustainable finance mechanism for the entire property together with the State Party of Guinea.*

In this framework, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea plan the organization of an international workshop that should revive the tripartite workshops with Liberia for the finalisation of the framework agreement on the transboundary management of the natural property.

The report of the Côte d'Ivoire State Party refers to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and notes that in the framework of meetings held during the international workshops in 2009, a joint draft statement of Outstanding Universal Value is currently being developed by the two States Parties. No Desired State of Conservation of the property was defined.

- m) *Mining*

The reports of the two States Parties recall the mining threats affecting the property on both sides of the frontier.

For Guinea: the State Party report notes as concerns the mining project in the enclave, implemented by the mining company of Guinea (SMFG), the conduct of an environmental and social impact study has been delayed. In this respect the World Heritage Centre has received information from SMFG that following a meeting held in UNESCO in 2009, it had reviewed the Terms of Reference of the study and taken into account the proposals of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. SMFG has further confirmed that since the meeting, there has been little progress in the development of the mining project, and therefore also the impact study, given that certain strategic decisions have to be taken at Government level but have been delayed due to political events. Currently, there is no drilling in the enclave. Rehabilitation work on the drilling sites as well as the open trails is being completed.

For Côte d'Ivoire: the State Party notes the abandonment by Tata Steel of the mining project in the property following discussions between IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and the Director of the Group *Global Minerals* of Tata Steel. However, the State Party did not respond to the Committee request to urgently confirm that all the mining concessions in the property have been actually revoked.

1. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN further note that the threats that weigh on the property remain present and that the measures undertaken by the Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire States Parties are insufficient to mitigate these threats. In particular, the surveillance system of the property does not control the numerous impacts and illegal activities affecting its resources. To these threats is added the mining problem. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider it urgent to reinforce the management of the property through capacity building of the management authority (CEGENS) in Guinea and in ensuring that the management activities in Côte d'Ivoire be re-established. Furthermore, the Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea States Parties should consult to develop and implement a common surveillance strategy for Mount Nimba. A meeting of the tri-national Commission would enable progress to be made on this issue. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore consider that the property should be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision **34 COM 7A.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Notes with concern the lack of progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec, 2008) sessions respectively, due to continuing insecurity in the Côte d'Ivoire part of the property, and the current political situation in Guinea;
4. Notes the delay experienced by SMFG in conducting an environmental and social impact study, due to the delay in the implementation of the mining project, and reiterates its request to ensure that the ESIS be conducted in accordance with the highest international standards and quantify the potential impact of mining planned in the property, in close consultation with all the stakeholders, and to submit all intermediate results to the World Heritage Committee;
5. Expresses its concern that the Côte d'Ivoire State Party has not yet confirmed that all mining concessions have been actually revoked within the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee since its 32nd session, and emphatically reiterates its request;
6. Requests the Côte d'Ivoire State Party to engage in negotiations with all the stakeholders in order to ensure security to enable permanent access to the property by the managing authority;
7. Strongly urges the two States Parties to intensify their efforts in pursuing the implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;
8. Also requests the States Parties of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to develop and implement a common conservation strategy in the context of a tripartite meeting, and invites them to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the organization of this meeting;
9. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 missions, and the removal of threats linked to mining, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
10. **Decides to maintain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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 32 of the present document.

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 remotivating Park staff. Also propose specialised 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, 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

31 COM 7A.4; 32 COM 7A.4; 33 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, Spain and Belgium. Phase I (2001–2005): approximately USD 900,000, phase II (2005-2009) : USD 300,000 , phase III (2010-2012): USD 300,000.

In January 2007 financial support (USD 30,000) granted by the Rapid Response Facility. 90,000 USD was also provided in support of the project to develop alternative energy sources to charcoal (funded by the French speaking Community of Belgium).

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property 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

On 8 February 2010, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. This report contained some information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures. On the sidelines of a mission to Goma in February 2009, a World Heritage Centre staff member visited the park, held discussions with park staff and made a flight over different sectors of the park.

Since the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee, the security situation around the park has improved. Following the joint military operation of the Congolese army (FARDC – Forces Armées de la RDC) and the Rwandan army (RDF – Rwandan Defense Force) in January 2009, militia of Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), a rebel group opposing the Rwanda Government, were pushed out of many of their strategic positions in and around the park. A major camp of the Congolese rebel group Mai-Mai on the southern shore of Lake Edward was also dismantled. As an immediate result, park guards were able to regain control over all park stations and are currently operating in most parts of the park. Park staff was able to secure the strategic gorilla sector around Mikeno, and numbers of gorillas in the habituated families have increased from 71 to 81 in the last 16 months. Gorilla tourism is slowly starting again. In 2009, 600 tourism visits were registered. Efforts are underway to rehabilitate key park infrastructure with support from various donors. Park staff also organized several large operations in the southern sector to combat deforestation and charcoal production. As a result, the eastern side of the Nyaragongo volcano is now secure, but FDLR are still active and engaged in deforestation and charcoal production on its western side and towards the Nyamulagira volcano. Pockets of FDLR and Mai-Mai also remain on the eastern shore of Lake Edward, and around the Kasali hills. The report also mentions that three guards were killed while on service since the last session.

In January a new eruption of the Nyamulagira volcano occurred from a new volcanic cone and the lava stream destroyed several hectares of forest on its southern flanks. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that this is not only a natural phenomena, but also that the active volcanism in the Virungas is one of the main justifications of the inscription of the property under criterion (viii).

The following progress can be noted in the implementation of the corrective measures:

- 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, following the killings of gorilla. Apparently, it is no longer active at the moment, though the park direction has regular contact with the politico-administrative and military authorities to discuss issues related to the conservation of 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*

As a result of the fighting in and around the park in 2008, there are again many military positions active inside the park. While the State Party report notes that the numbers of military stationed in the park is again diminishing recently, an important military presence was noted during the flight over the park in February. Especially in the Rwindi sector, many large military camps are present, some occupying formal rebel positions like the Mai-mai camp on the southern shore of Lake Edward. There are also reports of the growing involvement of the military personnel based at these camps in illegal resource exploitation, such as new illegal fisheries on Lake Edward, poaching and charcoal making. The World Heritage Centre received a report from the protected area authority mentioning the involvement of the military in charcoal activities in the southern, central and eastern sectors of the park as well as the killing of two elephants by the military in Tonga in March 2010. A further report was received from a local NGO, in which the implication of military of the 18th and 15th brigade, both based in the park, is documented. For February 2010, the report documents the killing of seven hippopotamus, four elephants, two chimpanzees and four baboons on the southern shores of Lake Edward. This is a clear indication of the seriousness of this problem, as surely not all cases were documented. The problem has been confirmed to the World Heritage Centre by the management authority ICCN.

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

No progress has been achieved with regard to this issue and the camp is still operational. However, the State Party report mentions that the number of military personnel present in the camp has diminished.

- 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*

The State Party report mentions that efforts to evacuate the Lubiliya sector are underway. This is a 200 ha encroachment in the Kasindi area which has been occupied progressively since 2002. A 150 ha re-settlement area has been identified. These efforts are supported through the UNESCO DRC programme with the support of the Government of Belgium.

Unfortunately, no progress was made in the evacuation of the Kiroliirwe region and the western shore of Lake Edward. In the Lake Edward region, 500 families were relocated in 2008, but unfortunately the evacuation process had to be interrupted as a result of the renewed armed conflict in the region in October 2008. So far, the security and political situation has not yet allowed resuming the process. The area was over flown during the February visit which showed that the entire shoreline is now under agricultural use, with large illegal settlements. People who originally moved into the area to set up illegal fishing camps on the shores are apparently progressively turning to agriculture as a result of dwindling fish stocks. The agricultural front is steadily progressing to the south and currently forest areas to the south of the shoreline corridor are being decimated. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN believe that urgent action is needed to halt this progression. FARDC military are said to be involved in both the charcoal and fisheries business. Several new fishing camps were also noticed on the southern shores and it can be feared that if no action is undertaken to halt this, a similar process as on the western shore could happen. A recent report from the management authority mentions a large scale patrol in March 2010 in this area by the park guards together with the military to address this issue.

- 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*

The Park Direction, which has been re-established at the Rumangabo station on the edge of the park, is ensuring the coordination of all park activities. All park stations now have mobile phone coverage and are in regular contact with the Direction. 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. The planning of all conservation activities of the property continues to be carried out jointly, through the Coordination Committee of the Site (CoCoSi).

The State Party report also mentions that a new management plan is under preparation and should be finalized this year.

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

Thirty percent of the income received through gorilla tourism is re-distributed to the local communities to fund social projects such as school construction and to cover running costs of the health centers. A new school and health centre were created at the park headquarters in Rumangabo, partly with donor assistance, but also using some of the tourism receipt. The facilities are accessible to both park staff and the local communities. This initiative generated a strong support from the local communities.

- g) *Strengthen law enforcement in the property concentrating on priority areas and remotivate Park staff*

With the improvement of the security situation, important efforts were made to restart park surveillance activities. An external security advisor was recruited who is advising the park management on security issues and law enforcement operations. First priority was given to the gorilla (Mikeno) sector, which is now under control of park staff. Currently efforts are undertaken to regain control over the Nyaragongo volcano, targeting the illegal charcoal production. Some large patrols were also undertaken on the southern shore of Lake Edward. While these actions are very encouraging, serious challenges remain. A particular challenge is the important presence of military in the park, which are engaging in illegal activities, directly or indirectly by providing “authorizations” to people engaged in these activities.

Another important step to strengthen law enforcement is the on-going overall assessment of park staff as part of the institutional reform process. Through this process, it will be possible to retire old staff and at the same time recruit new staff, improve staff training as well as their social conditions.

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

See the report on Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A*)

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

Significant efforts were undertaken to curb the illegal charcoal production. Charcoal production was halted in the gorilla sector and on the eastern slopes of the Nyaragongo volcano. In 2009, more than 750 patrols were organized in these areas and a total of 840 charcoal ovens destroyed. Nevertheless, deforestation for charcoal production remains one of the serious threats to the integrity of the site. During the fly over in February, a lot of camps of charcoal producers were spotted between Nyaragongo and Nyamulagira volcanoes. Some camps seemed semi-permanent with small shelters with iron roofs.

The park management continues its programme for the production of biomass briquettes with the aim of encouraging this technology as an alternative energy to charcoal from the

property. So far 550 small enterprises have been created around the park producing briquettes made of non-woody biomass. A publicity campaign is underway in the city of Goma to sensitize people to replace charcoal with this alternative fuel. This initiative has received support from the World Heritage Centre, with funding from the French speaking Community of Belgium. WWF is also continuing reforestation activities around the property.

- j) *Strengthen the role of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Congo (MONUC) to establish security in the property and its periphery*

The UN Mission to DRC, MONUC, has been facilitating aerial surveillance of the site through regular reconnaissance flights by helicopter. In addition, mixed ICCN-MONUC patrols were sporadically organized. MONUC also intervened to ensure the security at the Rumangabo station and to provide some training to park guards in weapons maintenance.

The park management authority also started an initiative to collect arms in the villages around the property in exchange for iron roofing. So far five weapons were collected. An arms collection project is also being implemented by a local NGO. In addition, the park is trying to motivate some of the remaining Mai-Mai rebels to re-integrate into the regular army, with the help of a traditional chief.

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

The park is providing support to social infrastructure, and the implementation of the briquette programme, which has led to job creation around the park. As a result, support for the park amongst local communities is increasing.

Unfortunately, relations with the military and provincial authorities have recently become more challenging. In spite of the different meetings held with the commander of the military region, there is continued involvement of the FARDC, including several commanders, in the different illegal resource activities. Recently, the provincial government also “legalized” some of the illegal fisheries on Lake Edward and announced the degazettement of the hunting area of Rutshuru, a buffer zone to the park. These decisions are in clear violation of the national legislation governing the protected areas..

