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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee

Thirty-fifth session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
19-29 June 2011

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/35COM/

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I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1988

Criteria
(ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
1997
Property subject to the reinforced monitoring mechanism since 2009 (33 COM 7A.1)

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Illegal grazing;
b) Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups and subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife;
c) Deteriorating security situation and a halt to tourism.

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
See Decision **33 COM 7A.1** (Seville, 2009). http:whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.1; 33 COM 7A.1; 34 COM 7A.1

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 296,653 for emergency assistance and technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A.

Previous monitoring missions
May 2001 and April 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
a) Insecurity
b) Poaching
c) Mining
d) Transhumance and illegal grazing
e) Illegal fishing
f) Illegal occupation of the property

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2011, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the Central African Republic (CAR). This summary report outlines the measures taken by the

State Party, from an institutional and technical perspective, to implement corrective measures that were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009).

In its Decisions **33 COM 7A.1** and **34 COM 7A.1**, the Committee requested the State Party to organize a workshop with all stakeholders to develop a short-term emergency plan for a priority area of reduced size, to restore the integrity of the property. This workshop, planned for September 2010, unfortunately could not be held before the 35th session of the Committee. A letter was sent to the State Party to encourage it to submit a request for international assistance for this purpose.

In addition, the high-level meeting requested by the Committee could not be organized because of the concurrence of presidential and legislative elections.

a) *Restructuring of the management of the park for a simple and efficient organization specifically dedicated to the park*

The State Party provides information that the management strategy for protected areas in the north-east, including the property, was validated in 2010. This strategy proposes a zoning of the property defining a central core surrounded by Village Hunting Zones (VHZ), the implantation of advanced surveillance bases, a development plan for the entire north-east territory including the redefinition of transhumance corridors, the increased size of the team monitoring the property and VHZ peripheries.

b) Strengthening of supervisory staff to ensure the main management missions (planning, surveillance, ecological monitoring, adminstration, logistics)

The State Party has not provided any new information concerning the strengthening of supervisory staff. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that a technical assistant of the Central African Armed Forces (CAAF) was appointed in spring 2009 and assigned to conservation teams.

c) Increasing the number and training of ground staff essentially devoted to surveillance ensuring this transition period, strengthened at the outstart by support from armed forces

The State Party notes that several missions by Central African Armed Forces (CAAF) elements were carried out in the area in support of the supervisor trackers for the programme for the Conservation and Rational Use of the Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (ECOFAC) - VHZ, but no further details are reported. Since 2009, 60 Water and Forestry agents were planned to be appointed to north-east protected areas, in addition to the 60 ECOFAC supervisor trackers already in place, but IUCN notes that these agents have still not been appointed to the north-east, or within the property. The report does not mention whether these agents will be specifically assigned to the Manovo-Gounda National Park (MGNP) as requested by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

d) *Functional zoning of the park with a priority intervention zone to conserve to the maximum the components determining the Outstanding Universal Value of the park (environment and fauna)*

The State Party notes that the map draft of the park including the new configuration of the property has been produced and validated. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the management strategy for the north-east protected areas proposes a zoning of the property with a core area surrounded by a belt of VHZ. Unfortunately the report does not include the zoning map, and it is therefore difficult to assess its impact on the protection status of the property.

e) Implementation of an action plan targeting restoration of security in this priority zone

The State Party recalls that the Ministry of National Defence has provided military equipment to conservation teams of the northern protected areas every year since 2007, but does not report new information concerning the implementation of a plan focused on restoring security in the property. The State Party considers that the support of international institutions in the implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process, and the holding of elections are significant elements in bringing security to the northern region where the property is located.

f) Allocation of a provisional budget for these priorities, limited to the most necessary, to already engage in this phase a reflection on sustainable management;

The State Party does not report any new information concerning the allocation of a provisional suitable budget. It appears that a budget is not yet defined.

g) Implementation of a plan to emerge from the crisis, through concertation with the different protagonists, in particular from Chad and Sudan.

The State Party recalls that trans-border actions taking into account all issues related to natural resource conservation and the development of local communities are planned under the Regional Indicative Programme of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), however no details on the type of activities are provided. The report notes that the Central African-Chad Joint Committees will meet in 2011 to discuss transborder issues.

h) Other current conservation issues - petroleum prospecting within the property

IUCN notes that since January 2011 a Chinese oil company, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) is located at Gordil (one of the bases of the Park). It is possible that petroleum prospecting is being conducted inside the property, accompanied by poaching-related activities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that this type of activity will only accelerate the deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its wildlife, already greatly reduced. They recall that several years ago the Committee adopted a clear position on mining and petroleum prospecting issues in inscribed properties, deeming them incompatible with World Heritage status.

i) Result of the ECOFAC / MIKE aerial survey mission conducted in early 2010

The report mentions a 2010 ECOFAC inventory in collaboration with the Monitoring the Illegal Killing Elephant (MIKE) programme. This inventory was conducted in north-eastern Central African Republic over nearly 95,000 km^2 in an area including Manovo-Gounda-St Floris (MGSF) and Bamingui-Bangoran National Parks, the Vassako-Bollo Strict Nature Reserve, the Aouk-Aouakalé Wildlife Reserve, and the Hunting Areas and Village Hunting Zones. The inventory shows a very serious decline in the concentration of big game. A decline of 90% had already been revealed by a 2005 inventory, and this new inventory indicates a further reduction of 75% of the wildlife compared to the 2005 inventory. After the black rhino, which had already disappeared in 1980, elephant and giraffe have now also completely disappeared from the property and are recorded only in the hunting areas, and therefore outside the property. Most of the other species have also almost disappeared, including buffalo, giant eland, Defassa waterbuck, ostrich, hippopotamus and cheetah. The remaining wildlife is concentrated in the VHZ and southern hunting areas located outside the property.

The inventory also considers it possible that hundreds of thousands of Chadian cattle transit every year in the study zone. The overview also noted the presence of two small-scale diamond mines in the MGSF National Park, along water bodies, and a significant reduction of large wildlife around the mines due to poaching. The report concluded that the countdown to the extinction of wildlife in northern CAR appears to have started and there is very little time to reverse this process. The authors consider that within a period of 2 to 5 years the activity of large-scale hunting will have exhausted the wildlife, accelerating the collapse of the VHZ

system - the last pockets of big game conservation - and likely leading to their reconversion to pasture. This will cause the loss of not only the last opportunity to restore the property's outstanding universal value, but also the socio-economic benefits associated with it.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the Eco-Fauna project of the European Union is currently being launched in the vicinity of the property and continues to bolster the VHZ. However, they believe that few results can be expected for the preservation of the property, as the project's strategy is focused primarily on the VHZ rather than on the conservation of the property itself. In addition, the budget seems inadequate in view of the area of intervention to cover (4 million Euros for an area of 100,000 km^2).

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the 2009 mission noted that a rigorous evaluation should be conducted to confirm the existence of outstanding universal value of the property, according to criteria (ix) and (x). Even if the ECOFAC / MIKE inventory was conducted on a wider area, with a transect in the property, it would seem that criterion (x) is called into question because of the sharp decline in the wealth of biodiversity present at the time of inscription, and the disappearance of almost all key species of large mammals, due to poaching and competition with transhumant cattle that have invaded a large part of the property. Criterion (ix) is also questionable as the effective disappearance of most big game key species questions the representativeness of the property and the natural ecological processes. Moreover, the growing presence of transhumant cattle in the Park, as well as petroleum prospecting and mining activity within the property, greatly compromise its integrity.

The 2009 mission recommended that the MGSF National Park remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the first positive results could be recorded through the execution of an emergency safeguarding programme, the main points of which are reflected in the corrective measures. If corrective measures aiming to a) restructure the park management, b) strengthen the supervisory staff to ensure the main management missions and d) produce a functional zoning of the park have been partially addressed, the steps c) increase the number and training of surveillance personnel, e) implementing an action plan to restore security, f) allocate a provisional suitable budget for the priorities and g) implement a plan to end the crisis, are still far from being initiated. Based on the ECOFAC / MIKE aerial surveys of 2010, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the MGSF National Park has lost its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity, and it therefore meets the criteria for removal of the property from the World Heritage List. However, there is still potential for regeneration of the outstanding universal value of the property in the group of neighbouring Village Hunting Zones, but this potential is very fragile.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the importance of the urgent implementation of the recommendations contained in Decision **34 COM 7A.1**, notably the development of an emergency action plan to save the outstanding universal value of the property in a priority area of limited size, and of securing funding for its implementation. They believe that the workshop to develop this plan should be organized as soon as possible, and if necessary the State Party may submit a request for International Assistance to the World Heritage Fund for its organization. They believe that if the trends in the loss of wildlife in northern CAR are not reversed quickly, the World Heritage Committee should consider removal of the MGSF National Park from the World Heritage List, under Paragraph 192 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Notes with concern the insufficient progress in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);*

4. *Notes with alarm that transhumant cattle have invaded a large part of the Park, and that petroleum prospecting and mining are occurring within the property, and considers that these activities strongly threaten the integrity of the property;*

5. *Expresses its deep concern that the aerial surveys of the 2010 programme for the Conservation and Rational Use of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (ECOFAC) / MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) revealed that criteria (ix) and (x) are affected due to the disappearance of almost all key species of large mammals in the property, due to poaching and impacts of transhumant livestock;*

6. *Also considers therefore that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is seriously degraded, but that there is still potential for regeneration of wildlife populations from Village Hunting Zones (VHZ) nearby;*

7. *Urges the State Party to organize a workshop to develop the emergency action plan to regenerate the outstanding universal value of the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an application for international assistance in this regard;*

8. *Reiterates its request that the States Parties of the Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan develop a common strategy to contribute to the regeneration of the outstanding universal value of the property in a priority area of limited size;*

9. *Appeals to the International Community to provide financial and technical assistance for implementing the emergency plan;*

10. *Further considers that the lack of implementation of the emergency plan will result in a very short time in conditions for removal of the property from the World Heritage List, under paragraph 192 of the* Operational Guidelines*;*

11. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed report on the elaboration, financing and implementation of an emergency plan to save the outstanding universal value the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

12. *Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;*

13. ***Also decides to maintain the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1983

Criteria
(ix) (x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Potential impacts of civil unrest;
b) Decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching;
c) Lack of effective management mechanisms.

Desired state of conservation required for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
The desired state of conservation has yet to be defined.

Corrective measures identified
The following corrective measures were identified during the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):
a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures;
b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property based on the management plan framework developed for the national system of protected areas. The management plan should give special attention to:
  (i) Establishing a revised zoning system for the property to guide management activities that fully consider the status of the property as a World Heritage property and Biosphere Reserve;
  (ii) Establishing participatory management arrangements with local communities to reduce pressures and impacts associated to the management of areas in particular on the periphery of the property;
c) Enlarge the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property.

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

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.2; 33 COM 7A.2; 34 COM 7A.2

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds
Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities. Rapid Response Facility: USD 30,000 for an intervention mission in the park in 2010.

Previous monitoring missions
June 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
a) Conflict and political instability;
b) Lack of management control and access;
c) Poaching;
d) Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure;
e) Bush fires.