The State Party report did not provide further information on the issue of the oil prospecting projects overlapping with the property. An ICCN senior staff confirmed to the World Heritage Centre that so far the exploration permit which was granted by the Minister for Energy had not yet been ratified by the President. The website of Dominion Oil, one of the two companies involved, notes that the contract was already approved by the Parliament and that the Presidential ratification is pending. It also mentions the “challenging operational environment, with the ongoing regional instability and the status of the area as UNESCO World Heritage site”. It needs to be noted that the same company also holds an exploration permit situated largely within the Selous Game Reserve and World Heritage property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate that oil exploration or exploitation activities are incompatible with the World Heritage status, in line with previous Decisions of the Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important efforts that have been undertaken by the park management authority since the last session, in particular to restart park surveillance activities, re-habilitate and re-occupy the different park stations and address the illegal charcoal production. Nevertheless, the conservation of the property continues to face important challenges. In particular the involvement of elements of the Congolese military FARDC in illegal resource exploitation activities and the recent actions taken by the provincial authorities are extremely worrying. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also remain very concerned by the issue of the potential oil exploration. It seems clear that in order to make further progress on the restoration of the values and integrity of the property, it is important for the State Party to ensure a clear political commitment to the conservation of the property, both at national and at provincial level. The high-level meeting requested by the

Committee at its 31 session (Christchurch, 2007) therefore remains very relevant and important. In view of the current situation at the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend the continued application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism and to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the three guards killed during protection operations at the property since its previous session;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the management authority ICCN, following the improvement of the security situation, to re-start law enforcement activities in priority areas, rehabilitate and re-occupy the different park stations as well as the actions taken to start addressing the illegal charcoal production in the park;
5. Expresses its deep concern with regard to the reported increasing involvement of elements of the Congolese army FARDC in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Property, in particular poaching, illegal fisheries and charcoal production, and urges the State Party to take the necessary action to address this issue;
6. Reiterates its concern with regard to the envisaged oil prospecting projects overlapping the property, recalls its position regarding the incompatibility of oil exploration and exploitation in respect of World Heritage status, and urges the State Party to formally exclude the territory of the property;
7. Takes note of the important challenges which remain to allow for the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and urges the national and regional authorities to provide the necessary support to the management authority to address these challenges;
8. Requests the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee following the 2006 monitoring mission and the 2007 reinforced monitoring mission and calls upon the donor community to continue its financial support for these actions;
9. 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;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on proposed oil exploration and exploitation projects overlapping the property, the

reduction of military positions inside the property, the evacuation of illegal occupants and the status of flagship species in the property as well as progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;

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 for which the property was 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 the 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 patrol;
- 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; 33 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; (2005-2009): USD 300,000; (2010-2012): USD 300,000. Financial support (USD 30,000) in 2008 granted by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) for the rehabilitation of a control post at Itébéro.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006 : UNESCO Missions; several UNESCO missions in the framework of the DRC Programme. December 2009: IUCN/World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property 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 highland and lowland sectors;
- d) Illegal mining and deforestation.

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

On 8 February 2009 a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party containing information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures. From 28 November to 6 December 2009, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission visited the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). Although security constraints did not permit thorough field visits, apart from some areas of the highland sector of the Park, the mission was able to review the state of conservation of the property thanks to meetings and discussions with the politico-administrative and military authorities, the managers of the property, the conservation partners and the various stakeholders concerned and thanks also to an overflight of the property. The mission report is available online at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM>

The 2009 mission confirmed that since the 2006 mission, the presence of armed groups, notably the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) in and round the property and the resulting insecurity has continued to make a large part of the property difficult to access by the staff of the management authority, the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN). Insecurity remains the biggest obstacle to the conservation and restoration of integrity of the property. The mission also noted that the threats identified by the earlier mission, in particular poaching, mining in the property and the illegal occupation of the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors remains unchanged. Furthermore, the mission observed the extent of occupation of the Park land by the villages. The mission further noted increased deforestation around the Park for charcoal to supply the town of Bukavu and considered that if alternative solutions were not found to provide for these energy needs, the pressure on the forest resources of the Park is likely to increase.

The mission summarized the implementation of the corrective measures, adopted 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;*

In 2008, the State Party, with support from the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) began a programme of voluntary repatriation of the FDLR military. These military forces are considered as being responsible for a greater part of the illicit activities in the property, in particular the artisanal mining activities and poaching. The voluntary repatriation was followed in 2009 by a military operation organised by the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC)

with logistical support from MONUC. The Commander of the military region confirmed to the mission that the military operation was able to dismantle the bases of the military in the Park. The operation was completed in December 2009 and at the time of the preparation of this report it is too soon to evaluate its impact on the security and accessibility of the property. However, it is feared that once the operation terminated, the FDLR could re-occupy their initial positions.

Due to improvements in security, the Park authorities have been able to close down 22 mining quarries in the Itebero and Katasomwa Sector. Nevertheless, numerous artisanal mining sites remain active in the property. No new information concerning the mining concessions granted in the property by the Ministry for Mines is available.

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

The mission noted that the Park authorities have attempted to consolidate a presence in the lowland sector. Itebero Station is functional, a new station has been opened at Lulingo and the establishment of a presence in the Punia/Kasese region is planned. Nzovu Station was also functional until May 2009, date at which it had to be evacuated following an attack by the FDLR; it has since remained abandoned.

Furthermore, the Park authorities have tried to progressively increase the frequency of patrols. A rapid intervention unit has been created and has carried out two large-scale patrols in the lowland sectors at Itebero. The number of patrols increased from 4047 to 4812 between 2006 and 2008. Unfortunately, in 2009, there was an important decrease of patrols due to the increase of insecurity linked to military operations.

Despite these efforts, the extent of area covered by the patrols remains very reduced in the lowland altitudes of the Park.

c) Reclaim, as soon as the security situation allows, the farms located inside the ecologically important corridor between the highland and lowland sectors;

During the overflight, the mission noted that degradation of the corridor had increased with, in particular, permanent constructions and land clearing that also affected the highland sector of the Park, and deforestation of bamboo plantations on the slopes of Mount Biega. In view of the importance of the corridor for the restoration of the integrity of the property, the mission considered that the urgent evacuation of the entire corridor should be secured.

The mission noted that the lack of progress in the field is in contrast to the efforts deployed by the Park authorities in attempting to resolve this issue. The visit in 2008 of a Ministerial delegation from Kinshasa led by the Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT) to resolve this problem, has not been followed up by concrete actions as regards evacuation. However, the Chief of the Division of Landowners involved in the distribution of land in the Park, has recently been removed and a meeting was convened at the beginning of December 2009 by the Vice-Governor with representatives of the farmers, civil society and Park authorities to announce that the illegal occupation of the Park would no longer be permitted and that a field visit would take place with all the services concerned to determine the farms that were located inside the Park limits. The mission was also encouraged by the clear position taken by the civil society of Bukavu. The State Party report further mentions that the President of the Republic, during a visit to Bukavu, had announced the cancellation of all the long-lease contracts granted in the public State properties, including the farms located inside the property.

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

Since 2008, the KBNP has an annual operational plan developed on the basis of the objectives and programmes established in the management plan under preparation. All the partners of the KBNP contribute towards the development of the operational plan and

progress in the planned activities and results is evaluated regularly. The mission therefore considered that this recommendation had been implemented.

- 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;*

An inventory of the lowland area was planned in 2006, but due to security problems, the field work was limited to a very small part of the area, notably in the region of Nzovu and Suisa and along the trail from Suisa to Itebero. The extent of this inventory remains too partial to evaluate the situation of wildlife in the lowland sector. This information needs to be completed as soon as the security situation improves. The Park authorities have in fact informed the mission that funds have been secured to continue this work in 2010.

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

With support from WWF, ICCN has developed guidelines for patrol operations. Progress has been made in the highland sector as concerns the extent of the Park covered by the patrols. However, patrols have not been able to cover much of the lowland sector due to problems of security. The mission welcomed the creation of a rapid intervention unit that can reinforce the teams stationed in the different outposts for « large-scale » operations or in the case of specific pressure. Law enforcement efforts in the Park and a gradual increase in the area covered by the patrols must therefore be continued.

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

Steps are being taken to establish a trust fund for all the protected areas. A Steering Committee has been set up by Ministerial Order, terms of reference have been defined and a schedule for the establishment of an International Foundation for the management of funds has been decided upon. A facilitator has been recruited and is currently establishing a technical group comprised of experts to define the profile of the Fund and its implementation. It has also been decided to give priority to World Heritage sites.

As regards the rehabilitation of the RN3 road that crosses the highland sector of the property, the mission was able to inspect the work on the section crossing the Park. The mission considered that the necessary precautions to limit the impact of the rehabilitation work have been taken and implemented. Nevertheless, the rehabilitation shall certainly increase traffic and the mission considered that it was important to reinforce the control mechanisms (vehicle control, surveillance of broken-down vehicles, closure of the barriers at night). The mission also reiterated the need to circumvent the Park if the rehabilitation work continues beyond Hombo to rehabilitate the connection at Kisangani.

The mission acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the Park managers of ICCN for the conservation of the property, often at great personal risk for its personnel.

The mission concluded that the values for which the property had been inscribed on the World Heritage List, although still present, were seriously affected by the impacts of the conflict and that the integrity of the property was questionable, notably due to the loss of connectivity between the highland and lowland sectors. Given that no species has disappeared from the Park and that the continuity of the plant species could be re-established if the problems of illegal occupation of the corridor were resolved and a solution found for the villages located in the property, the mission considered that the Outstanding Universal Value, although degraded, was still present and could be recovered. The mission formulated a series of recommendations that are included in the draft decision to commence the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value, by updating the corrective measures adopted by the Committee in 2006.

The mission considered that it was currently impossible to determine the present degree of degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value as there is no complete inventory available. The lack of base references has also made it difficult to develop a proposal defining the desired state of conservation with a view to removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. For the time being, it has been proposed to determine the type of indicators that might be considered, without quantifying them. Nine indicators have been proposed, destined to measure the restoration of the biological values of the property, the integrity and management.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain concerned as regards the situation of the property. Although significant progress is noted in several places, the continuing insecurity has rendered the implementation of some of the recommendations of the 2006 mission difficult and a large part of the property remains out of control. A return of security in the region, and notably the removal of all the armed groups in the property, remains the primary condition to commence restoration of the values and integrity. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN hope that with the conclusion of the military operations, the necessary security conditions could be created to enable the managers of the property to progress in the implementation of the corrective measures. If the military operation has actually been able to definitively dislodge the armed groups from the Park, this would provide ICCN with a major opportunity to reoccupy the area and act against the activities of illegal mining of natural resources and notably the closure of the artisanal mines.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN regret the lack of progress in the issue of the evacuation of the corridor. Despite all the positive political and legal decisions taken regarding this issue, and the personal involvement of the Minister for the Environment, it has not yet been possible to enforce the law and remove the illegal occupants. Nevertheless, the wish of the provincial authority expressed during the mission to resolve this problem, and the commitment of civil society regarding this issue, may be considered as very positive developments, hence it is hoped that tangible progress will be made. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN support the conclusion of the mission to maintain Kahuzi-Biega National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft decision: 34 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalls Decision **33 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Congratulates the agents of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) for the efforts undertaken to safeguard Kahuzi-Biega National Park, often at great personal risk;*
4. *Notes with concern the fact that despite the efforts made by the management authority for the property (ICCN), a large part of the property remains beyond control;*
5. *Regrets the lack of significant progress in the resolution of the illegal occupation of the corridor and the granting of mining concessions within the property;*

6. *Takes note of the conclusion of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value and especially the integrity of the property, has been greatly degraded but that it was still relatively intact and could be restored;*
7. *Urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures as updated by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission in 2009, to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property:*
 - a) *Evacuate the armed groups in the property and extend the area of surveillance to the whole property,*
 - b) *Close down all the illegal mining extraction operations in the property and officially cancel all the mining concessions encroaching on the property,*
 - c) *Evacuate the ecological corridor and initiate measures to restore plant species and connectivity,*
 - d) *Develop, in a participatory manner, and implement a zoning plan to resolve the issue of villages in the lowland sector, while maintaining the values and integrity of the property,*
 - e) *Continue the efforts to reconstitute surveillance mechanisms, while ensuring control of the whole Park,*
 - f) *Complete and approve the management plan and ensure the means for its implementation;*
8. *Requests the establishment of an inventory of species retained as indicators for the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, to determine the current state of the biodiversity in the property and to establish the base reference to enable monitoring of the restoration of these values;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to limit to only local traffic the section of the road that crosses through the Park, to redirect the main road so as to circumvent the property and to provide the management authority with the necessary resources to control and manage the traffic effectively;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1st February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the state of mining concessions granted in the property, progress achieved in the resolution of illegal occupation of the corridor, as well as progress in the accomplishment of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
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)

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

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 for which the property was 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

31 COM 7A.7; 32 COM 7A.7; 33 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).

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

Factors affecting the property 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

On 8 February 2010, the State Party submitted a concise report on the state of conservation of the property. This report contained limited information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures:

- 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;*

The State Party reports that a mobile intervention unit was set up by the park management authority ICCN in July 2009, composed of 25 park rangers selected on the basis of their integrity and efficiency. This unit is now operational in the region and is currently being trained in paramilitary techniques in order to be able to participate in mixed patrols with the Congolese army. The report also mentions the deployment of a special anti-poaching unit of the National Police since September 2009, which will work in synergy with the mobile intervention unit. The report also notes that surveillance activities, patrol rations and guard bonuses continue being covered through the European Union funded ECOFAC IV project. Currently efforts are also underway to integrate 20 former poachers from the four local communities into the park ranger staff.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report provides no information on the large-scale security operation to combat armed poaching, which according to last years report had been planned for the second half of 2009 and which received support from the World Heritage Fund. The World Heritage Centre is still awaiting the final report from WWF on the grant which was provided from the Fund. The State Party report also does not provide any information on the impacts of these operations on the poaching pressure in the property.