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2011, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. Additional documents were annexed or submitted alongside this report including; i) the terms of reference for the development of a management plan for the property; ii) a copy of Law n° 2002-102 on the creation, management and financing of national parks and nature reserves; iii) the actual and projected budgets for the property (2010-2013); and iv) a report on the results of the March 2010 aerial wildlife survey undertaken by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and OIPR (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves), with support from the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The State Party report notes the progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the implementation of these measures is supported by the World Bank/ Global Environment Faciltiy (GEF) protected areas project for Côte d'Ivoire called PARC-CI (Projet d'Appui à la Relance de la Conservation des Parcs et Réserves - USD 2.54 million, 2010-2014). The State Party reports that this project was put on hold following the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, which has considerably slowed down the implementation of the corrective measures, and also pushed back the timeframe for their implementation.

a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures

The State Party reports that 70 rangers are deployed within the property and notes that the level of staffing has increased considerably since 2007. The State Party notes that a new surveillance strategy has been developed, which foresees a progressive expansion of surveillance based on the available resources, stationing patrolling units in a central location from which two sector stations will be manned on a rotational basis. All 5 sectors will be patrolled from the two aforementioned localities. The State Party notes that in parallel to the above surveillance strategy, it is providing 200 million CFA (approximately 431,871 USD) to an emergency action plan to reduce poaching by deploying mixed patrols composed of both OIPR patrol units and members of the *Forces Nouvelles* (armed forces): to date 35 OIPR rangers and 22 members of the *Forces Nouvelles* have been trained and equipped to combat poaching. This initiative was supported by Fauna and Flora International (FFI), IUCN and the World Heritage Centre through the Rapid Response Mechanism. Eight four-wheel drive vehicles and 10 motorbikes have been acquired to support law enforcement activities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the efforts to develop a surveillance strategy and emergency action plan to address poaching, which unfortunately were not submitted with the report, but note that as a result of the political crisis, only a few mixed ranger patrols have been deployed resulting in little effective control and patrolling of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that given the dramatic decline in wildlife populations (see below) the establishment of an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property is a priority to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property based on the management plan framework developed for the national system of protected areas

The State Party reports that a draft management plan is under preparation and will be finalized by a consultant. A 3-year priority action plan will be developed on the basis of the management plan. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome progress in the

development of the management plan Terms of Reference and recall that the Committee requested the State Party to establish a revised zoning system for the property that fully considers the status of the property as a World Heritage property and Biosphere Reserve, and to establish participatory management arrangements with local communities.

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

As noted above under point a), the State Party reports that it intends to progressively extend patrolling within the entire Park and regain control of the area. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned that the recent deterioration in political and security situation in Côte d'Ivoire has further slowed down the implementation of this corrective measure.

d) Results of the March 2010 aerial wildlife survey

The State Party submitted a report on the results of the March 2010 aerial wildlife survey undertaken by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and OIPR, with support from GIZ, and notes that additional aerial and terrestrial surveys may be undertaken in 2011. The March 2010 survey covered Comoé National Park and the surrounding zone and shows that large mammals have decreased by 80% over the last 30 years. The density of large mammals within the property is very low. No elephants or lions were observed, and only two elephant tracks were noted during the survey. The survey estimated that 8,800 hartebeest, 900 buffalo and 950 cobs remain, with 90% of their populations located within the property. IUCN notes that the late 1970's estimates for these species were about 13,000 hartebeest, 5,000 buffalo and 50,000 cobs while its elephant population was estimated at 1,500 in 1978.

With regards to human activities within the park, the survey found that 90% of all the mammals within the property are domestic animals and that high levels of cattle grazing are seriously degrading the property's ecosystem. The survey noted that cattle grazing are concentrated in the north and east of the park, that agricultural encroachment is widespread in the west, and that bushfires are concentrated within a central band running north-south through the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that an earlier survey by WCF in June 2009 (which did not make population estimates due to its small sample size) had found that populations of large mammals were still present in the south-west of the property and the adjacent zone, including chimpanzees and elephants, thus confirming their presence within the property. The March 2010 survey report concludes that based on the available data there is a high risk that the elephant and chimpanzee populations of the property are now too small to be viable, and that these are likely to disappear from the park unless urgent action is taken.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are gravely concerned by the results of the March 2010 aerial survey which clearly demonstrates that the OUV of the property is severely and increasingly degraded and, if existing threats and pressures continue, may soon be lost. They are particularly concerned by the fact that some species like elephant might be on the verge of extinction in the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN concur with the survey's conclusion that there is still some potential for the recovery of wildlife populations within the property if urgent action is taken, and consider that the clear priority is to i) immediately restore the integrity of the property by removing grazing cattle and addressing agricultural encroachment, and ii) rapidly implement an effective surveillance system for the property in order to slow the intensification of cattle grazing, agricultural encroachment, poaching and bushfires. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the State Party and its conservation partners adopt all the recommendations made by the March 2010 wildlife aerial survey report and consider that the survey results should be used as a baseline to monitor the recovery of the property's wildlife populations over time.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that at the time of preparation of this report, political instability was still affecting Côte d'Ivoire. It is therefore likely that the status of the

property might have further degraded and that the implementation of corrective measures might be impacted.

e) Mining

Concerning previous reports on the granting of mineral exploration licences, the State Party notes that any geological exploration within the property would be aimed at evaluating the property's potential mineral resources, and considers that this does not constitute intent to mine. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the 2008 State Party report had indicated that three mining exploration licenses had been granted covering part of the property, and that the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **33 COM 7A.2** urged the State Party to withdraw these licenses, in line with the Committee's clear position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status. It notes that at the 34th session, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire stated that no mining exploration licences existed in the property and that this had been an error in previous reports.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that since the beginning of the political crisis in the country in 2002, there has been almost no management or surveillance of Comoé National Park, which has lead to the intensification of illegal activities within its boundaries, including poaching and encroachment by cattle and agriculture. The results of the March 2010 aerial survey show that Comoé National Park has lost an estimated 80% of its large mammals in the last three decades and that its ecosystem has been seriously affected by the conversion of large areas to cattle grazing and agriculture. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that the OUV of the property, both the values that justified its inscription under criteria (xi) and (x) and its integrity, is seriously compromised. However, they consider that there is still potential for the recovery of the property's wildlife and ecosystems if urgent action is taken, and consider the immediate restoration of the property's integrity and the implementation of an effective surveillance system should be prioritized by the State Party, in collaboration with its conservation partners including GEF/World Bank, WCF, GIZ, FFI, IUCN and others. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also recommend that the Committee amend the corrective measures in line with the above in order to reflect the priority actions that are needed to conserve and restore the property's OUV. They further recommend that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its integrity is restored, an effective management structure is in place and the recovery of the property's key wildlife populations is demonstrated.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.2,** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Notes with concern the continuing political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, which has lead to the further intensification of illegal activities within Comoé National Park since 2002, including poaching and encroachment by cattle and agriculture;*

4. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party and its conservation partners to reinforce the surveillance of the property, to develop a management plan, and to undertake a survey of the property's wildlife, but notes that as a result of the political crisis, only a few mixed ranger patrols have been deployed, resulting in little effective control and patrolling of the property;*

5. *Expresses its utmost concern about the results of the 2010 survey which show that the property has lost an estimated 80% of its large mammals in the last three decades and that its ecosystem has been seriously affected by the conversion of large areas to cattle grazing and agriculture, which demonstrates that the property's Outstanding Universal Value and integrity is seriously compromised, but that there remains potential for the recovery of the property's wildlife and ecosystems if urgent action is taken;*

6. *Decides to amend the corrective measures in line with the above in order to reflect the priority actions that are needed to conserve and restore the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and therefore adopts the following additional corrective measure:*

   a) *Restore, as a matter of urgency, the integrity of the property by removing cattle and addressing agricultural encroachment;*

7. *Urges the State Party to implement the revised corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011);*

8. *Encourages the State Party's conservation partners, including Global Environment Faciltiy (GEF)/World Bank, Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), IUCN and others, to continue their support of the property;*

9. *Requests the State Party to confirm officially that no mining exploration licenses covering the property have been granted;*

10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the revised corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

11. ***Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1981, extension in 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
See decisions **31 COM 7A.3** (Christchurch, 2007) http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1266/, and **32 COM 7A.3** (Quebec City, 2008), http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1266/

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 7A.3; 33 COM 7A.3; 34 COM 7A.3

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 495,989 for equipment, training, and Conservation and management

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; May 1993: World Heritage Centre / 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 trans-boundary cooperation

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155

Current conservation issues

On 29 January and 2 February 2011, reports on the state of conservation of the property were submitted by the States Parties of Guinea and the Côte d'Ivoire. These reports indicate progress made in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st and 32nd sessions (Christchurch 2007, Quebec 2008).

For the part of the property situated in Guinea:

The State Party refers to the promulgation of the decree establishing the boundaries of the Biosphere Reserve of Mount Nimba and its zones of influence. The decree focuses on the legal status of the property, the delineation of its boundaries (boundaries of the Reserve, the buffer zone, the mining concession and the Biosphere Reserve), the requirement of environmental and sociological impact studies for any project to be implemented near the property, the regulatory role of the Centre for Environmental Management of the Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS), and the management objectives for the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the new decree updates the protection status of the property as well as that of the other areas of the Biosphere Reserve and the mining concession. They recall that this decree was a key recommendation of the 2007 mission, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **31 COM 7A.3**. They recommend that the State Party resubmit a new map of the property, with geo-referenced files if possible, to update the documentation on the property. The report unfortunately does not provide information on

progress made on the demarcation of the other parts outside the boundary of the mining concession.

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 refers to the entry into force of an Order (2010-4642) for the revision of the legal status of the CEGENS. This enables the reinforcement of its management capacity through the establishment of a board of administration, a general directorate, and an accounting agency. Rules of procedure were also developed, and site facilities are being constructed for CEGENS personnel at Gbakoré.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome this institutional strengthening of the CEGENS, but note that it is important that it becomes an authority with the necessary human and financial resources to fully 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 necessary eco-guards and by strengthening the capacities of the newly created Village Surveillance Committees (VSC)

The report recalls that an anti-poaching system is now operational, in collaboration with the eco-guards and the VSC, backed up by daily patrols. The report also mentions the effect of this activity on the reappearance of large wildlife in the property. However, no detailed data was provided by the State Party. The process of integrating the 32 eco-guards with a paramilitary status into the public service is underway, but their wages are still provided by the Programme for the Conservation of the Biological Diversity of Mount Nimba (PCBNM).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate that the number of eco-guards is still very low in comparison with the size of the area, and the ability of CEGENS to alleviate the many threats to the Nimba Mountains also remains insufficient.

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 new decree establishes a buffer zone of 35,140 ha, corresponding to the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve, with a status of Managed Natural Reserve. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the 2007 mission had proposed a functional and narrower buffer zone for the World Heritage property. Nevertheless, clarifying the legal status of the buffer *zone is an important step forward.*

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

The State Party recalls that the NGO Fauna & Flora International (FFI) was engaged to set up an ecological monitoring system. The ecological monitoring programme provides for: (i) the establishment of an ecological monitoring baseline – Landscape component, geospatial and biological data; (ii) the establishment of an ecological monitoring baseline – Flora and fauna components, and (iii) mapping training for CEGENS staff.

IUCN notes that the FFI carried out 30 days of ecological monitoring in the Guinea portion of the property between May and July 2010. In total, 216 cases of evidence of illegal incursions were observed on 52 geo-referenced trails with various indications of hunting activity. The presence of collar traps, 12-calibre cartridge shells, poachers' camp sites, and the detonations of shotguns during the surveys indicate that poaching remains a major problem in the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the system of ecological monitoring described is not yet operational, and encourages the State Party to quickly implement this

monitoring system in collaboration with FFI and UNDP. They note with concern the results of ecological monitoring which show an extremely low density of wildlife.

e) Conduct a feasibility study to define a sustainable finance mechanism for the property

The report mentions that a request for International Assistance has been prepared by the State Party to obtain support from the World Heritage Fund for the establishment of an International Foundation for Mount Nimba, as a sustainable financing mechanism. However, at the time of writing this report, this application had not yet been received by the World Heritage Centre.

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

In March 2010, the State Party undertook the removal of illegal occupants from the Déré Forest, including Ivorian armed groups who claim ancestry to it. Following this decision, a dialogue was initiated with the Ivorian Government to define the border limits between the Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea in this area. Awareness-raising with the local populations of both countries regarding the conservation of the property has been carried out, and a statement entitled "The Abidjan Declaration on Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Forests of Mount Nimba, Déré and Tiapleu", was signed in July 2010. The Declaration reaffirms the commitment of the States Parties of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire to: (i) identify funding to restore the Forests of Déré and Tiapleu; (ii) establish a joint system of monitoring and management coordination; (iii) strengthen cooperation with Liberia through exchanges and dialogue, and (iv) seek funding for conservation and sustainable development. On 31 January 2011, the State Party also submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for International Assistance to reforest the savannah that extends between the property and the second core area of Bossou, in order to restore the migratory flow between the community of Bossou chimpanzees and those of the Nimba Mountains, and thus respond to the recommendation of the 2007 mission. This request shall be processed at the next meeting of the International Assistance review panel.

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

No information is given in the report on the status of a management plan. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report contains a logical framework for a project to implement conservation measures within the site. This management project for the Nimba Mountains covers the 2011-2015 period and foresees a budget of USD 2,191,000. The status of this project is not clarified in the report, but presumably it is the second phase of the project funded by the World Environment Fund (WEF).

<u>For the part of the property situated in Côte d'Ivoire</u>

The State Party reports that the slow process of ending the crisis upsets the timetables for the implementation of corrective measures, but once the elections are over the Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR) will be able to implement the Ivorian Government's strategy for the conservation of protected areas, as envisaged by the Framework Programme for Protected Areas Management (PCGAP). The report also notes that the budget allocated for the conservation of the property has been greatly reduced since the outbreak of the political crisis that had caused the withdrawal of development partners.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that at the time of writing this report, the Côte d'Ivoire continues to experience a difficult post-election crisis. It is therefore likely that the information contained in the report of the State Party is no longer up-to-date.

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 report of the State Party recalls that the staff is currently based in Ruékué, far from the site, and that the access to the Reserve is limited due to insufficient material and logistical resources, and the slow pace of disarmament. The report notes that meetings between the Directorate of the OIPR of the West Zone, the Prefect of the Department of Danané, the local authorities of the new forces and the local residents are held regularly and a Local Management Committee of the Reserve has been set up. According to the latest information received at the time of preparing this report, the Duékué base of the OIPR appears to have been damaged during the events following the elections.

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 reports that from 7 to 20 April 2010, the OIPR partners in collaboration with the Directorate of the OIPR West Zone, carried out an inventory of some species of wildlife in the Reserve. The inventory that was requested by the Iron Ore Mining Company of Guinea (SMFG) was conducted by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF). The results show that there remain a large number of chimpanzees in the Ivoirian part of the property. Notably, 120 nests have been located, and the inventory estimates an average of 121 chimpanzees for a density of 2.7 individuals per km². However, the inventory report notes that the analyses contain a high degree of uncertainty due to the low number of transects. The inventory identified a limited presence of other primates and ungulates, as well as strong pressure from hunting activities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the results of the chimpanzee inventory are encouraging, but the limited presence of other species and the strong hunting pressure is comparable to the current situation observed in the Guinean part of the property. The State Party notes that a funding request for an inventory was sent to the World Heritage Centre in late 2009, to conduct inventories on key species of fauna and to establish an ecological monitoring programme in cooperation with Guinea and Liberia, once the socio-political situation improves. However, the World Heritage Centre notes that this request was submitted without signature.

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

No progress was reported on this issue.

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

A request for International Assistance in organising an international bipartisan workshop on the sustainable management of the massifs of the trans-border areas of the Nimba was submitted in 2009 and approved in 2010 for USD 30,000. However, due to the post-election situation in the country, it has not yet been possible to finalise the contract between UNESCO and the OIPR. The State Party also expressed its willingness to continue, in cooperation with Guinea and Liberia, the validation of the management plan, once the socio-political situation improves. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN encourage the State Party to consider using the tool "*Enhancing our Heritage*" in the development and monitoring of the management plan for Mount Nimba.

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

The State Party notes that in the framework of the management reform for the protected areas, the Côte d'Ivoire has established a Foundation for Parks and Reserves of the Côte d'Ivoire, which aims to facilitate long-term financing for the conservation of the national parks and natural reserves.

m) Mining prospection

The reports of both States Parties evoke mining threats affecting the property on both sides of the border.

For Guinea: With regard to the mining project conducted in the concession by the Iron Ore Mining Company of Guinea (SMFG), the implementation of the Environmental and Sociological Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been delayed because of the presidential elections. At the request of SMFG, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN have submitted detailed comments on the draft terms of reference for the ESIA, and indicated that the project could not continue should the ESIA conclude that the negative impacts could not be mitigated. The World Heritage Centre has not yet received the final version of these terms of reference.

For Côte d'Ivoire: The State Party recalls the Tata Steel Company's waiver of the mining prospection project in the property, following discussion between IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and the Director of the Global Minerals Group of Tata Steel. This waiver was recently confirmed in an exchange of letters between IUCN and the Directorate of the Tata Steel Company. The report of the State Party notes that no other mining concession has been granted in the Ivorian part of the property.

For Liberia: The World Heritage Centre and IUCN indicate that they have received information about a potential mining project of Arcelor Mittal in Liberia, situated 20 km from the property. They request the State Party of Liberia to submit the ESIA for this project to the World Heritage Centre, and consider that pollution from mining on the Liberian side could cause the release of silt into the water courses towards the Côte d'Ivoire, with negative effects to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the significant progress made by the State Party of Guinea in clarifying the legal status of the property. Nevertheless, the threats that caused the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger remain present. They note that after years of political instability in Guinea, elections were held successfully in July 2010, which gives hope that the State Party may strengthen its efforts to implement corrective measures. However, the socio-political crisis of the post-election Côte d'Ivoire could seriously jeopardize the progress made by the State Party in setting up a management body and beginning procedures for the elaboration of a joint management plan. For these reasons, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve should be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Finally, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the signing of the Abidjan Declaration which aims to strengthen tri-national cooperation and establish a joint system of monitoring and management coordination between the Guinean and Ivorian States Parties. They recommend that the Committee reiterate its request to both States Parties to work together to develop and implement a common strategy for management and joint surveillance of Mount Nimba by organising a meeting of the Tri-national Commission.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.3,** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Welcomes the signing of the Abidjan Declaration, July 2010, which aims to establish a joint system of monitoring and management coordination between the Guinean and Ivorian States Parties and strengthen tri-national cooperation, and reiterates its request to the States Parties to consult at the earliest to develop and implement a common strategy for the management and joint surveillance of Mount Nimba, by organising a meeting of the Tri-national Commission;*

4. *Notes with satisfaction the clarification of the legal status of the part of the property situated in Guinea, and confirmation by Côte d'Ivoire that no mining concession has been granted in the Ivorian part of the property;*

5. *Expresses its deep concern about the possible consequences of the current political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire on the worsening insecurity in the Ivorian part of the property, which would prevent regular access by the management authority and severely compromise the progress made by the State Party in setting up a management body and beginning procedures for the elaboration of a joint management plan;*

6. *Notes with concern the insufficient progress in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions, and urges both States Parties to intensify their efforts to pursue the implementation of corrective measures and other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;*

7. *Requests the State Party of Guinea to encourage periodical monitoring of the effectiveness of the management of the property, using the tool "Enhancing Our Heritage", to better implement the current priorities for the management of the property;*

8. *Further requests both States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed report on the state of conservation and the progress made in implementing corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 missions, and in eliminating threats linked to mining prospecting, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

9. ***Decides to retain 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)

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report by the State Party not received)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

11. 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
See Decision **29 COM 7A.6 (**http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/29COM)

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
32 COM 7A.10; 33 COM 7A.10; 34COM 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 afftecing 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 forestry resources.

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2011, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. The report highlights recent progress made towards the implementation of the five corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), but adds little new information compared to that received in 2010. The report notes that the implementation of corrective measures has been hampered by the prevailing insecurity in the area between 2006 and 2009. Currently, this insecurity continues to restrict the movement of conservation agents. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received reports that armed groups which continue to plague the perimeter of the property, have left a large number of mines on the ground. Information has been received suggesting that apart from some major roads used by local communities and linking the main villages in and around the

reserves, the rest of Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (ATNR) remain at considerable risk due to the presence of mines.

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 team responsible for the conservation of the property partially reintegrated its base at Iferouane in 2008. The Co-management of Resources in the Air and Ténéré Nature Reserve project (COGERAT), in collaboration with the conservation team, enabled the creation of community surveillance units at Timia and Tabelot. The State Party notes that this activity increased in 2010, and that 6 new community surveillance brigades comprising 30 rangers have been created and trained. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information indicating that the presence of the management authority is very limited on the property, mainly due to security concerns. Therefore, it is uncertain whether the establishment of ranger stations in the villages of Timia and Tabelot has had an impact on the management of the site.

b) Establish Land Commissions in the four Municipalities and clarify the 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, to sustain prevention and management of conflicts related to access and use of natural resources. In 2010, workshops for the official establishment of commissions for Timia and Iférouane and training for the members of these commissions were organized.

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

The State Party recalls that the COGERAT project supported the establishment of a structure for inter-community management of natural resources of the Reserve called Intercommunal Association of Natural Resources Management (AIGRN). In September 2010, a State / Municipalities *co-management* agreement was signed in Niamey between the Minister of Water, Environment and Fight Against Desert Encroachment, and the Managing Directors of the four Municipalities (Gougaram, Iferouane, Tabelot and Timia) to elaborate a development and management plan for the property, as well as plans for communal management of natural resources, actions for sustainable land management, and their sustainable financing mechanism. However, the State Party's report provides no information on the ability of surveillance and co-management units to address the problems of poaching and extraction of natural resources, and the impact of insecurity on their operability.