At the yearly meeting of the DRC protected Area Agency ICCN with its conservation partners, the Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism announced that a large scale military operation could be implemented soon to evacuate the armed groups from the property. The World Heritage Centre on 24 April 2010 received additional information from the State Party, that the President had recently discussed the problems of poaching in the property with the Provincial Authorities, and that a decision was taken to conduct a large scale operation in May by the Congolese army to chase poachers out of the park.

- 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;*

The tripartite monitoring structure, which was established in 2008 between the four concerned provincial authorities, the army and the protected area agency ICCN to monitor and assess the anti-poaching plan, is still in existence but failed to meet in 2009. The State Party report mentions that ICCN is undertaking efforts to revive this structure. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN regret that the consultation mechanism has not been operational in 2009 and call upon the State Party to revive the anti-poaching plan and ensure cooperation between the provincial political, administrative and military authorities of the four provinces in order to address, in a coordinated manner, the elimination of illegal activities.

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

The State Party report notes that a partnership was developed with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to train ICCN park guards. This training, which will be conducted by three instructors recruited by IFAW and two instructors from the army, was planned for December 2009 but had to be postponed till February 2010 as a result of the security issues in the east of the country. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report provides

no information on the implementation of the anti-poaching strategy, which was developed in 2007.

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

The State Party reports that participatory delimitation and demarcation activities are continuing. Participatory structures were established and the negotiation of “convergence contracts” with local communities is underway. The report notes that an awareness raising programme to incite poachers and illegal occupants in the Park to leave the park is being implemented. Three awareness raising sessions have also been conducted with local leaders.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no information has been provided on the content of the agreements being negotiated, nor on progress achieved in addressing the resource use conflicts with the local communities.

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

The State Party notes that this strategy has been developed and integrated into the 2009-2011 triennial strategic plan for the property, but that unfortunately funding is lacking for its implementation. With the signature of a new project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Regional Protected Area Network (RAPAC), implementation of the strategy is scheduled for this year.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the strategy mentioned in the report has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Apart from the threats of poaching, the impact of the villages inside the property is one of the major threats to its Outstanding Universal Value and, in particular, its integrity. It is therefore important submit this strategy for review and input as quickly as possible.

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

The procedure continues, but will require intensive consultations with the different parties concerned. A detailed feasibility study is said to be underway. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no information is provided on the results of the consultations with the local communities or the preliminary studies, which were mentioned in the 2009 State Party report.

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

See the report on Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A*).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN regret that the report provides little factual information on the progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and its impact on the state of conservation of the property. In particular, they express concern with regard to the accumulated delays in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular the anti-poaching strategy and the joint operation between ICCN and the Congolese Army to clear poachers and armed groups from the property, which has been planned since 2008, and the lack of reporting on the assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also request the State Party to provide as soon as possible information on the strategy to minimize and mitigate the impact of villages in the Park, which is reported to have been developed, on the agreements under discussion with the local communities on the use of the natural resources, and on the results of the consultations with the local communities and the preliminary studies conducted on the establishment of a corridor between the two parts of the property.

In view of the current situation at the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that it be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Centre,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Reiterates its concern on the delay in the implementation of the corrective measures established by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), in particular the anti-poaching strategy and the joint operation between ICCN and the Congolese Army to clear poachers and armed groups from the property;*
4. *Also expresses concern about lack of reporting on the assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of anti-poaching operation;*
5. *Urges the State Party to redouble its efforts to implement the corrective measures and to report on a regular basis on its implementation as part of the reinforced monitoring mechanism;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible, but not later than **1 December 2010**, information on the strategy to minimize and mitigate the impact of villages in the Park which is reported to have been developed, on the agreements under discussion with the local communities on the use of the natural resources and on the results of the consultations with the local communities and the preliminary studies conducted on the establishment of a corridor between the two parts of the property;*
7. *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 35th session in 2011;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, 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 35th session in 2011 ;*
9. *Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism;*
10. *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)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(x)

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

1997

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

- a) Impact of conflict: looting of infrastructure, poaching of elephants;
- i. Presence of mining sites inside the property.

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

A set of indicators was developed by the 2009 mission (see mission report) and approved by the Committee at its 33 session (Seville, 2009).

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were updated by the 2009 UNESCO / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33th session (Seville, 2009):

- a) Continue efforts to resolve problems concerning the FARDC military involved in large-scale poaching in the south-west peripheral area of the property,
- b) Officially cancel all the artisanal mining rights as well as those, encroaching the property, granted by the mining cadastre;
- c) Take measures to mitigate impacts linked to the increase in traffic in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, and in particular secure the necessary technical and financial means to contribute towards the implementation of the system to control immigration and strengthen the surveillance and anti-poaching mechanism;
- d) Finalise and approve the management plan for the property, with the creation of an integrally protected zone with national park status;
- e) Integrate the activities of the Immigration Control Committees (CCI) and the Local Committee for Monitoring and Conservation of Nature (CLSCN) in the management activities of the subsistence areas (agricultural and hunting areas), for which management modalities should be indicated in the management plan;
- f) Legalise and upscale the pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, and secure the right to close the RN4 to traffic at night and to establish a toll system;
- g) Continue efforts to strengthen and reinvigorate the surveillance mechanism and render it more effective;
- h) Request the State Party to halt illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across its north-eastern border;
- i) Prepare and implement a zoning plan for forest areas adjacent to the property in order to protect it from the negative impact of unsustainable exploitation of the forest;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A three year time frame (2009 – 2012) was proposed by the 2009 monitoring mission.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.8; 32 COM 7A.8; 33 COM 7A.8

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 63,000 for preparation of a nomination, guard training, camp construction and to combat illegal poaching in the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for RDC World Heritage properties (“DRC Programme”) funded by the UNF, Italy, Spain and Belgium. Phase I (2001–2005) : approximately USD 250,000, phase II (2005–2009) : USD 300,000 , phase III (2010–2012): USD 300,000.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and May 2006: WHC monitoring missions; several other UNESCO missions in the framework of the DRC programme; 2009 WHC-IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Extensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants;
- b) Mining activities inside the property;
- c) Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property;

- d) Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri Forest, which might affect the property in the near future;
- e) Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718>

Current conservation issues

On 8 February 2010, the State Party submitted a concise report on the state of conservation of the property. This report contained limited information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, which was complemented by additional information gathered by the World Heritage Centre:

- a) *Continue efforts to resolve problems concerning the FARDC military involved in large-scale poaching in the south-west peripheral area of the property;*

Since the previous session, there have been numerous reports on increasing commercial poaching by FARDC military, especially around Nia-Nia and in the south-western part of the Reserve. The State Party report mentions several meetings which were organized with the military in response to this pressure, both at local and national level. A mixed patrol was also organized with the army in the southwestern part of the Reserve which resulted in confiscating two weapons, several hundred of kilos of elephant meat and the arrest of six poachers and their transfer to the military tribunal in Bunia. In spite of these efforts, the World Heritage Centre was informed by the management authority ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) end of March that a large bush meat market is operating in Nia-Nia, where elephant and monkey meat as well as ivory are openly traded and that ICCN guards are incapable of controlling the heavy poaching involving military from Bafwasende and Nia-Nia. The World Heritage Centre also received a copy of a letter written by ICCN to the Military Commander of the Ituri operational zone, providing details on the military involved in providing arms and ammunition to poachers and poaching incidents and requesting urgent action.

- b) *Officially cancel all the artisanal mining rights as well as those encroaching the property, granted by the mining cadastre;*

According to the State Party report, all artisanal mining sites, which were closed by the management authority in 2008 remain closed in spite of several attempts by miners to re-open them. Irregular visits to some quarries by a small number of diggers generally working independently sporadically still happen. ICCN also requested the provincial authorities to officially cancel all artisanal mining rights granted illegally but unfortunately so far the provincial authorities have not yet responded to this demand. As long as these illegally attributed concessions are not cancelled by the authorities, pressure will remain high to re-open some of the mining sites.

The State Party did not provide any new information on the cancellation of mining concessions by the mining cadastre of the Ministry of Mines.

- c) *Take measures to mitigate impacts linked to the increase in traffic in RFO and in particular secure the necessary technical and financial means to contribute towards the implementation of the system to control immigration and strengthen the surveillance and anti-poaching mechanism;*

The State Party report mentions that in response to the increasing traffic on the RN4, patrolling along the road has been reinforced, as well as around other roads crossing the Reserve. In addition, ICCN started discussions with the control services of the Ministry of Environment at the provincial and district level to step up the control on lumber trafficking.

It is clear that the rehabilitation of the RN4, which has resulted in an estimated 25 fold increase in traffic has led to an increased pressure on the natural resources of the Reserve and that ICCN is lacking the financial and human resources to deal with this issue. This was again demonstrated when the bridge in Epulu collapsed, resulting in large concentrations of trucks on both sides of the bridge in the middle of the Reserve. This led to an emergency situation in the site with a sharp increase in hunting of duikers in the RFO for sale to the drivers and passengers stranded in Epulu by the collapsed bridge. Fortunately the bridge was repaired relatively quickly.

- d) *Finalise and approve the management plan for the property, with the creation of an integrally protected zone with national park status;*

Work on the management plan is progressing well. A first consultant mission was organized by the World Heritage Centre in the framework of its DRC programme, which produced a draft by documenting the existing management strategies in place. The management plan foresees the zoning of the Reserve as a key conservation strategy, with the establishment of agricultural zones, hunting zones and integrally protected zones. The plan outlines how the zones are established, how its boundaries are defined and how resource offtake or use will be managed and controlled. Currently 17 agricultural zones and 10 hunting zones have been established in a participatory way. A large central area in the reserve, comprising an estimated 25% of the property is proposed as integrally protected zone. The 2005-2006 inventories showed that this area has the highest densities of mammals. In addition, several smaller integrally protected zones are foreseen, to protect key touristic features such as waterfalls, forest clearings or edos which are important areas for wildlife, the existing research zones as well as the green corridors that were established around the RN4 road and where no deforestation is allowed. A second mission is on-going which is expected to finalize the draft, which will be approved by the management authority before the end of this year.

- e) *Integrate the activities of the Immigration Control Committees (CCI) and the Local Committee for Monitoring and Conservation of Nature (CLSCN) in the management activities of the subsistence areas, for which management modalities should be indicated in the management plan;*

The CCI were established to manage the immigration control mechanism set up to stabilize the population in the Reserve, while the CLSCN were created to ensure the management of the subsistence zones. The State Party report mentions that a guide for the management of the subsistence areas was adopted by the local communities and traditional authorities, which clarifies the tasks of the CCI and CLSCN. However, it is not clear in how far an integration of activities has already been achieved. This will have to be clarified in the final version of the management plan. The State Party report also mentions funding problems for the activities of both structures.