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

The State Party notes that during 2010, meetings were held in collaboration with the Nigerien Coking Coal Society to promote the installation of equipment and the use of carbonised mineral coal. These meetings were used to conduct several activities in order to create interest among the population in the use of mineral coal. As was the case in 2010, the State Party's report provides no information on current levels of timber and thatch collection in the property, or on the impact of these activities 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 states that the COGERAT project continued actions to restore land and to stabilize the vegetation to control soil erosion and promote groundwater recharge and bank protection. These have been completed: 1716 filter strips in an area of 286 ha; the planting of 390 ha of local wood species; the planting of 11,000 forest plantations and the protection of

5000 seedlings for natural regeneration; 200 km of fire protection strips; and the installation of 2,000 ml of stone bunds. Although the increase in the land restored is significant, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that much remains to be done to achieve the COGERAT project objective, namely restoring 55,000 ha of degraded habitat in the perimeter of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that action plans for sustainable management of the property and the restoration of degraded soils have not yet been submitted, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **33 COM 7A.10**.

f) Petroleum and Mining Operations

IUCN has received information concerning uranium mining and petroleum prospecting in and around the property. According to this information a petroleum prospecting block covering much of the Ténéré is currently licensed with the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are requesting the State Party to provide information in order to clarify the status of this concession, and any other mining or petroleum prospecting activity that may affect the property. They recall that several years ago the Committee adopted a clear position on issues of mining and petroleum prospecting and exploration in the inscribed properties, deeming them incompatible with World Heritage status. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that no petroleum or mining prospecting or exploitation should be permitted within the property.

g) Wildlife population and assessment mission for the property

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information that pressure from poaching by the local population and defense and security forces in and around the Reserve remains significant. The poaching concerns essentially Dorcas gazelles and Nubian bustards, but also Dama gazelles that are captured to be sold in urban centres or in neighboring countries. IUCN has also received information that the oryx and red-necked ostriches have totally disappeared from the ATNR, although a breeding programme for the ostrich has been initiated by the State Party. It was also informed that the addax has temporarily disappeared (however there remains a population of addax not far from ATNR, in the desert of Erg Tin Toumma and the Erg of Bilma, which could one day return to the property), and that the Dama gazelle and cheetah are either extinct or near extinction in the ATNR because of extensive poaching. The numbers of Dorcas gazelles and Nubian bustards are so drastically reduced that poachers are obliged to operate in more southern areas, in the zones of Gadafawa and Taguedoufat.

The State Party confirms that massive damage suffered by the property during the 2006-2009 period of insecurity definitely had an impact. It proposes to conduct an assessment mission to the property, if security allows, to identify and assess the damage to habitats and species, and which also responds to the Committee's request in its Decisions **33 COM 7A.10** and **34 COM 7A.10**. In February 2011, the State Party resubmitted a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support this project. This application is being reviewed by IUCN with the support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN's comments will be forwarded to the State Party in order to facilitate this request.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the State Party's efforts to implement corrective measures identified by the IUCN monitoring mission in 2005, through the COGERAT project. Yet they continue to receive alarming reports on poaching activity and degradation of the biodiversity which were a major justification for the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. Loss of biodiversity will also cause the loss of outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge that given the

substantial size of the property of 7.7 million ha, it will take some time before the positive impact of these remedial measures will revive the property's outstanding universal value.

In the absence of data on the current state of the OUV of the property, and taking into account reports on the critical state of wildlife and poaching in the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the property must be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that amongst the corrective measures, addressing the threats of poaching and the illegal use of other resources remains the priority, by deploying guard patrols composed of rangers and community surveillance units, and allocating these surveillance activities an adequate yearly budget. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are aware that the implementation of these urgent actions continues to be hampered by the prevailing insecurity in the ATNR and its surroundings.

Finally, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that an inventory of the property is essential to determine the current state of its OUV, and to define the desired state of conservation in view of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as the timetable required to achieve this. They welcome the proposal of a mission, if the security situation allows, but reiterate that an inventory should be carried out before the mission.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Expresses its grave concern over the incessant degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property on the basis of reports received indicating that several species of antelope and other large wildlife have disappeared from the property, or are about to disappear, due to extensive poaching within and around the property;*

4. *Notes with concern the lack of progress in implementing corrective measures, mainly because of continuing insecurity;*

5. *Urges the State Party to pursue and intensity its efforts to fully implement all corrective measures, and in particular the fight against poaching, and other recommendations proposed by the 2005 monitoring mission, and invites the international community to increase its support to the property;*

6. *Expresses its concern about reports regarding the existence of a petroleum concession in the Ténéré, and requests the State Party to clarify the status and location of this concession, and any other mining or petroleum prospecting activities that may affect the property, and to submit studies on their potential environmental impacts;*

7. *Recalls that several years ago the Committee adopted a clear position on issues of mining and petroleum prospecting and exploitation in the inscribed properties, deeming them incompatible with World Heritage status;*

8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to conduct by the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in June-July 2013, and in cooperation with the IUCN Species*

Survival Commission, an inventory of the remaining large wildlife, in order to assess the status of the outstanding universal value of the property and develop rehabilitation and re-establishment programmes of the wildlife populations. The State Party should invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property as soon as the inventory is available;

9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, particularly on the implementation of corrective measures and other recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, especially the inventory of the fauna within the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

10. ***Decides to retain the Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1981

Criteria
(x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Poaching;
b) Livestock grazing.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) 90% reduction in visible evidence of human activity within the Park;
b) Extension of the area in which evidence of large ungulates are found, from the present 34% to 85% of the total area of the Park;
c) Increase in counts of all species of larger ungulate for three consecutive years;
d) Reduction in animal flight distances along selected road sections within the Park.

Corrective measures identified
The corrective measures were adopted by the Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010).
See Decision **34 COM 7A.11**, http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2010/whc10-34com-20e.pdf

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
See Decision **34 COM 7A.11** (Brasilia, 2010), http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2010/whc10-34com-20e.pdf

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.11; 33 COM 7A.11; 34 COM 7A.11

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
2001: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission; January 2007: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission; May 2010: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports
a) Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife;
b) Drying up of ponds, and invasive species;
c) Illegal logging;
d) Livestock grazing;
e) Road construction project;
f) Potential dam construction;
g) Potential mining exploration and exploitation.

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153

Current conservation issues

On January 31, 2011, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of Niokolo-Koba National Park (NKNP). The report highlights some recent progress made in implementing the revised corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), and conveyed the decision of the State Party of Senegal to embark upon the Emergency Plan for the Rehabilitation of the NKNP (2011-2012) with funding of 3 billion CFA francs (4,573,470 Euros), to address urgent threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the NKNP. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that three of the seven corrective measures adopted by the Committee are to be implemented before July 2011, two others must be addressed before July 2012 and the remaining two are to be completed before July 2013. Regarding the three corrective measures that were to be accomplished before the 35th session of the Committee, the report provides the following information:

a) *Strengthen and implement the anti-poaching mechanism, based on combined aerial and land means*

The State Party notes that the surveillance squads have been strengthened and that the anti-poaching strategy has been modified. Three mobile teams of eight officers are now deployed in high-pressure areas, each operating for ten days a month. Thus, a system for control of land-based poaching is currently operational. The State Party notes that this system, which began in December 2010, is made possible through IUCN support for a period of six months.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the progress made by the State Party to strengthen the anti-poaching mechanism of the NKNP. They believe that poaching remains one of the biggest threats to the property and it is crucial that the temporary mobile squads are maintained in the long-term and combined with aerial anti-poaching means.

b) Increase NKNP personnel and provide, as soon as possible, training for them focused on the protection of the NKNP, its integrated management, security regulations, and provide them with equipment essential to their mission

The report of the State Party notes that as regards increasing the staff, 35 new agents to heighten surveillance at the NKNP were recruited in December 2010. A training plan was developed to improve the ability of these agents, especially in the field of anti-poaching, wildlife management and participatory approach methods at the periphery of the park. This training is scheduled for March 2011. In addition, the State Party notes that the Emergency Rehabilitation Plan for the NKNP (2011-2012) will spend one billion CFA francs (1,524,490 Euros) to improve surveillance and development of the Park. The emergency plan foresees the development of the network of trails, and the rehabilitation, construction and equipping of guard posts, strengthening the surveillance means of the Park, and the improvement of working conditions for the agents. An IUCN mission that should lead to the development of a new management plan for the NKNP is being prepared for March 2011. This mission will also

aim to provide information and training of personnel to manage the park for the establishment of a management plan tailored to the current situation.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the progress made by the State Party to increase the NKNP staff, and welcome its decision to make available to the Directorate of National Parks 3 billion CFA francs (4,573,470 Euros) for the implementation of an Emergency Rehabilitation Plan for the NKNP, to address urgent threats to the property.

c) Propose and implement real alternatives to the drilling of boreholes outside the Park to reduce the straying of livestock, in the overall context of seasonal migration in Senegal

The report of the State Party notes that the support of IUCN enabled the NKNP to hold regional forums in January 2011, in the three administrative regions of Kedougou, Kolda and Tambacounda. These forums provided the opportunity to meet local elected officials, administrative authorities, village chiefs, representatives of farmers and ranchers, and to discuss with NKNP managers issues relating to poaching, agricultural encroachment into NKNP, but also the crucial question of the straying livestock and seasonal migration. In addition, the African Union, through the IUCN, funded a project entitled "Livestock farming *as a means of subsistence": Strengthening the strategies for adaptation to climate change through improved management of the livestock-wildlife-environment interface"* of which the NKNP is one of the beneficiaries, together with the Badiar National Park in Guinea, for a three-year pilot phase that will begin this year. The State Party notes that the implementation of the project will involve all stakeholders, in particular the Directorates of the National Parks of Niokolo-Koba (Senegal) and Badiar (Guinea), as well as the veterinary services of Tambacounda and Badiar (Koundara).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the progress in the implementation of this corrective measure, although they also note that there is still no real alternative to the drilling of wells in the periphery of the property - wells that could concentrate the livestock around the Park and would lead to strong pressure on the pastures and Park.

d) Status of wildlife populations

In March 2011, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received a report prepared by the Chief of the site, presenting an account of an aerial surveillance mission which occurred from 4 to 8 March 2011, to make a rapid estimate of the overall condition of the Park, the magnitude of the main pressures and the condition of the wildlife. For a total of 10 flying hours, 1300 km of transects were covered. The report finds that most of the known pressures on the ecosystem, such as the cutting of palmyra palms, straying livestock, circulation of trucks and bikes inside the Park, or the camping of poachers, seem to be in strong regression. This is considered to be the result of the strengthening of patrol operations, but nevertheless also because of the rapid decline of the natural resources which are exploited. Although the aerial survey was not a formal inventory, the methodology used was similar to that used for previous counts, and this survey has thus helped to make comparisons with previous results from 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2006. These comparisons show an alarming decline in the density of wildlife.

Some species appear to be in acute danger of extinction, if not already extinct, in particular, reedbuck, hartebeest, buffalo, Defassa waterbuck, and Buffon's cob. The report estimates that even if these species are present in certain parts of the property, the range of their distribution has decreased dramatically and only a few dozens or so of individuals remain, compared to hundreds or thousands a decade ago. The report notes that this situation is confirmed by the data of pedestrian ecological monitoring carried out since December. The report concludes that the Park has gradually been emptied of its big game, precipitating an imbalance of the ecosystem which cannot be corrected on its own.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are extremely concerned about these findings and reiterate the Committee's request to urgently undertake a complete inventory of wildlife in order to ascertain the status of OUV of the property. They recall that the Committee had requested the State Party to invite a monitoring mission as soon as the census of key species of fauna of the property is available. They note that the State Party had submitted a first proposal for a wildlife inventory of the property in 2009, but that it had raised issues of methodology to enable comparisons with previous inventories.

e) Other conservation problems - basalt quarry and dam at Sambanglou

The report of the survey indicates the presence of a basalt quarry inside the NKNP. The quarry comprises two major mining sites, with the presence of different machines and a wide access road. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that this operation is not compatible with the World Heritage status of the property and consider that it should be closed as soon as possible, and that the site should be rehabilitated.

The report of the State Party does not give information about the dam project at Sambanglou and its impact on the property, as requested by the Committee at its 34th session. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are still very concerned about this project, and recall the Committee's request to present a specific study of the impacts of this dam on the OUV of the property, notably on the possible reduction of the areas of gallery-forests and palmyra palm forests, the river-crossings of the big wildlife and on the water supply to flood basins and ponds in the property before making a decision on its construction, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* (Decision **34 COM 7A.11**). They note that any study should consider other alternatives to this dam.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee expresses its deep concern about the aerial survey report showing a significant decline in biodiversity and thus suggesting that the OUV of the property is being seriously degraded. They note that the deteriorating state of conservation can only be reversed by the urgent implementation of a Plan of Action, with support from neighbouring communities and the international community.

They welcome the decision of the State Party to initiate a three-year Emergency Plan with funding of 3 billion CFA Francs (4,573,470 Euros), to address urgent threats. They note the progress made by the State Party in implementing corrective measures, and in particular the strengthening of the anti-poaching mechanism and NKNP staff, stressing that it will be necessary to continue, and reinforce, these efforts in order to control poaching, illegal grazing, illegal forest exploitation and agricultural encroachment on the entire property, and to reverse the current trends of degradation. Based on this, and taking into account the ongoing deterioration of the state of conservation, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the NKNP is retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,

*2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Expresses its deep concern over the results of the aerial surveillance mission in March 2011, which showed a significant decline in biodiversity and a significant degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*

4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake, as soon as possible, a census of key species of fauna of the property with the technical support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission to assess the state of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; this census could provide the basis for a recovery plan of the animal populations and the establishment of an ecological monitoring mechanism, and invites the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance for financial support;*

5. *Urges the State Party to intensify its efforts to urgently implement the revised corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session, as well as the other recommendations of the 2007 and 2010 World Heritage Centre / IUCN joint missions to halt the decline in biodiversity and prevent loss of Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*

6. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts undertaken with the support of IUCN, to strengthen the anti-poaching mechanism and increase the number of personnel at the property, as well as the State Party's decision to initiate a three-year Emergency Plan with funding of 3 billion CFA francs (4,573,470 Euros), to implement the corrective measures;*

7. *Also reiterates its call upon the international community to provide support for the urgent implementation of the corrective measures;*

8. *Notes with concern that the aerial survey report reveals the presence of a large basalt quarry inside the property and also urges the State Party to take the necessary steps to close the quarry and rehabilitate the site;*

9. *Reiterates its concern over the proposed dam at Sambangalou and its request to present a specific study of the impacts of this dam on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including the possible reduction in gallery-forest areas and palmyra palm forests, on the large wildlife river-crossings and on the water supply to flood basins and ponds in the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the* Operational Guidelines*;*

10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed report on the state of conservation and the progress made in implementing the corrective measures and the Emergency Plan for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

11. ***Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of additional information from the State Party)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

15. 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 - Present

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; 34COM 7A.13

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) Oil concessions within the marine area;
d) Introduced species.

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2011, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. The report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009).

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

These corrective measure have not yet been fully implemented. The State Party notes the development of a number of legal, regulatory and institutional instruments to deal with development issues in Belize, and that it is in the process of refining the existing development guidelines, which will guard against ecologically harmful activities. These instruments include: i) an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, a first draft of which is to be completed by August 2012; ii) the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan (NPAPSP), which addresses development and sustainable use of resources within existing protected areas, including the property; iii) a framework "National Land Use Policy" (to be completed later in 2011), which is expected to integrate land use planning into development planning; iv) a policy on the development of shoals, which includes a ban on the issuance of titles or leases for shoals and prohibits development in areas found to be ecologically important; and v) the recent amendment to the Environmental Protection Act, which makes it a strict liability for irreversible damage caused to the property and other significant coral formations due to negligence or irresponsibility.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome this systematic approach to land use planning in Belize, but consider that insufficient information was provided to demonstrate if these instruments address specifically the conservation of the property's Oustanding Universal Value (OUV) as requested by the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore these instruments can only be helpful if effectively implemented and there is no indication on the financial and human resources that will be dedicated to the implementation and enforcement of these proposed instruments. They further note that no clear statement is made as to their relevance regarding dredging or real estate development in the property.

The State Party reports that the moratorium on mangrove cutting remains in effect within the property, and that the proposed mangrove regulations are in the final stages of legal review. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have learned that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a private resort, Yum Balasi, in the South Water Caye Marine Reserve is currently under review by the Belize Department of the Environment. The World Heritage Centre notes that it recently received reports that this development was not approved in a meeting held on 23 February 2011. IUCN also notes that it has received reports that dredging permits for this resort may have been issued in 2010. The State Party should be requested to clarify the status of the Yum Balisi resort, and to halt any development until its Environmental Impact Assessment has been reviewed and considered by the World Heritage Committee.

c) Develop and implement a restoration policy for lands degraded by unauthorized activities

This corrective measure has not yet been implemented. The State Party reports that the Coastal Zone Planning Process is expected to include a systematic assessment of degraded coastal areas, including the property, which precedes the development of a strategy for the restoration of degraded areas, and further notes that "a restoration programme may be considered based on the strategy".

d) Establish a clear institutional coordination mechanism ensuring that the conservation of the property receives priority consideration within relevant governmental decision-making processes

These corrective measures have not yet been fully implemented. The State Party reports that the National Focal Point for Belize's World Heritage Site established a National World Heritage Site Committee (NWHSC) in mid 2010 to act as its advisory body. The State Party notes that the NWHSC has been formally incorporated in the Natural Science Technical Committee (NSTC) of Belize National Commission for UNESCO, to ensure efficient communication and information exchange. Though a positive development, IUCN has received reports that some of the property's co-management NGOs have not yet been invited to join this committee, and that some members of the NSTC have also not been informed of the formal status of the NWHSC. The absence of key partners in the management of the property on the NWHSC is a concern, as is the apparent absence of an official communication to pertinent government bodies on its creation, which puts into question its effectiveness and functioning.

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

This corrective measure has not yet been fully implemented. The State Party reports that co-management agreements are expected to be legally recognized by 2013, upon completion of the NPAPSP. The State Party notes that, in the meantime, it will sign formal co-management agreements with its non-state partners.

f) Systematically consider and address the threat of introduced species within the management plans for the property

This corrective measure is being implemented. The State Party reports that the management plans for the sites that make up the property recognize the threat of introduced and invasive species and that some actions have been identified and implemented, although the efficient implementation of these actions is impeeded by a lack of funding. The State Party also reports that a National Coral Reef Monitoring Nerwork (NCRMN) has been established.

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

This corrective measure is being implemented. The State Party reports that the Protected Area Land Tenure assessment has been concluded for the entire protected area system, including the land areas that comprise the property. The State Party provided a subset of the land tenure information, and has previously indicated that the complete information was readily available to any interested person, though the report does not clearly describe exactly how this is done.

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

This corrective measure is currently being implemented. The State Party reports that since 2009 it has doubled its no-take zone coverage from 1% to 2% of its territorial waters. The

largest no-take zone covers 8,935 ha of South Water Caye Marine Reserve. The State Party also considers that the current status of marine resources, especially conch and lobster populations (which the State Party reports to have been stable over the past 15 years), does not indicate the need for a significant increase in the no-take zones. Though the State Party also notes efforts to establish coral nurseries, and the imposition of a ban on shrimp trawling, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned over an apparent focus on conch and lobster, with little evidence that fin fish, which are an important attribute of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, are systematically addressed in the identification and design of no-take zones.

i) Other conservation issues – oil concessions

The State Party reports that the Overseas Petroleum Investment Corporation (OPIC) has relinquished the area it held under concession, which corresponds to 25% of Belize's offshore area. The State Party notes that it has made the decision not to re-issue any of the concession for this area at this time, and that it is considering the issue of oil exploration on a national scale, in light of national development needs and sustainable development commitments. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that this area represents only a small part of the property, and that a definite exclusion policy for the property has not yet been implemented.

j) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The State Party submitted an incomplete draft of a statement of Outstanding Universal Value in August 2010. The World Heritage Centre has informed it of the need to provide a complete version though no response has yet been received. No progress is reported in the development of a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It could be re-issued in the future. They recommend that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for offshore oil exploration and extraction, recalling the World Heritage Committee's clear position that oil and gas exploration and extraction are incompatible with World Heritage status, and that any such activities in the vicinity of World Heritage properties should not have negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party has embarked on several processes to address the corrective measures and that their full impact on the conservation of the property will only be confirmed once these processes are finalized and fully implemented. The main on-going concern is how development will be controlled within the property, including both considerations for real estate and hydrocarbon development – issues that have been clearly identified by the World Heritage Committee in previous Decisions. In this regard, the various planning processes underway should clearly reflect this concern. Furthermore, the multi-stakeholder management nature of the property calls for full co-manager participation in overall property decision-making processes. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that as many of the corrective measures have yet to be implemented and/or finalized; it is premature at this time to consider removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

***Draft Decision*: 35 COM 7A.15**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Welcomes the State Party's efforts at establishing a systematic set of instruments designed to provide an integrated legal, regulatory and planning framework over which to address conservation concerns, and urges it to complete this process as soon as possible;*

4. *Acknowledges the State Party's decision not to immediately re-issue any of the oil concession area relinquished by the Overseas Petroleum Investment Corporation (OPIC), reiterates its position that oil exploration and extraction are incompatible with World Heritage status, and also urges the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to eliminate the oil concessions granted within the boundaries of the property, which could seriously and irreversibly affect its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity if activated;*

5. *Takes note of the State Party's efforts to increase its national marine no-take zone coverage, and further urges the State Party to assess the suitability of the property's no-take zone coverage to provide effective protection and replenishment areas for fin fish species;*

6. *Requests the State Party to clarify the status of the Yum Balisi resort, and to halt any development until its Environmental Impact Assessment has been reviewed and considered by the World Heritage Committee;*