- f) *Legalize and upscale the pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, and secure the right to close the RN4 to traffic at night and to establish a toll system;*

The pilot system to regulate immigration is in place, based partially on controlling the movement of people and vehicles using the two main entrances to the Reserve on the RN4 and on the permanent monitoring by the Immigration Control Committees (CCI), of persons residing in the villages located alongside the road. So far, the up-scaling of the system has been hampered by a lack of funding and the steep increase in traffic on the RN4 is making this even more challenging. Since the rehabilitation of the RN4, traffic has increased by a factor of 25. ICCN submitted a request to the provincial authorities to authorize the closure of the road at night but so far no reply was received. Without this, ICCN is obliged to maintain around-the-clock teams at the gates, putting additional strain on its limited resources. Similar closures are operated in other protected areas in DRC, such as the RN3 which crosses the

Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The instauration of a toll system has also not yet been authorized. The toll system is important to cover the additional costs generated by the control system.

- g) *Continue efforts to strengthen and reinvigorate the surveillance system and render it more effective;*

ICCN, as part of its institutional reform process and with support of the European Union, is organizing an overall assessment of its staff in its protected areas. Through this process, it will be possible to retire old staff and to balance staffing numbers between the different protected areas in DRC, in particular guard numbers, taking into account the area and level of threats of the different protected areas. This will be an important step to strengthen and reinvigorate the surveillance system.

Currently patrols have access to the entire property, and an efficient patrol monitoring system is established to combat local poaching. Unfortunately, the system is not able to control the current levels of poaching in the southwestern part of the Reserve and around Nia-Nia, where parts of the military are involved.

- h) *Request the State Party to halt illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across its north-eastern border;*

The report of the State Party does not provide any information regarding this issue. However, the illegal trafficking of natural resources across the border with Uganda is well documented and again highlighted in different reports presented by the Group of Experts to the UN Security Council, including in the recent report submitted on 23 November 2009. This issue is of course outside the mandate of the protected area agency and must be addressed at a regional level. The increase of trafficking around the Reserve is directly linked to the rehabilitation of the RN4. Therefore, measures also need to be taken to control trafficking along this road, not only in the Reserve but in urban centers like Kisangani and Wamba.

- i) *Prepare and implement a zoning plan for forest areas adjacent to the property in order to protect it from the negative impact of unsustainable exploitation of the forest;*

The report of the State Party does not provide any information regarding this issue.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are seriously concerned about the renewed poaching pressure and the evident implication of elements of the FARDC in both poaching and trafficking of bush meat and ivory. Similar problems also occur in the other World Heritage properties in DRC. A failure to address this issue could endanger the ongoing recovery of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, which is finally progressing after years of continued degradation. The issue of poaching by the FARDC has to be addressed urgently at the highest levels. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also reiterate the need to put in place appropriate control mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of the rehabilitation of the RN4 crossing the Reserve. The closure of the road for traffic during the night, and the instauration of a toll system to cover the additional management costs of ICCN are measures which could be introduced immediately, with the agreement of the provincial authorities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recall that the 2009 monitoring mission developed eight indicators defining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. As already indicated last year, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN suggest that before the end of 2010, a study should be carried out to develop the methodology to be used to monitor these indicators. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the State Party could apply for international assistance to assist this process.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN express the hope that the current upsurge in poaching can be addressed quickly by the State Party and that the restoration of the Outstanding

Universal Value can still be ensured, and the indicators set by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session reached within the planned three year time frame. They therefore consider that the property should be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the renewed upsurge in poaching involving elements of the Congolese army FARDC, which might endanger the process of regeneration of the property's Outstanding Universal Value and could jeopardize the timeframe of three years (2010-2012) proposed by the 2009 monitoring mission to achieve the indicators that describe the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
4. *Welcomes the progress made in the preparation of the management plan and the establishment of different management zones, including a central integrally protected zone;*
5. *Reiterates the need to put in place appropriate actions to facilitate the control of traffic on the RN4 road crossing the Reserve by the management authority of the property ICCN, in particular the closure of the road for traffic during the night and the instauration of a toll system;*
6. *Requests the State Party to continue to implement the updated corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);*
7. *Also requests the State Party monitor the implementation of the corrective measures and to undertake, before the 35th session in 2011, the study to prepare the methodology to be used for the 2012 inventory to enable the monitoring of any increases in wildlife numbers. The State Party may wish to request assistance from the World Heritage Fund for this purpose;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
9. ***Decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report by the State Party received late)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1991

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

Political instability and civil strife.

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 2005 IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

- a) Re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to allow better control of natural resource use within the property;
- b) Establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents;
- c) Significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal natural resource extraction;
- d) Immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and thatch from the property;
- e) Initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce destabilization of soils by motorized traffic.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has been set yet by the World Heritage Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.10; 32 COM 7A.10; 33 COM 7A.10

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 143,250, in particular USD 108,250 for projects for the urgent rehabilitation programme and support for inscription of the property as a mixed property.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September – October 1998: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2005: IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability and civil strife;
- b) Poverty;
- c) Management constraints;
- d) Ostrich poaching;
- e) Soil erosion;
- f) Demographic pressure;
- g) Livestock pressure;

h) Pressure on wood resources.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2010, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. The report outlines some past and current progress made in implementing the five corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), but contains little new information compared to the information received in previous years. The report notes that a reintroduction programme for endangered species is underway, and confirms the State Party's wish to undertake an evaluation of the property's state of conservation. In addition to the report, the State Party submitted a number of strategic documents, as requested by World Heritage Committee Decision **33 COM 7A.10**, including four studies undertaken between 2006 and 2008 on wood and thatch use, the reintroduction of endangered species, ecotourism development, control of invasive species, and two earlier studies undertaken in 2005 on the state of conservation and monitoring needs of the property. However, the action plans for sustainable resource management of the property and for the restoration of degraded land have yet to be submitted as requested by the Committee. The cover letter also mentions the wish of the State Party that the property be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The State Party report notes that the property has been affected by instability and civil conflict, following the outbreak of a new Touareg rebellion in February 2007, but that a peace accord was signed recently which should resolve the security concerns. However, the report does not give any more details about the accessibility of the 77000 km² site to the management authority or staff of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project "Co-management of Natural Resources in the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves and adjacent areas" (COGERAT). This project, which started in 2006, has been assisting the management authority with the implementation of the corrective measures through various participatory management projects undertaken in collaboration with local communities. Implementation has also been hampered by the conflict situation.

The report notes the following progress in the implementation of the corrective measures:

a) Re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to allow better control of natural resource use within the property

As mentioned in previous reports the property's conservation team returned to its base in Iférouane in 2008. COGERAT, in collaboration with the property's conservation team, has put in place community surveillance units in Timia and Tabelot. During the course of 2009, the State Party also designated a Park Director and an Associate Park Director, who are based at Iférouane. The physical presence of the management authority is being further reinforced by the reactivation of forest ranger posts in the towns of Timia and Tabelot. However, it is not clear from the report how much of the property is patrolled by the conservation team, or the impact of their activities and presence on the management of natural resource use within the property.

b) Establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents

The State Party recalls that three regional land commissions have been established, as well as two municipal land commissions, as mentioned in previous reports. During the course of 2009, the operation of these commissions, which are mandated to mediate land and natural resource use issues, was supported by the property's conservation team. However, no

information is provided on how these commissions have contributed to clarifying land-use and resource access rights.

c) Significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal natural resource extraction

The State Party recalls the information provided in previous reports that 11 community brigades have been established to address illegal wood harvesting and poaching, that 20 environmental co-management committees and four local co-management bodies were established in the Timia municipality; and that an ecological and socio-economic monitoring network is being established. The report notes that during the course of 2009, COGERAT undertook a number of capacity building initiatives for the above co-management committees and bodies. The report further notes that a tripartite bush fire agreement was signed in 2009 by the municipality of Aderbissanat, Agadez and COGERAT, to create a 200 km long, 15 m wide fire barrier. However, as noted in previous years, no information is provided on whether these surveillance and co-management bodies have been able to address poaching and natural resource extraction, or on the data collected so far through the ecological and socio-economic monitoring network.

d) Immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and thatch from the property

The State Party recalls that COGERAT has conducted studies on wood and thatch use, which led to the development of action plans for the management of these resources. The report notes that COGERAT has started to disseminate alternative stoves, which use less wood, and is planning to train local craftsmen and women associations to produce these stoves. In addition an agreement was signed with the coal trading organisation of Niger to disseminate and popularize stoves using mineral coal. As a result of this initiative, the State Party reports that wood consumption has decreased by 15%; from 97,000 tonnes in 2005 to 82,308 tonnes in 2009. Unfortunately the report does not provide information on the current levels of timber and thatch collection in the property and its impact on the ecosystem.

e) Initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce destabilization of soils by motorized traffic

The report notes that restoration and seeding of 5,145 ha has now been undertaken, compared to the 406 ha restored and seeded in 2008, and that COGERAT produced 40,000 seedlings in 2009. Other restoration efforts mentioned in the report had already been reported previously. While the more than 10 fold increase of restored land is significant, there is still a long way to go to reach the COGERAT objective of restoring 55,000 ha of degraded habitat within the property.

The State Party notes that the triennial plan of the Department of National Parks includes activities aiming to reintroduce endangered species into Niger's national parks. In 2009, an agreement was signed with the Environment Ministry and the Koutous Natural Resource Exploitation Cooperative to create favourable conditions for the reintroduction of the red-necked ostrich, which has disappeared from the property and subsists in captive breeding programmes financed by UNESCO. The implementation of this agreement began in 2009 with a stakeholder workshop, and in September 2009 a female ostrich was transferred to Iréfouane, where two males remain. With respect to reintroductions planned for other species, the State Party indicates that the reintroduction programme will soon be extended to Addax and Damma Gazelle.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that considerable effort will be required to achieve a successful reintroduction of the red-necked ostrich, based on the very small captive population in Iréfouane. The reintroduction programme will require careful planning to succeed and the State Party is encouraged to collaborate with IUCN's Species Survival Commission in the elaboration of a strategy for effective population recovery, and the

development of rehabilitation programmes for the red-necked ostrich, as well as the Addax and Damma Gazelle.

On 28 September, the State Party submitted a draft unsigned International Assistance request to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, as a follow up to the World Heritage Committee's request in Decision **33 COM 7A.10**. From the draft request, it was not clear that the evaluation would focus on the population size and distribution of threatened species in order to evaluate the status of the Outstanding Universal Value, as requested by the Committee. No details were provided on the survey methodology which would be used. These comments were sent back to the State Party with the request to re-submit a signed request providing these additional data. The recommendation to involve the IUCN's Species Survival Commission in the design of the survey was also reiterated. So far, no revised request has been received by the World Heritage Centre.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recognize the on-going efforts of the State Party, UNDP and GEF's efforts to implement the corrective measures identified by the 2005 IUCN monitoring mission, in spite of the challenging security situation. However, they note that the State Party does not provide clear information on the impact of the above activities on the state of conservation of the property. They further note that the first phase of the COGERAT project is scheduled to end in 2010-11, and encourage UNDP, GEF and the State Party to rapidly prepare the second phase of this project, which is important for the rehabilitation of the property. Given the large size of the property, 7.7 million ha, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate their view that it will take a significant amount of time before the positive impact of the corrective measures can be registered on the recovery of the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

With the recent improvement of the security situation, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that within the corrective measures priority is given to address poaching and other illegal resource use by deploying mixed ranger patrols constituted of staff of the reserve and the community surveillance units at site-level and allocating an annual budget for this. These mixed ranger patrols would contribute to implementing corrective measure (c) and enable the State Party to significantly improve surveillance of the property in order to address poaching. .

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the State Party's willingness to undertake an evaluation of the state of conservation of the property, and reiterate the need to focus this evaluation on a comprehensive survey of the population size and distribution of threatened species, in order to develop population recovery and rehabilitation programmes. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN strongly recommend that this survey is planned and undertaken in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in particular the Antelope Specialist Group. IUCN recalls that according to the IUCN Red List of threatened species, key species in the property continue to decline or be found at very low levels, and that the status of the critically endangered Addax and Dama Gazelle, which are considered to be the Saharan bovid species at highest risk of extinction in the near future, is unclear. As mentioned in last year's report, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the survey is crucial to determine the current status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to define the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the timeframe needed to achieve it. Therefore the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the decision of the Committee that a joint monitoring mission should be invited to the property only after this comprehensive threatened species survey is undertaken.