7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property and the 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 36th session in 2012;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including on progress made in implementing the corrective measures and on eliminating oil concessions within the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

9. ***Decides to retain the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party ; Late mission)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

17. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

18. 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 desired state of conservation was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008). See Decision **32 COM 7A.14**, http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1586/

Corrective measures identified
The following corrective measures were 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
See Decision **32 COM 7A.14**, http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1586/

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.14; 33 COM 7A.14; 34 COM 7A.16

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 2 February 2011, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, providing responses to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010).

a) Measures to halt sea-wave action

The State Party reports that a sea wall, built of coral blocks embedded in traditional mortar, at a depth of 1.5 meters and a length of 150 meters has been constructed in front of the Malindi sea front which is considered to be effective. There are plans to construct a second wall at the southwest corner of Makutani Palace in the near future.

b) Survey and demarcation of the boundaries of the property including extension

The State Party reports that consultations are underway with the Survey and Mapping Unit of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism for demarcating the boundaries and buffer zone and mapping them. The work will be carried out in April 2011. The defined boundaries will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2011 and the proposed buffer zone will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee in time for its 36th session in 2012. There is no mention, however, about the possibility of an extension of the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session.

c) Management and conservation plans

The report indicates that a three year strategic plan has been developed based on the corrective measures suggested by ICOMOS experts. The State Party also reports that they have prepared, in collaboration with a number of partners, a proposal for an overall conservation project for the property and for a comprehensive management plan for Songo Mnara. The State Party further reports that a workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 – 28 January 2011, entitled “Planning Meeting to Develop a Comprehensive Management Plan for Songo Mnara, Tanzania; Conservation, Archaeology, tourism and Community Involvement”. The State Party will submit the results of this meeting to the World Heritage Centre.

d) On-site management staff

The State Party reports that they are continuing to try to improve on-site management and recruit more staff. In particular, they report that two Japanese volunteers with backgrounds in architecture and museums will be assigned to the property as of August 2011.

e) Vegetation growth within and around monuments

The State Party reports that vegetation has been removed at Malindi, Gereza, and the Makutani Palace. Work will continue on the Makutani area, the Sultan’s tombs, and the Forty Sheikhs monuments, with work foreseen for completion by July of 2011. However, the report

acknowledges that there is a need to carry out more careful conservation studies of some monuments before removing vegetation that is embedded within their walls, in order to avoid damage to the structures. The State Party further reports that a group of village youths is being engaged in part of the vegetation control process. They also report plans to carry out an inventory of trees at the property.

f) Conservation of architectural structures

The State Party reports conservation work being carried out on a number of monuments within the property. These include the Malindi Mosque and Cemetery, and the Gereza Fort. Emergency conservation works were also carried out at the Makutani Palace. Works include cleaning of the site and removal of rubble and vegetation, repair or replacement of decaying mangrove and of lime mortar where necessary, and repair of cracks. Additional work still needs to be carried out including the replacement of some doors, and the placement of stones at the base of the monuments to help protect them from sea erosion. Work has been carried out with assistance from the World Monuments Fund and the United Nations Joint Programme.

g) Cattle grazing

The State Party reports that efforts have been made to limit or stop cattle grazing at both Songo Mnara and Kilwa Kisiwani. In regard to the former, the site manager has worked with the village administration and the Ruins Committee to ensure that grazing has stopped. In regard to the latter, the site manager has worked with the Kilwa Masoko township authority to declare all grazing illegal in unauthorized areas. Meetings have also been held with cattle owners.

h) Timeframe for carrying out corrective measures

The State Party reports progress on many of the corrective measures, but states that the success of the corrective measures will depend on the availability of funding. For this reason, the State Party states that it proposes to request funding from UNESCO and other sources. As a result, the State Party would like to request a reconsideration of the timetable for carrying out the corrective measures to ensure that it takes into account the availability of funding.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the progress made by the State Party on a number of the corrective measures. In particular, the construction of the sea wall, the removal of vegetation, the efforts to control grazing, and the conservation work carried out at some of the important monuments. They note, however, that a great deal of work still needs to be carried out both in the area of limiting sea erosion and on the conservation of structures at the property. In addition, they emphasize the need for a monitoring regime to be put in place both to monitor the ongoing effects of sea erosion, the state of conservation of the monuments, and vegetation growth, which should lead to a maintenance strategy to deal with these problems in the long term.

Further, there is a need for the boundaries and buffer zones to be defined. The work on the boundaries and buffer zone was already scheduled to be completed according to the corrective measures, but as the State Party points out, some of these measures are being carried out at a slower pace than anticipated. In regard to planning mechanisms, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the progress made by the State Party but would request more information on the proposed conservation plan and the comprehensive management plan for Songo Mnara and how this will be linked to the plan for the main island. They further note the desire of the State Party to re-examine the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and would be happy to support a proposal to work with the State Party as necessary to redefine this timeframe. Further, they would

suggest that the State Party makes a request for International Assistance, if necessary, for the implementation of some of the corrective measures as mentioned by the State Party.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in the areas of limiting sea erosion, the removal of vegetation, the control of grazing, and the conservation work carried out at some of the important monuments;*

4. *Requests the State Party to complete the work on the definition of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, as per the corrective measures adopted for the property;*

5. *Also requests further information on the proposals for an overall conservation project for the property and the comprehensive management plan for Songo Mnara and how this plan will be linked to the one for the main island;*

6. *Further requests the State Party to review and revise the timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

7. *Invites the State Party to consider requesting International Assistance for the implementation of some of the corrective measures;*

8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, 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 36th session in 2012;*

9. ***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

19. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report by the State Party not received)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission – it has not yet taken place)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission – It has not yet taken place)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission – it has not yet taken place; Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1993

Criteria
(ii) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2000 to present

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

a) Serious deterioration of the built heritage (a high percentage of the residential houses being replaced by concrete and multi-storey buildings);

b) The remaining houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
c) Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
d) The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
e) The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
The Desired state of conservation is proposed in the draft decision below.

Corrective measures identified
In its Decision **31 COM 7A.19** (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee defined the measures to be taken urgently to reverse the decline (http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282).

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
As set out in Decision **31 COM 7A.19**: "adequate legal and institutional framework set up in one year (2008); the physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years (2009)". A revised timeframe is proposed in the draft decision below.

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.19 ; 33 COM 7A.19 ; 34 COM 7A.21

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

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

Previous monitoring missions
2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

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

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a progress report on 20 February 2011. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission visited the property from 18-24 January 2011. Its report is available online at the following web address: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/35COM. The mission verified that the situation in Zabid has progressed positively in the following areas, which the State Party report also mentions:

a) Institutional and Legal Framework

i) Political support and commitment

Overall the State Party maintains that progress continues to be made, thanks to the efforts of the SFD/GIZ (Social Fund for Development/German International Cooperation) project, improved stakeholder coordination, public sector efforts lead by GOPHCY (General Organisation for the Preservation of Historic Cities) in Zabid, and the SFD's continuous investment in civic projects. A high profile Inter-Ministerial Commission has now been

established, while another Commission is also proposed, with its members to be appointed from citizen interest groups (arising from the Conservation Plan hearing process).

ii) Finalizing and implementing the Conservation Plan

The Zabid Conservation Plan for the property (part of the overall Zabid Development Plan), was formally adopted in December 2010. A number of seminars have been organised with selected groups from the city in order to get their support and raise awareness of the importance of the plan for the future development of the city.

The new Conservation Law, which is to provide the needed framework for the overall restoration and building control programmes, is scheduled to be presented to Parliament after the April 2011 elections. This should help to stop violations which the Mission noted were still happening – such as building on public open spaces.

b) Drafting and approving a Management Plan

The Mission reports that the GOPHCY Zabid branch has established a "first rate" management system with well-trained staff, regular monitoring protocols and a process for issuing building permits. The enforcement of building control has been an on-going problem, but improvements have been made in the past year, and the new Conservation Law is expected to further ameliorate the situation. The Management Plan is currently under preparation, and is expected to be completed by September 2011.

c) Conservation projects

Field work has progressed, and some 250 houses (160 according to the Mission) have been variously repaired and/or restored, as well as several mosques and public buildings. There is a noticeable stopping of concrete based constructions. The GOPHCY 'impoverished' home restoration projects has been launched, with six historical buildings restored and six planned for implementation this year. Training and capacity building have been integrated in the conservation projects, resulting in an increased qualification and employment of local personnel.

A street-paving project has been launched and four new paving segments are scheduled by 2012 (covering an area of 42,600 square meters). This includes renewing the infrastructures, repairing the adjacent walls and stabilising infringement into open public spaces. The Mission noted the need to consider alternative street paving materials that are locally procured which would support local industry and avoid the current costly import of stone. It also noted that as a part of the paving project, it is still necessary to research the potential effects of traffic vibrations, street cleaning and rain impact on the historic wall surfaces, as well as the potential to recycle water from roadways.

The souq rehabilitation and revitalisation project has included 50 shops, and the proposed rehabilitation of another 10 shops and two mosques under the Ministry of "Awqaf". A contract has been let for the replacement of 110 cement concrete walls with traditional brick material in the historic town. Capacity has been strengthened in restoration techniques and traditional crafts, including a national level training programme sponsored by the World Heritage Centre thanks to the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust and organized by CATS/GOPHCY (Centre for Architectural Training and Studies) in Sana'a in July 2010.

At the same time both the State Party and the Mission acknowledge issues that remain to be addressed if the overall decline is to be completely reversed. These include matters such as the defining of clear regulations for what is permitted and what constitutes a violation, providing adequate resources to allow the Heritage Protection Bill to be finalized, as well as defining a clearly budgeted strategy, and setting out rules for house owners and inhabitants. The Mission also identified the following needs:

- Develop a viable Business Plan with the business community.
- Launch Management Plan initiatives, including a Risk Plan;

- Further develop guidelines, codes of practice and sample of design and construction standards for architectural treatments and energy efficient living conditions;
- Undertake a 'local views study' to influence new development.

The Mission further recommends technical assistance for research into building materials, conservation methods and modern engineering needs. This research would include assessment of the feasibility and logistics of using traditional brick (not cement products) in construction. GIZ has commenced experimentation with the introduction of kilns to promote the use of brick as a preferred alternative to the now popular use of concrete block construction.

Finally, the Mission re-considered the time frame for the implementation of the corrective measures in association with the State Party and defined a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the mission was able to report positive outcomes in implementing some of the corrective measures to halt what seemed like irreversible decline at the time the property was placed on the Danger List. The majority of recommended actions proposed following the 2007 mission are being implemented, at varying rates, relating to their priority and in response to local circumstances. Only one identified action of 'High Priority' has not started – the production of guidance texts and drawings for new buildings within the core of the historic city, while some proposed activities of 'Moderate Priority' are yet to commence.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the degree of political commitment is now impressive and this allied to support from GIZ is leading to the emergence of dynamic programmes that are progressively becoming sustainable.

Two of the urgent and sensitive issues still to be addressed are finding credible solutions to the problems of recent violations, and creating a fund for financial compensation to correct past irregularities, such as removing unauthorised structures built in the past. These solutions will need to be supported by all the key stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Recognizes the continued progress that has been made in generating support for the conservation of the property in particular from the German International Cooperation (GIZ), and the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and encourages the State Party to continue to give the optimum support to the regeneration and conservation of Zabid;*

4. *Notes the progress with finalizing and implementing the Conservation Plan and the development of a Management Plan as well as the progress with conservation work and street paving;*

5. *Requests the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the 2011 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission;*

6. *Adopts the following Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger:*

   a) *Finalisation of the Management Plan and 2 years effective implementation,*

   b) *2 years effective implementation of the Conservation Plan, encompassing the legal rules and technical regulations for the preservation of the cultural heritage and landscape of the property and its setting,*

   c) *Adoption of the new Conservation Law,*

   d) *Adoption of regulations for new construction and infrastructure within the property and its buffer zone,*

   e) *Improvement in brick manufacturing technology through a programme of consultation, research and experimentation,*

   f) *The state of conservation of traditional buildings and their architectural features is stabilised and necessary maintenance is being implemented,*

   g) *Effective regulations, accepted by the community, are put in place to halt violations,*

   h) *Protection and enhancement of public spaces and of green private and public areas,*

   i) *Professional staff and contractors have adequate capacities to carry out their work,*

   j) *Risk management strategy in place;*

7. *Approves the extension timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures as set out in the mission report until July 2014;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2012**, a progress report on the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

9. ***Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late advisory mission)

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1981

Criteria
(i) (ii) (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2000 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Damage to the external walls and demolition of hydraulic works of Shalamar Gardens;
b) Serious state of degradation of the historic monuments and garden complex within the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens approved and implemented;
b) Foundations of the water tanks of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens protected and consolidated as archaeological relics;
c) External walls of Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort preserved and protected;
d) Boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens redefined and extended;
e) Encroachments and urban pressure adequately controlled;
f) Safeguarding programme with corresponding timeframe and financial resources elaborated.

Corrective measures identified
a) Implementation of Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;

b) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks and preservation of the remaining third tank of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, as well as overall preservation of the hydraulic works as archaeological relics;
c) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
d) Redefinition of boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens and submission of proposal for extension to the World Heritage Committee, taking into account the recommendations to include the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and Tomb of Ranjit Sing, proposed following the 2003 and 2005 missions;
e) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressures, including removal of parking for busses in the immediate vicinity of Lahore Fort;
f) Prioritisation for allocation and use of available resources according to the management objectives determined in the Master Plans.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
A definite timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures was not agreed with the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.23 ; 33 COM 7A.23; 34 COM 7A.25

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for Emergency Assistance; USD 69,729 for Technical cooperation; USD 18,000 for Training Assistance

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000, Norwegian Funds in Trust, Japanese Funds-in-Trust, Getty Foundation, United States Embassy in Pakistan

Previous monitoring missions
October 2000: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; April 2001 and June 2003: UNESCO experts advisory missions; November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; February 2009: UNESCO Tehran Office/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Main threats identified in previous reports
a) Demolition of two of the tanks and partial demolition of a third tank of the hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens;
b) Encroachments and urban pressure;
c) Inadequate management mechanisms (including incomplete legislation, lack of financial resources);
d) Lack of definition of boundaries of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens.

Ilustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2011, a report on the state of conservation of the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) was submitted by the State Party. The report gives an overview of the state of conservation of the property, and information on the implementation of the corrective measures identified by the World Heritage Committee.

The report also addresses issues raised by the World Heritage Committee during its 34th session including ensuring “effective control of encroachments around the Shalamar Gardens”, developing a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for submission to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2011, and redefining the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and considering the extension of the property to include the Royal Mosque (Badshahi Masjid) and the Tomb of Ranjit Sing.

Concerning the overall state of conservation of the property, the report describes a series of key conservation works being undertaken in the framework of a “Five Year Program for Preservation and Restoration of Lahore Fort” and a “Five Year Program for Preservation and Restoration of Shalamar Gardens”. 19 projects being undertaken in the current year are described, involving a State expenditure of 70 million rupees (around USD 824.500).

Among the corrective measures mentioned above, a), b) & c) have been achieved. Progress with regard to corrective measures d) (boundary definition) and e) (urban encroachments), as well as the requests made by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **34 COM 7A.25** (Brasilia, 2010) are reported on below.

a) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

As part of the Periodic Reporting process, the Sate Party submitted a draft SOUV on 1 February 2011. It has been forwarded to ICOMOS for review for eventual submission to the World Heritage Committee for approval in 2012

b) Boundaries and buffer zone

The State Party has defined the property's boundaries and buffer zone, and these have been notified by the Government of Punjab, although not yet been formally submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. With regard to the possible inclusion of the Badshahi Mosque and the Tomb of Ranjit Sing, the State Party is of the view that they could be nominated separately in the future.

c) Appropriate solutions to urban pressures and encroachments

The State Party reports having made substantial progress on this issue by working together with all relevant stakeholders, as well as through the application of relevant legislation. Activities mentioned in the State Party report (provision of alternative parking, improved property access, compensation mechanisms for displaced house-holders, prohibition on new construction, etc.) could lead to a sustainable solution to reduce the urban pressures and encroachments.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the State Party has taken positive steps to comply with the corrective measures mentioned above, thus moving towards fulfilling the requirements under the Desired State of Conservation. A mission to the property would allow ascertaining if all conditions have been met for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

They would however urge the State Party to formally submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for defining the boundaries of the property and the proposal for the establishment of a buffer zone, for the approval of the World Heritage Committee. In regard to the possible extension to include the Badshahi Mosque and Tomb of Ranjit Sing, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies concur that these sites may be considered as possible separate future nominations.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

10. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,

*11. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

12. Recognizes the efforts made by the State Party to ensure the safeguarding of the property and encourages it to continue such efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

13. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a map showing the boundaries of the property at the time of inscription, meeting all technical requirements established by the World Heritage Committee, and also encourages the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2012**, a formal request for the establishment of a buffer zone;*

14. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property with a view to examining the feasibility of removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

15. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

16. ***Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Late mission)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

29. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

See Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add (Late receipt of complementary technical information)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1994

Criteria
(iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2009 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Lack of a management mechanism;
b) Privatisation of surrounding land;
c) Loss of authenticity of some components due to restoration works conducted with unacceptable methods

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
See Decision **34 COM 7A.27** (http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/decisions)

Corrective measures identified
See Decision **34 COM 7A.27** (http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/decisions)

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
See Decision **34 COM 7A.27** (http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/decisions)

Previous Committee Decisions
33 COM 7B.102; 33 COM 8C.1; 34 COM 7A.27

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 97,660 for the preparation of a heritage and tourism master plan

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
November 2003, June 2008 and March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
a) Lack of a management mechanism;
b) Lack of definition of property and buffer zones;
c) Privatisation of surrounding land;
d) Natural erosion of stone;
e) Loss of authenticity in recent works carried out by the Church;
f) Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities.

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2011 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report addressing the issues identified by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). While this report provides updated information on progress towards removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party notes slow progress.

a) Topographic and archaeological surface surveys

The State Party report does not note any progress in undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys.

b) Boundary issues

The State Party report notes that cartographic documentation using modern technologies to define the boundaries of the nominated property has been updated. Similar efforts for the buffer zone were less successful as conditions and land ownership have changed since inscription. On 4 March 2011, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the boundaries of all three components of the serial property (the Sveti Tskhoveli Church, the Samtavro Church and Monastery, and the Mtskhetis Jvari), have been recently clarified. Thus the first option proposed by the 2010 reactive monitoring mission, which does not involve a re-nomination, has been chosen by the authorities. However, the State Party notes that a possible modification of the boundary of the property might be proposed in the future, in order to include additional components of great archaeological importance. The State Party states that the clarified boundaries of the buffer zone will be submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

c) Training programme for the conservation and management of the site

The State Party reports that it is developing a long term training programme for conservation specialists and heritage managers with the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at Leuven (Belgium).

d) Monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation of the buildings and archaeological sites

The State Party reports that monitoring of cultural heritage sites in Georgia is carried out by means of annual visits to sites to determine priorities for prevention, conservation or rehabilitation and repair, and that no additional monitoring mechanism has been put in place for the property.

e) Long-term conservation and consolidation measures

The State Party indicates that its priorities for conservation are those of the joint reactive monitoring mission of March 2010, although these are not spelled out. The report further notes that priorities include the rehabilitation of the Jvari monastery, the conservation of wall paintings of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, and the rehabilitation of the Samtavro nunnery bell tower.

Specific details are provided for individual sites. At Jvari Monastery, urgent measures have been taken to assess the condition of the western part of the main church and discussions on the problems of stone conservation have been held with an ICCROM stone conservation expert, who has developed a project proposal for the conservation of Jvari bas-reliefs. The project proposal for the conservation of the Minor Jvari church will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre shortly along with a proposal for rehabilitation of visitor infrastructure.

Concerning the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, UNESCO supported financially a project to prepare a full set of up-to-date measured drawings. In 2010 a project was carried out to estimate the

annual fluctuation of the groundwater level in the area of the Cathedral. Plans for 2011 include the conservation of the wall paintings on the southern wall of the Cathedral, minor repair works for the roof and the replacement of gutters and drainpipes. The conservation of the wall paintings has been included in the 2011 priorities as well as in the Action Plan of the National agency.

In 2010, a project for the rehabilitation of the bell tower at the Samtavro nunnery was prepared and its implementation included in the 2011 Action Plan of the National Agency.

f) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

In 2010 the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation prepared a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta. This proposal needs to be redrafted by the State Party in response to comments by ICOMOS.

g) Management plan

The preparation of a management plan for the property is partially financially supported by the World Heritage Fund. The project, co-funded by the national authorities, will be implemented in 2011 as soon as the detailed updated action plan has been finalised. It is proposed that national and local authorities be assisted by an international expert team in designing a scheme for improved management of the property.

h) Institutional framework

According to the Constitutional agreement between the State and the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia, all Georgian monuments connected to Orthodox Christianity (even in ruins) as well as their land and archaeological remains, which include the Svetotskhoveli Catherdal, Jvari church ensemble and Samtavro nunnery, are under the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church.