With no information available on the current status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider a discussion on a removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger premature. With the signature of the peace agreement and the improvement of the security situation, the World Heritage Centre

and IUCN express their hope that efforts to implement the corrective measures can now gain momentum.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee;

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Acknowledges the on-going efforts of the State Party with support of the UNDP/GEF COGERAT project to implement the corrective measures identified by the 2005 IUCN monitoring mission in spite of the challenging security situation, but reiterates that given the size of the property it will take time before a positive impact on the recovery of the property's Outstanding Universal Value can be registered;*
4. *Welcomes the improvement in the security situation following the signature of a peace accord in October 2009;*
5. *Urges the State Party to take advantage of this improvement to speed up the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) and in particular address on priority poaching and illegal resource use through mixed patrols comprising staff of the reserve and the community surveillance units at site-level and allocate an annual budget for this;*
6. *Calls upon the international community to increase its support for the implementation of the corrective measures, and in particular UNDP/GEF to rapidly approve the second phase of the COGERAT project;*
7. *Also welcomes the State Party's willingness to undertake an evaluation of the state of conservation of the property, and requests it to submit an International Assistance Request for a comprehensive survey of the population size and distribution of threatened species, including details on the proposed survey methodology, in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in particular the Antelope Specialist Group;*
8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a proposal for the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
9. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission, after a comprehensive threatened species survey is undertaken, in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, with a view to establishing a desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, update the corrective measures and set a timeframe for their implementation;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on the*

implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, in particular the comprehensive survey of threatened species with the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;

11. **Decides to retain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

13. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

2009

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

Sale and lease of public lands for the purposes of development within the property leading to the destruction of mangrove and marine ecosystems.

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) Implement the necessary legal measures to guarantee the permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property, and the cessation of mangrove cutting, coral dredging and other associated real estate development activities;
- b) Ensure that development rights on existing private or leased lands within the property are clearly defined and strictly controlled with a view to conserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
- c) Develop and implement a restoration policy for lands degraded by unauthorized activities,
- d) Establish a clear institutional coordination mechanism ensuring that the conservation of the property receives priority consideration within relevant governmental decision-making processes,
- e) Develop a legal framework for co-management under which the respective responsibilities of the State Party and conservation NGOs can be effectively established, monitored and evaluated in relation to the conservation of the property,
- f) Systematically consider and address the threat of introduced species within the management plans for the property,
- g) Make publicly available the information on land ownership for all lands within the property, including mangrove islands, in easily accessible format, to ensure transparency in land use and allocations,
- h) Develop and implement a medium-term plan to increase the no take zones within marine reserves, establishing ecologically effective protection and replenishment areas for heavily exploited fin fish, conch and lobster

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

32 COM 7B.33; 33 COM 7B.33; 33COM 8C.1

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 140,000. i) USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility for monitoring of unauthorized activities in the Bladen Nature Reserves, impacting the property; ii) USD 30,000 for emergency conservation actions in favour of the critically endangered wide sawfish (2010); iii) USD 80,000 in support of public use planning and site financing strategy development for the Blue Hole Natural Monument (2008-2009).

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Sale and lease of public lands within the property,

- b) Destruction of fragile ecosystems due to resort / housing development,
- c) Introduced species.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764>

Current conservation issues

The State Party report on the state of conservation of the property was received by the World Heritage Centre on 12 February 2010. This report includes an introductory statement questioning the March 2009 World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission, and stating it had made an omission of not having met with senior government officials in order to obtain the most accurate and updated information. The World Heritage Centre responded in a letter dated 14 April 2010, noting that high level meetings with senior government officials had been specifically requested in the mission terms of reference proposed to the State Party. The report provides the following information on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures

a) Permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands, cutting of mangroves and b) strict control of development right

The State Party reports that the nine month mangrove cutting moratorium imposed in February 2008 was carried out to revise the mangrove cutting regulations, but also to review the land tenure and development situation. Though the moratorium was to have expired in November 2008, the State Party reports that the revised mangrove cutting regulations are still under review – leaving doubt as to the current regulatory framework for cutting mangroves in the property. The report refers to a Protected Area Land Tenure assessment having been concluded, though no copy of this assessment has been provided to the World Heritage Centre nor have the results been communicated.

The State Party also reports that all new land transactions have been halted, land leases cancelled and privatization of land stayed within the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider this a positive decision, though there is no indication on whether this is permanent, or subject to the results of the Land Tenure assessment. This issue should be further clarified. The State Party expresses unease with the World Heritage Committee request that further development be halted, indicating that informed natural resource management and wise use of natural resources should not preclude responsible development, which, in its understanding, should be allowed to continue in the property. The 2009 mission report indicated that a significant amount of development had already occurred by the time of inscription, and even more has occurred since inscription, so much so that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property may currently be at risk from existing development alone. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore further re-iterate the need to guarantee the permanent cessation of land sales, mangrove cutting and other development activities, as decided by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). The State Party indicates that the development in the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, which it considers in line with the principles of 'responsible development', was an isolated case, though this conflicts with the observations made during the 2009 mission, where several mangrove islands were seen to have been significantly disturbed in the recent past. A historical review of development approvals, sale and lease of lands within the property would help clarify this situation

c) Restoration of degraded areas:

The State Party refers to the Environmental Protection Act and the Petroleum Act which requires developers to post performance bonds that would include habitat restoration work. Though this is commendable, there is room for a specific focus on lands degraded over time by inappropriate use (e.g. excessive visitation, clearing for infrastructure, illegal mangrove

cutting). Such work could also include a focus on control of invasive species (see point f below).

d) *Institutional coordination*

The State Party explains how institutional coordination is assured, referring to the existence of various authorities, committees, projects and national government agency plans focusing on coastal zone management, resource management, development control and protected areas planning. The World Heritage Centre / IUCN 2009 mission report recognized the existence of these entities. However, it expressed concern over the absence of distinct policies pertaining to the World Heritage property within the respective mandates of these bodies, and over the absence of formal technical review processes between government departments specifically in regards to assuring the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. It considered that these gaps risk resulting in lost opportunities to raise conservation concerns at critical junctures and are indicative of the undifferentiated treatment in national policy given to these protected areas, despite their World Heritage status. The State Party mentions that mechanisms have been identified to improve coordination, but that the enabling processes would require some institutional and legal reform. These should be formally communicated to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they have been adopted. IUCN notes that it has received reports that the Ministry of Natural Resources may be considering updating the national protected areas policy and system plan. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that any update is carried out in close collaboration with all co-managers of the property with a view to ensuring that specific provisions are included to assure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

e) *Legal framework for co-management of the property with NGOs*

The State Party reports on a number of structures designed to include advice from non-governmental stakeholders in the overall policy development and management of the property. The concern expressed by the Committee in its Decision **33COM7B.33** was over the continued absence of a framework law designed to regulate co-management of protected areas in the country. In this regard, the State Party indicates that it has embarked on a process to revise the structure and content of such agreements, but does not indicate a timescale for this process to be completed. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN suggest that particular focus be included on matters of pertinence to conservation the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in such agreements and invite the State Party to consult with them in the process of drafting these agreements. IUCN notes reports that the legal framework has been completed but awaits approval and that despite repeated requests, this document has not been made available to co-managers. Moreover, current co-management agreements have not been updated, which has led to the expiry of several of them. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN strongly recommend that the State Party take expeditious action to ensure that the legal framework is rapidly put in place and that co-management agreements are updated.

f) *Introduced Species:*

The report claims that introduced species were not relevant to the property. The mission in March 2009 noted *Casuarina spp.* ("Australian pine", an invasive tree) growing along some coastal areas, and rats were reported as plentiful by the NGO co-managing the Half Moon Caye component of the property. The State Party recognizes the Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) as an invasive species and describes its efforts at dealing with it, indicating that these are being used as models by other countries. Despite this commendable effort, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN re-iterate their concern over the absence of a clear policy in regards to introduced invasive species in general.

g) *Publicly accessible land ownership information:*

The State Party report indicates that this information is already publicly accessible.

h) *Enlarge no-take marine zones:*

The State Party reports that commercially important Queen Conch and lobster populations are healthy and well managed, although it does not provide data on catches and population levels. The concerns expressed by the 2009 mission also focused on the no-take zone being too small to sustain healthy populations of the larger, more mobile species. These would include the commercially exploited and endangered Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) whose numbers are reported by IUCN as continuing to decline. More recently, the World Heritage Centre has learned of the critically endangered smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) which is reported to have nearly disappeared from the property and is threatened by global extinction. No information has been provided in regards to the conservation of such larger commercial and non-commercial species. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that management considerations be broadened to include species representing a wider range of ecosystem components.

i) *Other conservation issues of concern – oil concessions*

IUCN notes that it has received reports that oil concessions have been granted in blocks along the entire coast of Belize, including all the component sites of the property, and considers that activation of these concessions would have serious ramifications on the integrity of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the clear policy position of the World Heritage Committee that oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status. The granting of oil concessions within the property highlights that current legal protection is insufficient for a World Heritage property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN strongly urge the State Party to provide detailed information on these concessions to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and to enact legislation to prohibit oil exploration within the Belize Barrier Reef System on the basis of its status as a World Heritage status.

In its report, the State Party explains that it continues to work on a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and on the draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and that these would be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once it has been endorsed by Belize's policy making body.

In conclusion, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN take note of the State Party overall commitment to manage its protected areas system. Over the years, important administrative responses have been made to deal with the challenge of nature conservation in Belize. Cooperation between government and non-government organizations in Belize is at a generally good level. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain very concerned over the lack of apparent distinction made between the management objectives of a World Heritage property, whose internationally recognized attributes require strict protection, and those of other components of its protected area system. They are also equally concerned by the reports of oil concessions granted within the entire marine area of the property.

The State Party, in its report, expresses frustration at the World Heritage Committee's request for strict conservation, and presents a case of a "responsible development" approach to managing its World Heritage property, which has come to include the sale and development of mangrove islands within the marine reserve components of the property. In its decision at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), the World Heritage Committee endorsed the conclusion of the 2009 mission that the level of development within the property, at inscription, and apparently since, is already of significant concern, particularly in light of the justifications used for the inscription of this property. These justifications focus a great deal on intact marine/mangrove ecosystem, precisely those that are most imperilled by development. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note with concern that the State Party's current interpretation of acceptable levels of development does not meet the integrity requirements for World Heritage properties.

Until the State Party has implemented management policies in line with its commitment under the *World Heritage Convention*, doubts will persist over the property's long term integrity, and the potential that exists that it will irreversibly lose its Outstanding Universal Value. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the State Party further implement the corrective measures, particularly with regards to the remaining concerns raised in this report. For this reason, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the property remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Expresses its serious concern about oil concessions reportedly granted within the marine area of the property, notes that any decision to go forward with oil exploration would be incompatible with World Heritage status, and urges the State Party to enact legislation to prohibit oil exploration within the Belize Barrier Reef System on the basis of its status as a World Heritage property ;
4. Further notes the State Party's report that all new land transactions have been halted, and requests the State Party to further clarify the legal basis for the cessation of all new land transactions;
5. Urges the State Party to expedite the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), and in particular to rapidly agree and finalise the legal framework for co-management;
6. Reiterates its request that the State Party finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and develop 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 35th session (2011);
7. Also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of all planned activities within and in the vicinity of the property which could impact its Outstanding Universal Value, including oil exploration and real estate developments;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular measures taken to permanently stop the sale and lease of lands for development within the property, the impact on its integrity from real estate development activities as well as other recommendations of the World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission noted above and the status of all oil concessions within the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
9. **Decides to retain the Belize Barrier Reef System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

14. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission; cancelled for security reason)

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

16. 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 archaeological 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

The following desired state of conservation was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008):

- 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

The following timeframe was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008):

- 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

The following corrective measures were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008):

- 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 World Heritage 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

31 COM 7A.15; 32 COM 7A.14; 33 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; USD 4,970 in 2009 for the emergency restoration of the walls at Songo Mnara.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: 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.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of approved boundaries for core and buffer zones linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric;
- c) Sea wave erosion;
- d) Theft of stone from ruins for use as building material;
- e) Lack of functioning local consultative committee;
- f) Lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans.

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

On 25 February 2010, a report on the state of conservation of the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara was submitted by the State Party. The report directly addressed the issues outlined in the Decision **33 COM 7A.14** of the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in Seville, 2009.

The State Party's report indicates that, by means of an experts workshop in July 2009 supported by the African World Heritage Fund, it has developed a Three Year Strategic Plan to implement the corrective measures. Progress to date includes:

- b) Staff numbers at the site have been increased to nine by the addition of two senior conservation technicians;
- c) The Government of Japan through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers has been requested to provide two volunteers to assist the site manager with fund raising, land use planning, and strategies to alleviate coastal erosion. It is expected that the latter will involve environment protection programs to be implemented at district, village and site levels;
- d) Regular meetings at district and site levels to create awareness of the required measures.

The State Party also reports on ongoing conservation works at the Gereza (Fort), the Malindi mosque and cemetery at Kilwa Kisiwani thanks to financial assistance from the World Monuments Fund and the United Nations Joint Fund Programme 1. These include stabilisation and consolidation works at the Gereza and sea wall, and restoration of the arched gateway. Reconstruction of the collapsed wall protecting the Royal burial places at Songo Mnara was funded by the State Party and the World Heritage Fund through an International Assistance.

In addition, the State Party announced its plan to construct a site museum and staff offices at Kilwa Kisiwani. It is proposed to locate the building away from the monuments to avoid visual intrusion or adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Architectural

and other information on the proposal will be provided to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comments and advice before implementation.

However, no information has been provided by the State Party on demarcation of the boundaries, percentage of the conserved structures or control of vegetation growth on the monuments.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies acknowledge the progress made with some of the required corrective measures and commends the State Party on the development of a three year strategy for the implementation of the corrective measures. They consider that it would be helpful for this plan, together with resource implications and the management structure associated with it, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that visitor centres are proposed for Kilwa Kisiwani, Songo Mnara and Kilwa Kivinje in the Management Plan in line with the proposed interpretation of the property, as well as the information centre originally planned at Kilwa Masoko, however consider that the State Party should give the utmost priority to the implementation of the corrective measures in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Commends the State Party for putting in place a three year strategy to implement the corrective measures and requests the State Party to provide details of this strategy, the resources needed to implement it, and the management arrangements for its implementation, to the World Heritage Centre as early as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party on the actions being taken to implement some of the corrective measures, and urges the State Party to continue its work on all the corrective measures identified previously, including the establishment of a proper land-use plan to protect the property's integrity and resolve future land conflicts, the delineation of boundaries, the conservation of the architectural structures, the mitigation of sea wave erosion and the control of vegetation;*
5. *Reminds the State Party of the requirement for the delineation of the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to continue conservation and management activities and to give priority to implement the corrective measures identified within the agreed time frame;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2011**, 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 35th session in 2011;*

8. **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

17. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report by the State Party received late)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
2003

Criteria
(iii) (iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage;
b) Armed conflict.

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) Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
b) Emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;
c) Establishment of a local management unit on the site;
d) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
e) Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
No specific timeframe has yet been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions
31 COM 7A.17; 32 COM 7A.16; 33 COM 7A.16

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 approved in 2003 for Emergency assistance (USD 5,000 disbursed, remain returned to the World Heritage Fund)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds
Total amount provided to the property: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions
November 2002: UNESCO mission for the Makhool Dam project

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
a) Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project;
b) Fragile mud brick structures;
c) Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a short report which gives little information on the state of conservation of the property, on 21 January 2010.

The report notes that the headquarters of the City's administration and the Department of Antiquities of the Sharqat district have been built in a location outside the archaeological zone. It also informs that tenders have been prepared and the required funds allocated in order to start implementing a project to protect the eastern part of the property from the rising Tigris River waters, as requested by the World Heritage Committee. The report also notes that the Makhul Dam project has not been cancelled.

The State Party report notes that while the regular monitoring indicates that the general state of conservation is good, essential maintenance work has been identified. However, given the scarcity of funds and the state of conservation of other Iraqi sites which are in greater need, such work seems unlikely. However, the State Party notes in its report that it hopes that maintenance work on the Tabira Gate and conservation work at the eastern side of the city, will be completed in 2010.

The State Party report notes that annual maintenance plans and estimates are in place for renovation and conservation work, but implementation is being held up due to insufficient allocations which are, as a rule, channelled to sites in worse condition than Ashur.

Finally, considering the damages to which Iraqi antiquities are subjected to; and despite the the continued threat of the Makhul Dam project mentioned in previous reports, the State Party report requests the World Heritage Committee to maintain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The report also stresses that the property is in need of international assistance and, to this end, asks for expert visits to the site, workshops on conservation of clay and brick buildings, and site management, and expresses the hope that grants can be provided to support the governmental efforts.

The State Party participated in the Periodic Reporting exercise and submitted an incomplete Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Ashur on 13 January 2010 which was returned for revision. However, the State Party did not provide the required map of the property's boundaries.

The mission previously requested by the World Heritage Committee could not take place due to the overall situation in the country and the complexity of security and logistical requirements. The report however calls upon ICOMOS to send a mission to the property to evaluate the situation and assess needs.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies strongly support the need for a reactive monitoring mission at the earliest opportunity, as and when security conditions warrant.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies commend the State Party for its efforts to improve conservation of the site but are concerned by the lack of support available for needed maintenance and conservation measures.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Notes the efforts of the State Party to protect the eastern part of the property from the rising waters of the Tigris River, and recommends that the works be undertaken as soon as possible;
4. Requests the State Party to carry out necessary maintenance and conservation activities to avoid further damage;
5. Encourages the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures previously identified:
 - a) Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
 - b) Protective measures against seepage;
 - c) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
 - d) Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.
6. Also encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request for the conservation of the property;
7. 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, and to finalise the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011, as well as to provide a detailed map of the boundaries of the property;
8. Calls upon the international community to assist, in every way possible, the State Party in the protection of this property;
9. Also requests the State Party, should the conditions allow it, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Ashur to assess the state of conservation of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, an updated report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
11. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2007

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2007 to present

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

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

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

The desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of a local management coordination unit on the site;
- b) Preparation and implementation of a Conservation and Management Plan;
- c) Maintenance and emergency conservation activities.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 8B.23; 32 COM 7A.17; 33 COM 7A. 17

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Weathering and lack of maintenance affecting the fragile structures;
- b) State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report dated 21 January 2010, which noted that a maintenance and management plan was being prepared for the property.

The report further noted that during 2009, excavation and maintenance work had been carried out on one of the main palaces of the city of Samarra, Bayt al-Zakharif, near the Malwiya Mosque. The report also noted that it expected to protect the excavated remains with a metal roof. The State Party report indicates that it expects to carry out maintenance work on the buildings of Qasr al-Khalifa (the Caliph's Palace), al-Birka al-Dairiya (the circular pool), Qasr al-Hayr (the Garden Palace) and the Malwiya Mosque during 2010. However, no update on the state of conservation and on the damages mentioned in the 2009 report is provided in the present report.

The State Party report mentions that a request for building a new museum and site headquarters near the Malwiya Mosque had been submitted to the Salah ad-Din governorate and was currently under evaluation.

The State Party report calls for provision of international assistance for the property and stresses that after six years of neglect the buildings require evaluation by international experts so that a clear strategy can be drawn up for the commencement of maintenance and conservation. The report suggests additionally the need for grants, conservation workshops and preparing a site management plan. . .

It should be acknowledged that the World Heritage Committee, at its 33rd session, encouraged the State Party to submit an International Assistance request for technical cooperation in order to address the damages to the property, and the need to develop remedial strategies which take into account the geographical extent of the property and its present security conditions; the State Party has not yet submitted such a request.

Finally, the State Party expresses its wish to retain Samarra on the World Heritage List in Danger because of continuing violations of the country's antiquities, a lack of respect for the Antiquities Law and illegal digging. . .

The State Party participated in the Periodic Reporting exercise and submitted an incomplete Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property on 13 January 2010 which was returned for revision.

The mission requested by the World Heritage Committee could not take place due to the overall situation in the country and the complexity of security and logistical requirements.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies commend the State Party for its efforts to improve conservation of the property and to initiate management and maintenance planning, but are concerned by the lack of support available for maintenance and conservation measures. . .

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies further support the need to carry out a reactive monitoring mission at the earliest opportunity, as and when local security conditions will permit.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.17** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Requests the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures identified:*
 - a) *Establishment of a local management unit on the site,*
 - b) *Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan,*
 - c) *Maintenance and emergency conservation activities;*
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, and to finalise the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*

5. *Encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request for technical cooperation in order to address the damages to the property, and the need to develop remedial strategies which take into account the geographical extent of the property and its present security conditions ;*
6. *Calls upon the international community to assist, in every way possible, the State Party in the protection of this property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party, should the conditions allow it, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Samarra to assess the state of conservation of the property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
9. ***Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report by the State Party received late)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

24. 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 to present

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 8B.59; 32 COM 7A.22; 33 COM 7A.22

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 in 2004 for Emergency assistance

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.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of a 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 pressure related to the post-disaster reconstruction process.

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

Current conservation issues

In reply to the decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee in 2009 (Decision **33 COM 7A.22**) the State Party submitted, on 29 January 2010, a comprehensive report on the activities undertaken at Bam and its Cultural Landscape; an updated Nomination file; and a proposal for the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. The report was accompanied by a letter containing further information on the state of conservation of the property.

The updated Nomination file had been requested by the World Heritage Committee to ensure completeness, following the inscription of the property in 2004 according to the emergency procedure. The text contained in the original file concerned only a small part of the current property - the Citadel. Following a recommendation by ICOMOS, the World Heritage Committee subsequently decided to inscribe a much larger area, including the wider cultural landscape of Bam. As a result, it was necessary to update and complete the Nomination documents with information regarding this larger extent. This has now been done by the State Party.

With respect to the corrective measures identified by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party notes the following:

- d) Further progress has been made during 2009 concerning the emergency conservation, extensive stabilization, and restoration of Arg-e-Bam area. This work concentrated on the remaining areas within the Citadel, and included emergency stabilization to prevent further structural collapse, debris removal, conservation and reconstruction.
- e) Archaeological finds, discovered during the removal of debris, have been conserved and documented.
- f) In January 2010, the Iranian Higher Council for Architecture and Urban Planning approved the Bam and its Cultural Landscape Comprehensive Management Plan as

an Annex to the existing Bam Special Structural Master Plan for Bam City. This was developed, over a period of five years, with support from the UNESCO Japan Funds-in-Trust, and UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office.

- g) Regarding the precise definition of protective boundaries for the property, and following the approval by the World Heritage Committee of an extension to its buffer zone in 2007, archaeological studies and surveys of the cultural landscape have been completed. Currently, final drawings are being prepared.
- h) As reported in 2009, the measures taken to safeguard the property include the formation of a security unit with 11 permanent guards, equipped with vehicles, that has been operational since 2007.

In 2009, the State Party anticipated difficulties in completing the corrective measures approved by the World Heritage Committee by 2010, but did not offer an alternative proposal. The 2010 report, submitted by the State Party, does not provide any further clarification on this point.

Finally, recent information provided by UNESCO Tehran Office following a mission to Bam carried out in February 2010 in the framework of the Funds-in-Trust projects, has drawn attention to some demolition work and encroachments within the property that appear not to be in line with planning controls and might have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Although it is clear that the rehabilitation of Bam and its Cultural landscape will require additional time and support, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that most, if not all, of the identified corrective measures have been implemented, or are under way, thanks to the financial support provided through the Japanese and Italian-Funds-in-Trusts. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that this is the first Iranian World Heritage Management Plan that was developed through a participatory approach.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies therefore consider that it would be justified to carry out a reactive monitoring mission to the property in late 2010 aimed at reviewing the current state of conservation, including the demolitions and encroachment within the property, as well as to verify whether the Desired state of conservation has been achieved. In the affirmative, the World Heritage Committee might consider removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2011.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.22**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Notes with satisfaction the dedication and the determined efforts of the State Party, with the support of the international community, to implement the corrective measures for the conservation of the property;
4. Also notes the submission of an updated Nomination file on 29 January 2010 based on the property's boundaries approved in Decision **31 COM 8B.59**;
5. Encourages the international community to continue supporting the important conservation works at the property in terms of technical expertise and funding;

6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2010, aimed at reviewing the current state of conservation, including the demolitions and encroachment within the property, as well as to verify whether the Desired state of conservation has been achieved, with a view in the affirmative, to consider removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 35th session in 2011;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the implementation of the correctives measures by **1 February 2011** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
8. Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

See Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report by the State Party received late)

26. 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 to present

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
See draft Decision

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. In its present report, the State Party has submitted a time table for each corrective measure which should be completed by 2012.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.25; 32 COM 7A.24; 33 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

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 under Italy Funds-in-Trust for study tour, USD 50,000 as Emergency Assistance Fund for typhoon Emong in May 2009

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property 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 State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation on 17 February 2010 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). The report provides detailed information on the status of implementation of the corrective measures identified, additional information on activities currently being implemented at the property and a draft proposal for the desired state of conservation.

- a. *Establishment of a management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels to ensure that adequate human/financial resources are available to protect and manage the property and implement the Conservation and Management Plan for the rice terraces in the Philippine Cordilleras:*

The State Party reports that heritage officers have been appointed at the four municipalities to coordinate activities related to cultural development. This is expected to facilitate communication and coordination among stakeholders and provide communities access to technical assistance. It also reports on the organization of a multi-stakeholder Ifugao Heritage Conservation Council (IHC) and a Secretariat at the provincial level, in accordance with the Management Statute of the updated 2005 Conservation Management Plan for the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras.

As for the adoption and implementation of Human and Financial Resource strategy, it reports on the creation of the Ifugao Provincial Council for Cultural Heritage through Executive Order # 30, s-2008 as mandated by Provincial Ordinance Nos. 98-01, 2005-023 and 2006-032. A consultation workshop was organized to better define guidelines for the operation and implementation of the agreement with national agencies. In addition, the Ifugao Provincial Council has continued activities and supported conservation and management activities, despite limited funding. The Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) is now part of the provincial planning and development office and will be the lead entity for the implementation of the 10-Year master plan for the Rice Terraces and also function as the secretariat for the Provincial Council. The office implemented 100% of targets set for 2009, in compliance with the benchmarks set by the Committee for the removal of the property from the List in Danger.

The State Party also reports that work has continued on the organization and registration of Rice Terraces owners and states that the recognition of ownership by communities is important to sustain and support long term implementation of programmes currently in place. ICHO will continue to develop programmes to enhance capacities, provide technical assistance and facilitate access to funding. In 2009, ten additional organizations were registered with the department of Labour and Employment.

- b. Immediate implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, with focus on community-based activities such as zoning and land use plans responding to traditional value systems and providing regulations over tourism and infrastructure development:*

The State Party reports there has been limited progress on the adoption of municipal ordinances of Community-Based Land Use and Zoning Plans (CBLUZP) of the barangays hosting the rice terraces clusters included in the property. It states that work on this issue will continue on to 2012 to prepare zoning guidelines, land use plans and actual delimitation of protected areas and engineering guidelines. It is noted that the recent update of the Provincial Physical Framework will constitute a useful reference for it as it has been tested for 8 areas and can be adopted for five world heritage sites, which have functional and active Rice Terraces organizations in place. Since this planning tool integrates the Rice Terraces Master Plan and indigenous knowledge, it can be an effective tool to facilitate the development of the community based land use and zoning plan, which is also a requirement for accessing funds. On the incorporation of a process to develop appropriate designs of tourism related facilities, the State Party reports that the developing of infrastructure guidelines was implemented from February to June 2009, with outputs submitted during the Rice Terraces Summit in August 2009 and is pending publication. Workshops were also carried out by municipal governments to exchange information between knowledge holders and technical staff and documents were produced including a bibliography on infrastructure, guidelines for infrastructure rehabilitation and development of heritage zones. It also reports that the project "Towards the Development of a Sustainable Financing Mechanism for the Conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces", developed by the University of the Philippines, Los Banos in collaboration with the Provincial government, was finalized and presented in August 2009. Continuance of the project has been offered to build capacity among farmers and Local Government Units (LGUs) to institutionalize the collection and environmental and cultural fees derived from tourism and applied to conservation. The project will begin in 2010 at the Hungduan component site. Promotion of tourism is also expected to be enhanced by the Twinning programme between the Ifugao Provincial Government and Cinque Terre World Heritage property of Italy with an Agreement signed on 25 November 2009 and the launching of the Provincial Website for Tourism in the first quarter of 2010.

As for the full implementation of the IPRA law in the Ifugao Rice Terraces Communities, the Provincial Government proposes that this benchmark be removed from the list. It recognises

limited progress on this respect due to complex social issues and conflicting regulatory frameworks at the national level.

- c. *Resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels according to the management objectives determined in the Conservation Management Plan. Top priority should be given to the regular maintenance and stabilization of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems and to reverse their deterioration:*

The State Party reports that work has continued on the rehabilitation of all major communal irrigation systems (CIS) in Ifugao using available traditional building materials after the 2008 mapping of damages at the system and subsequent rehabilitation which was accomplished in the first quarter of 2009. It notes that 21 of the major CIS have been rehabilitated and are fully operational, highlighting that yields from rice cultivation has increased. It notes however that in light of climate change there is a need to upgraded run-off CIS to bigger water impounding basins to have sufficient water supplies. This has been partly addressed in the context of capacity building to empower terrace owners. In addition, a partial amount of the UNESCO Emergency Assistance Fund (USD 50,000) was allocated to rehabilitate 3 CIS damaged by typhoon Emong in May 2009. Activities will continue to expand to all 21 CIS at the property.

The report also provides information on the strategies implemented to support complementary livelihood opportunities, including the continuous support by the Provincial Government for material production and marketing, which include livelihood for women through the production of traditional handbags and other products. Weavers were also trained to use indigenous fabrics. The bamboo industry was also explored as an alternative livelihood mean. The sum of efforts in this respect is expected to improve living standards, empower communities in ownership and management of their properties for sustainable use and enhance tourism industry. These actions will be integrated in the Master Plan, which will be updated in 2010.

- d. *Maintenance and support of the rice culture in its traditional mode for long term sustainability and site conservation:*

The State Party reports that efforts have continued to support traditional land use and to guarantee that varieties remain viable and available, taking stock of traditional farming practices and seed selection. Traditional knowledge and beliefs continues to be integrated not only for farming but also for the skills to manage associated infrastructure, such as retaining walls and irrigation systems and for the management of earthworm infestations. Capacity building has continued among younger men to address the transfer of knowledge and base of trainees to be employed in the restoration of collapsed walls. These have included workshops but also the establishment of schools of living traditions in each of the four municipalities. In addition, actions have continued to register aspects of the Ifugao culture, indigenous knowledge systems and practices. Documents that have been produced to date have been made available to barangays and municipal governments.

- e. *Strengthening and reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic tree species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal watersheds*

The State Party reports that local people are now shifting back to producing and planting endemic trees to revert the negative impact of commercial trees that had been planted in watershed areas.

f. Declaration of the World Heritage cluster sites of the rice terraces and their supportive ecosystem (i.e. watershed system) as environmental critical areas, where an environment impact assessment (EIA) is required for any proposal development projects.

The State Party notes that it already considers the Rice Terraces as critical areas and reports that there is no need for additional national laws but rather effective implementation of existing legislative measures. It also indicates the need of enhancing practices that take stock of traditional practices and culture of the Ifugao people. As for the environmental impact assessment, it notes that the successful implementation of the study for the Mini-Hydro Project can set the basis for drafting of a Provincial Environmental Code that is expected to be enacted by Provincial Ordinance by 2010.

In addition, the State Party reports on other projects and initiatives, such as:

Ambangal Mini-Hydro Power Plant, Kiangan, Ifugao

Actions have continued on this project that is expected to provide 18% of the province's total energy demand. According to the timeline provided by the State Party, the project was expected to be inaugurated and turned over in January 2010 and will be monitored for two-years to evaluate its success as a pilot mode for renewable energy-based rural development.

The State Party provided a summary of the issues, concerns and solutions discussed during the Rice Terraces Summit, which was addressed by major stakeholders in August 2009. These include the preservation of varieties of rice, the outmigration of young and educated populations, diminishing biodiversity and use of natural resources, among others. Based on the results, the Provincial Government will facilitate additional processes to create a working group to for the achievement of the IRT 10-Year Master Plan and prepare an inter-agency action plan for FY 2010-2012 and beyond.

Nike project

The project, with funding assistance from the National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan (NFUAJ), was initiated in April 2007 by the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMo), a local based NGO. It seeks to assist knowledge transfer between the older generation of Ifugao knowledge holders and the younger generation of Ifugaos, particularly in the sciences dealing with natural resource management, terrace construction and building techniques, and rice production, through alternative and modern education channels.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (GIAHS) Project Launching

This project was launched in Hungduan, the pilot area on 12 December 2009. Activities have included the Site Selection Workshop, Activity Prioritization Workshop, Preparation of the Four-Year Project Operation Plan, Finalization of the Project Document and Establishment of Field Offices in the Provincial and Municipal LGUs. Field activities included documents on the Inventory of Flora and Fauna participated by the 9 barangays, Finalization of the Community-Based Land Use Planning and Zoning of the Municipal LGU and Conduct of Project Proposal Preparation Training for the Municipal Implementation Team and submission of proposals to FAO for approval. The project is expected to be operational in 2010.

In conclusion, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recognise the efforts and the significant progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures. They particularly note actions taken to strengthen the management system and encourage the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure the long term viability of the

system by securing the required resources for effective operation and in the implementation and enforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks for the long-term protection of the property. They welcome the progress made in reversing the deterioration of irrigation systems that are crucial for the conservation and use of the Rice Terraces. They also note activities focused on creating additional means for livelihoods and welcome their participatory nature and importance for the sustainability of the property. They further acknowledge the information provided by the State Party and the position towards the declaration of the property as environmental critical areas. They underscore, however, the importance of effectively implementing existing legislative and regulatory frameworks and to consider their revision if they are no longer adequate to respond to existing conditions, integrating traditional customs as possible. They also welcome the definition of a Provincial Environmental Code as an essential tool to identify potential threats to the property.

In light of the progress made, they consider it pertinent to request a reactive monitoring mission to assess whether conditions have been met for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The reactive monitoring mission would also offer the opportunity to review the desired state of conservation and provide recommendations for the State Party for the future conservation and management of the property.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **32 COM 7A.24** and **33 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) and 33rd (Serville, 2009) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the significant progress made by the State Party in addressing the threats that led to the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008);*
4. *Adopts the following Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:*
 - a) *Landscape restoration and conservation:*
 - (i) *Restoration through community efforts of at least 50% of collapsed terraces walls,*
 - (ii) *Adopted Conservation Guidelines for each of the five priority heritage cluster sites,*
 - (iii) *Documentation and rehabilitation of major irrigation systems in the five priority heritage cluster sites,*
 - b) *Protection and planning:*
 - (i) *National Government policies and laws enacted for the preservation of natural resources,*
 - (ii) *Adopted Guidelines, including EIA procedures, and infrastructure guidelines, for the implementation of major projects,*

- (iii) *Implementation of Community-Based Land Use and Zoning (CBLUZP) projects in all sites,*
 - c) *Management:*
 - (i) *Functioning management agencies at the provincial and municipal levels with adequate resources,*
 - (ii) *Functional Rice Terraces Owners Organizations in place in the five priority heritage cluster sites;*
- 5. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress on the implementation of corrective measures and on achieving the Desired state of conservation in order for the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
- 6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, 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 35th session in 2011;*
- 7. *Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

27. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission report)

28. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis) (see Annexes 1, 2 and 3)

Decision : 33 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides to adjourn debate on this agenda item until its next ordinary session, it being understood that the report and Decision presented at the present 33rd session will continue to be before the Committee for debate at its next ordinary session, as indicated in documents:

WHC-09/33.COM/7A, Paris, 11 May 2009;

WHC-09/33.COM/7A Add, Paris, 29 May 2009;

WHC-09/33.COM/7A Corr, Seville, 23 June 2009.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report by the State Party received late)

30. 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 to present

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

31 COM 7A.30; 32 COM 7A.29; 33 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.

Factors affecting the property 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 State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation on 5 February 2010 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). The report provides information on the status of implementation of the corrective measures and additional information on activities currently being implemented at the World Heritage property.

a) Implementation of the management plan

The State Party reports that implementation of the management plan has continued, focusing on the projects for the conservation and maintenance of the site and several dissemination and educational activities. It also reports on the funding allocated to the Management Unit (Unidad Ejecutora 110) for 2009 and 2010 and lists projects to be implemented under such budget.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recognise that the activities implemented in the past years demonstrate progress towards mitigating the impact of diverse factors on the conservation of the physical fabric of the site. It should be noted however that the management plan for the site, with a 10-year action plan, was finalised in 2000, so an evaluation and review of progress achieved to date is needed to be responsive to current conditions and needs. Such revision needs to include updated provisions for public use, as has been requested in previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee, and demonstrate how funding will be secured in the long-term to guarantee the sustainability of the management system currently in place. This revision must be carried out in conjunction with the approval and coming into force of the legislative and regulatory measures, as they are strongly interlinked.

b) Legislative and regulatory frameworks

The State Party noted in its report that the draft regulations for the application of Law no. 28261 are being produced by the Multisectoral Commission that includes public bodies and

authorities. The creation of a Technical Secretariat, by means of a Supreme Decree, to aid in the implementation of the law has been requested to the Ministry of Education. The report indicates that the proposal is still under evaluation. No timeline for its completion has been identified and no proposed draft has been attached.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are extremely concerned that Law no. 28261 and its regulatory measures, drafted to address fundamental issues such as the illegal removal of soil, agricultural works and the illegal occupation at the property, have remained pending for at least eight years.

c) Broad dissemination of the management plan

The report stated that activities have continued on the dissemination of the management plan among public and private sectors as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recognise the progress made by the State Party in this respect and its importance in enhancing participation and collaboration of different sectors as reflected in activities implemented at the site.

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

The State Party reports on further collaboration with the Municipality of Trujillo for the definite establishment of the buffer zone for the site based on the revised site plan to be subsequently integrated in the plan for Municipal land use. The State Party reported that regulations for land use at the buffer zone are in the final stages of revision. Actions have been implemented to control urban sprawl and the impact of new constructions at the surroundings of the site.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the buffer zone has been revised and integrated with other planning tools at the Municipal level. Since regulations were not approved and put into force as requested by the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies reiterate the need to finalise regulations for land use at the surrounding areas and their full enforcement so as to protect the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

e) Physical delineation of the property

The State Party did not yet submit the official delineation of the buffer zone.

f). Priority conservation measures

The State Party reported on different projects implemented throughout the year to address conservation concerns at the property. These included maintenance of drains that control water table levels, stabilization of perimeter walls and funerary platforms at the Bandelier, Rivero, Tschudi and Uhle Palaces, maintenance of public use areas at Tschudi, and general maintenance activities throughout the site to control vegetation growth and improve the presentation of the site. Maintenance has continued on the vegetation barriers established in prior years to maintain its adequate function.

In addition, work has continued on the Territorial Information System, in collaboration with the Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (ITABC-CNR) Rome, Italy. Other activities implemented include capacity building for local craftsmen, educational activities for primary and high school students, activities to include people with different capacities, among others. The report also included information on projects to be implemented through 2010 for the conservation of the site.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies appreciate the progress made by the State Party in both mitigating the rate and extent of deterioration and in improving the conservation of the property. They acknowledge the creation of the Territorial Information System and welcome its full application as a tool for the design and plan of future research,

conservation, monitoring, dissemination and public use actions both for the property and the buffer zone.

g). Development of an emergency and disaster preparedness plan

A draft proposal is included in the report. It is currently being used in preparation for the potential impacts of El Niño phenomenon.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the development of the plan but express their concern that the proposal only addresses actions to be implemented in case of emergencies derived from El Niño phenomenon. It is not yet officially approved and the State Party stated that more time is needed to finalise the entire plan. A comprehensive risk management plan should also include provisions for other type of natural and man made disasters that could potentially threaten the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The proposal needs to be revised under a more comprehensive approach and integrated in the management plan for the property.

In addition, the State Party reports on the following additional activities:

The requested revised provisions for public use and visitor management at the property were not submitted. However, the State Party reports that the project – Tourist Enabling of Chan Chan - is being developed, as part of the Inter Institutional Agreement of Cooperation between the Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC) and Trujillo's Provincial Municipality.

The State Party has submitted a draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which is currently being reviewed by the Advisory Bodies (see Document *WHC-10/34 COM/8D*).

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the implementation of sustained conservation actions and the strengthening of management arrangements have improved the state of conservation of the property and mitigated significant natural threats. Since the enforcement of legislative and regulatory measures are not yet into force to curb the illegal encroachments, the management of the property and its buffer zone cannot yet be considered sustainable.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.29** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures for the property and encourages the State Party to continue such efforts in a sustained manner,*
4. *Expresses its strong concern that the development and enforcement of legislative and regulatory measures that will guarantee the full protection of the property have not yet been adopted and put into force as requested and urges the State Party to finalise the process as soon as possible;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to undertake the review of the management plan currently being implemented to adapt it to current conditions, including updated provisions for public use and comprehensive risk management at the property;*

6. *Requests the State Party, once the legislative framework is in place, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress on the implementation of corrective measures, and to define, in collaboration with the State Party, a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2011**, 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 35th session in 2011;*
8. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

GENERAL DECISION

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

See Document *WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add*

ANNEXES

Annex 1

Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A*, page 92

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

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

Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add*, page 52

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004, extension 2006

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2006

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

- a) Lack of legal status of the property;
- b) Lack of legislative protection of buffer zones;
- c) Lack of implementation of the management plan and of active management;
- d) Difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation (visits under the Kosovo Stabilisation Force / United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (KFOR / UNMIK) escort and lack of guards and security);
- e) Unsatisfactory state of conservation and maintenance of the property.

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

- a) Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;
- b) Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
- c) Implementation of the management plans, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša;
- b) Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is

an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljeviša, that was partly removed);

- c) Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**.

Long-term corrective measures:

- d) Ensure the adequate long-term administrative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- e) Put in place strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
- f) Adequately delineate the boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings);
- g) Prepare detailed state of conservation reports as a basis for adapted monitoring, preventative conservation measures, and specific conservation projects to reverse decline;
- h) Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the management plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Urgent / short-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo;
- b) Regarding the long-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo no specific timeframe can be given at this stage due to the political situation.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 8B.53; 31 COM 7A.28; 32 COM 7A.27

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 699,335 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005; USD 503,500 by the Italian Government, USD 75,335 by the Czech Government and 121,000 USD by the Greek Government.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo; July 2008: UNESCO (BRESCE mission), 19-22 January 2009: UNESCO (BRESCE) mission;

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

Current conservation issues

Note: The Secretariat was informed by the Legal Advisor that "The UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 12.44 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement be achieved".

The World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) acknowledged the continuing difficulties to monitor the property and the challenges to the follow-up to the intersectoral mission of January 2007 and recalled its request, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan.

Following the discussion on these issues at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008) and as suggested by the Chairperson in her conclusions, the World Heritage Centre addressed a request for clarification to the Legal Advisor of UNESCO about the international "legal framework" of this matter. A Circular Letter dated 31 March 2009 entitled "Final Decision **32 COM 7A.27** concerning the "Medieval Monuments in Kosovo" was sent to all States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and to the Advisory Bodies including the finalized decision.

a) *Statement of Outstanding Universal Value/Significance*

Concerning the development, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, of a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value/Significance including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, the draft statement which was received in 2008 was reviewed by ICOMOS International and is being presented in Working Document *WHC-09/33.COM/8E* for examination.

b) *Update on the state of conservation and international cooperation*

An update report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the Permanent Delegation of Serbia on 30 January 2009, which indicated that the last monitoring at *Decani Monastery* took place on 17 January 2009, which noted that the monastery church is in good condition. However some deterioration at the facades has been noticed due to the lack of drainage and water gutter systems. It mentioned also the "boiler room" located in the buffer zones where structures were built. Concerning *Gracanica Monastery* the monitoring was carried out on 18 January 2009, it was noted that it was in a good condition with similar water effects on the lower walls. Several structures were built in the buffer zones, including residential wings, a new bell tower, a boiler room and garage. The threatened facade sculptures and wall painting are subject to conservation works carried out in stages and with NGO support. A workplan is suggested which includes the survey of the monastery complex, assessing priorities for projects, performing the works and monitoring and evaluation. In addition systematic excavation investigations should be performed. Concerning the *Church of the Virgin of Ljevisa in Prizren*, the structure is in good condition and the roofs and domes were covered in 2008 with lead metal plate. The Facades of the *Patriarchate of Pec* were restored in 2008 in accordance with the 2006 project.

As a follow up to the International Donors Conference (May 2005) and the 2007 Intersectoral mission and at the request of the Director General of UNESCO, the UNESCO Venice Office (BRESCE), in cooperation with UNMIK, organized an international expert mission to Kosovo from 19 to 22 January 2009.

The mission had the opportunity to update the information about the situation of the serial World Heritage property in Kosovo and visited the following parts of the property:

- *Gracanica*: The mission noted changes since the last mission at the monuments including certain construction activities in the compound of the Monastery. The technical experts notified some damages on the frescos surveyed and a more detailed report is about to be elaborated. The restoration of the frescos of the monastery may be proposed for financing through the contribution which the Russian Federation announced to the Director General of UNESCO;
- *Decani*: Special attention should be paid to the proposal of the Monastery authorities related to the re-construction of the dormitory that was burned down in 1946, as the plan proposed is not being cleared by the Institute for Protection of Monuments from Belgrade. In the case of further attempts related to the construction of this building an ICOMOS expert mission could be sent to review the plans and proposed solutions;
- *Pec*: The mission noted that the facade of the three churches was recently repainted in dark red color. No information on this development was received by the World Heritage Centre in compliance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- *Church of Bogorodica Ljeviska, Prizren*: No changes have been noted by the mission since the last mission in July 2008. Although the keys of the completed monument were supposed to be handed to the Church representatives, this has not happened. At the moment UNESCO; is organizing the activities related to the restoration of the wall paintings; it is important to underline that the project should also include restoration of some external elements. Further works on the wall paintings could not be initiated prior to being sure that the architectural works are correctly performed and that no frescos could be endangered any more by atmospheric influences.

The mission noted that both the Director of the Center of Monuments from Serbia and the Director of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo did cooperate with the mission team.

In addition, the Assistant Director General for Culture and Chief Europe and North America of the World Heritage Centre met with the staff concerned with Kosovo at the European Commission Offices in Brussels (EC – DG Enlargement) on 3 April 2009. Cooperation opportunities related to the Forum for Technical Information Exchange on Cultural Heritage in Kosovo were discussed. Launched on 28 January 2009, the Forum is open to all relevant technical stakeholders with the common objective of preserving and promoting cultural heritage. Its main purpose is to facilitate information exchange in view of a coordinated approach of the cultural heritage in Kosovo, including with UNMIK and UN Habitat. The Forum is not a decision making body. The European Commission emphasized UNESCO's unique expertise in the field of cultural heritage and requested the participation of UNESCO at the technical level.

c) *Reinforced monitoring mechanism*

The entire mission of January 2009 concluded that the monitoring of the World Heritage property in Kosovo has to be reinforced. Due to the complex situation of the protection of heritage in Kosovo, underlining that the Church is the owner of this heritage, but considering the real will of all the parties to support and improve their efforts to protect World Heritage in Kosovo and the evolution of the cooperation among the managers of heritage, more frequent reporting could be developed as an intermediate solution.

On 29 October 2008 the Republic of Serbia wrote to the Director General of UNESCO and requested to “*approve reinforced monitoring of the “medieval monuments in Kosovo” in order to ensure timely implementation of the World Heritage Committee’s decisions relating of these monuments in danger*”.

Following the January 2009 mission and the finalization of the Decision of the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee and its transmission to all State Parties on 31 March 2009, the Director General of UNESCO decided to activate the Reinforced monitoring mechanism carefully considering the specific circumstances of this property.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54**, **31 COM 7A.28** and **32 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32d (Quebec City, 2007) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided by the state of conservation report of January 2009 and the results of the mission of the UNESCO BRESCE Office to the property in January 2009;*
4. *Notes that the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been submitted and has been reviewed by ICOMOS;*
5. *Welcomes the Decision by the Director General to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to this property on 1 April 2009;*
6. *Reiterates its request, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones; adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan;*
7. *Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to address the Desired state of conservation defined, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
8. *Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010.***

Document WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Corr, page 1

Draft Decision: 33 COM 7A.27 Corr

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add and WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Corr,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28 and 32 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the information provided by the state of conservation report of January 2009 and the results of the mission of the UNESCO BRESCE Office to the property in January 2009;
4. Notes that the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been submitted and has been reviewed by ICOMOS;
5. Welcomes the Decision by the Director General to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to this property on 1 April 2009;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones; adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan;
7. Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to address the Desired state of conservation defined, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. **Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010.**