The State Party report mentions that consensus with the local authorities has not yet been achieved with regard to preventing inappropriate land use and land privatisation in the vicinity of the property. The means to achieve the desired consensus includes continued discussion, awareness-raising and exchange of information.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the State Party's efforts to implement the World Heritage Committee's decision of the 34th session and in particular the approved corrective measures. The authorities plan to improve in 2011 the coordination among the institutional stakeholders through the completion of the Management Plan, as well as to develop scientific research and study of individual monuments.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the information concerning clarification of the boundaries of the property and that the boundaries of the buffer zone will be submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012. They note that any extension of the property in order to include additional components situated in the City of Mtskheta, and perhaps in Great Mtskheta and its surroundings, would represent a significant modification and thus require a re-nomination. They suggest that the buffer zone should include the landscape surrounding all components; in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, or that alternative means of protection should be put in place for the wider setting beyond the buffer zone.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the lack of consensus around conservation priorities among the local and national authorities. They regret that the State Party did not provide the detailed information that had been requested regarding the development and implementation of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including its operating plans and conservation master plan. This Master Plan should address all aspects of infrastructure rehabilitation, zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, institutional reform and capacity

building, community relations, and tourism development. While the tram system mentioned in the report might be a positive development for the city, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that such a project cannot be considered outside the provisions of the Urban Master Plan. Moreover, impact assessment studies should be undertaken to address the effects of this project, such as the displacement of traffic to historic and residential areas.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7B.27** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions with regard to the corrective measures aimed at future removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

4. *Urges the State Party to submit clarified boundaries of the property and proposals for a buffer zone as a minor boundary modification, as well as to develop and implement the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta;*

5. *Also urges the State Party to adopt a legislation that ensures adequate protection of the property and of any defined buffer zone and wider setting so as to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value;*

6. *Encourages the State Party to continue developing strategies to enhance awareness of World Heritage among stakeholders and developers;*

7. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress in the implementation of the corrective measures;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed state of conservation report, including a progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

9. ***Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-11/35.COM/7A.Add* (Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
2005

Criteria
(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
a) Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings;
b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years;
c) Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials;
d) Damage caused by the wind.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
The State Party is preparing a desired state of conservation that will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.28; 33 COM 7A.28; 34 COM 7A.29

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
October 2004: ICOMOS evaluation mission; May 2007: World Heritage Centre site visit; April 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

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

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178

Current conservation issues

The State Party provided a report on the state of conservation of the property on 1 February 2011.

a) Necessary financial, technical and human resources for the implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme

The report indicates that the management of the property has been improved through the implementation of the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO) and its Innovation Committee (INNOVA) Project geared towards designing strategies for the property's future sustainability. The project, which is funded by the Chilean State (USD 493,461) and scheduled for March 2010 – April 2012, has strengthened the capacity of the technical team through the addition of 5 new professionals specialized in different fields. No information was provided on these professional specializations or if the recently added posts will be retained upon the project's conclusion in 2012.

Regarding the Priority Interventions Programme, the State Party reports that further progress was not possible due to the February 2010 earthquake, which resulted in the re-allocation of funds from the Programme. It indicates that the National Monuments Council received funds in December 2010 which will allow emergency works to be carried out on the former house of the Doctor in Chief of Humberstone. Additional private funding is hoped for which would allow the continuation of the Priority Intervention Programme. Consolidation works on the Humberstone Chimney have been concluded and photographs included in the submitted report. Attempts continue in identifying measures for dealing with the deterioration of materials and this information will contribute to the updating of the Priority Interventions Programme. Cooperation was also established with the *Deutsches Bergbau Museum* (German Mine Museum) in Germany which will conclude an analysis of materials sent to its laboratory. The results of this analysis will be available in the first half of 2011.

b) Revision of the Management Plan and conditions for its effective implementation

The report details that for the period August 2010 – March 2011, a professional from the National Monuments Council assisted the technical team of the Corporation in the reformulation of the property's Management Plan and then its implementation. The report informs that the new draft of the 2010 – 2015 Management Plan will be ready by June 2011.

c) Establishment of adequate regulatory measures in the buffer zone

The State Party has reported that it was not possible to continue the work with the Municipality of Pozo Almonte, regarding the regulation of the buffer zone within the Municipality's Zoning Plan, as it is limited to only regulating land of an urban nature. However protection of the buffer zone has been included under the National Monuments Act with technical consultations ongoing. No timeline has been provided for the completion of this process. The 1419 hectares which have been conceded by the State Party to the Saltpeter Museum Corporation are also part of the buffer zone; therefore its protection is now assured.

d) Strengthening the mitigation measures to avoid any potential impacts of the new trace for the bypass of Route A-16 on the Santa Laura area

The definitive design of the new route has been received and are presently being studied and the mitigation measures of the impacts being re-examined. These will be included in the development process of the detailed engineering project for the bypass of Route A-16.

e) Documentation for boundary modifications, including appropriate cartography, for approval by the World Heritage Committee

The proposal and cartography for the property's minor boundary modification have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review and will be

considered under the item corresponding to minor boundary modification (*WHC.11/35.COM.8D*).

f) Proposal for the Desired state of conservation

The State Party has indicated that the reflection process is ongoing in order to fully outline the Desired state of conservation. No indication is provided on when the process is expected to conclude.

g) Other conservation issues

The report details a public illumination project at Humberstone scheduled for the first part of 2011, which will rescue existing lamp posts, conserving them in their original condition. It is believed that this project will not only contribute to the property's conservation but also its surveillance. This project will be financed by the State Party.

The State Party has indicated that they have begun to draft an International Assistance Request for the hosting of an International Meeting in the first part of 2011 in coordination with the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage. This assistance request has not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party has also indicated that the various processes involved with the Management Plan, the development of the property's Desired state of conservation and the hosting of the International Congress 'Corrosion, Preservation and Degradation of Materials' held in September 2010, have enabled a clearer picture of challenges associated with the degradation of materials and how these challenges might be dealt with. A letter of recommendations from this International Congress was sent to the National Monuments Council in November 2010. No summary of results from this meeting was attached.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of significant progress made in identifying and obtaining a better understanding of the challenges facing the property. They note the significant progress made in the stabilization of key structures and continue to stress the importance of securing the required funds to complete the Programme and to fully implement the Management Plan which will be completed shortly. They however remain concerned regarding the lack of an established buffer zone and the pertinent regulatory measures that will ensure the protection of the integrity of the property.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Recognizes the continued efforts of the State Party in addressing critical conservation issues at the property and in responding to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee in spite of the challenging situation caused by the February 2010 earthquake;*

4. *Requests the State Party to:*

a) Secure the necessary financial resources to continue the implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme,

*b) Complete the reformulation of the Management Plan, and upon its finalization to submit by **1 November 2011**, three electronic copies to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review,*

c) Submit as soon as possible, the International Assistance request for the organization of the proposed International Meeting in coordination with the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre,

d) Finalize the technical consultation for the establishment of the buffer zone through its inclusion under the National Monuments Act and define the regulatory measures for its protection and management;

*5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the proposal for the Desired state of conservation, and an updated timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, by **1 November 2011,** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

*6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, 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 36th session in 2012.*

*7. **Decides to retain Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1986

Criteria
(i) (iii)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
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 that will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Corrective measures identified
a) Full and systematic implementation of the Master 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 Master 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 Master Plan in 2008;
b) Functioning institutional arrangements in 2008 (as per Master 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
32 COM 7A.29; 33 COM 7A.29; 34 COM 7A.30

International Assistance
Total amount provided to the property: USD 78,650 for training assistance and conservation actions.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
1997: ICOMOS mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS and ICCROM mission; November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring 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

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 2 February 2011. From 8 to 12 November 2010, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was carried out, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). The mission report is available online at http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/35COM/documents

a) Implementation of the Master Plan

The implementation of the Master Plan has continued through the work of the Executing Unit 110, which has undertaken several conservation and outreach projects to enhance public participation. In 2010, the review of the Master Plan was started, however no indication is provided on how the process will be carried out or the expected timeframe for its completion.

The November 2010 mission noted that the current situation where there is a dual decision making structure has in fact hindered the implementation of the Master Plan. It underscores that since the Executing Unit was not involved in the establishment of the Master Plan, there have been conflicts with priorities for implementation. It also noted that in spite of efforts made, the management system is not fully operational. It recalled that the authority to update the Plan was given to the Executing Unit 110 in 2007 (Emergency Decree No. 001-2007) but that, however, how and when this revision will take place is not yet clear. Conflicting interests concerning the revision process and the new priorities presented by the Executing Unit 110 complicate the situation even further.

b) Regulatory framework and legislation

The State Party's report indicates that the Multisectorial Commission established by Law No. 28261 for its enforcement, has requested that representatives of the Ministry of Housing be included in the Commission, as they deal with the registration of properties (in particular as regards the removal of illegal occupants from the buffer zone). The Commission has also requested that a Technical Secretariat be established under the Ministry of Culture (formerly the National Institue of Culture - INC) to review the process and enforce the application of Law No. 28261. The report indicates that the Supreme Resolution necessary to approve the regulations to enforce Law No. 28261 is being processed at the highest levels of government. No indication was provided on when it is expected to be passed.

The mission verified the current status of this process, and noted that since the file was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the newly created Ministry of Culture, a timelier follow-up is probable. It also underscored that the actual removal of the farmers from the site will take time as property claims will need to be investigated and land for their relocation will have to be set aside.

c) Buffer zone

Work has continued with the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo, through the Office of Land Development and Planning to finalize regulations for the buffer zone which will be approved by a Municipal Ordinance. No timeframe is provided for when this process is expected to be concluded.

The mission noted that the legal process had started by the approval of the technical file for the buffer zone (National Directorial Resolution No. 1383/INC, June 2010) and verified that the draft regulation for the buffer zone was being discussed, so that it will eventually be included in the Territorial Development Plan (PLANDET) of the Municipality.

d) State of conservation of the property

The report indicates that several projects have been implemented to address conservation concerns at the property. These have included efforts to protect the inscribed property such as monitoring of activities to stop unauthorized farming, control of vehicular traffic within the archaeological site, cleaning and maintenance of the property and maintenance of drains 10 to 14. As for conservation projects, with public investment funds, interventions continued on the perimeter walls of the Palaces, as well as on some walls of funeral platforms, along with protective sheltering for the decorated surfaces and/or installation of fibreglass replicas to protect the original reliefs. Maintenance works were also carried out at the Huacas to prevent conditions derived from the *El Niño* phenomena. Budgets have already been allocated for the continuation of these interventions through to 2012. Work has also continued with the *Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicata ai Beni Culturali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* for the development of a Territorial Information System.

The mission assessed the current state of the property and the interventions and expressed concerns regarding the differentiation of interventions, issues with the structural design of protective shelters and drainage to mitigate the impacts of *El Niño* and the need to establish a monitoring system for the decorated surfaces that have been covered by replicas. It also noted that considerable problems continue to exist regarding garbage and rubble

accumulation at the site's perimeter, largely related to the vegetation barrier not being maintained. It also noted the visual impact caused by the animal processing plant which could potentially be demolished once regulations for the buffer zone are approved.

e) Emergency and disaster preparedness plan

The report indicates that the plan which was prepared in 2009 was used as the basis for contingency activities related to the storms of February 2010. No additional information is provided regarding the revision of this plan to address concerns highlighted by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, that further development was necessary to create a comprehensive risk Master Plan that would include provisions for natural and man made disasters, not only for emergencies derived from *El Niño* phenomenon.

f) Other issues

The State Party reports that a project for preparing Chan Chan for Tourism is currently being implemented under an agreement with the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo, which includes the potential improvement of infrastructure. No proposals were submitted for review.

Activities have also continued in respect to awareness raising and outreach, focusing both on local and regional authorities as well as educational institutions. Projects have also been implemented to promote handicraft production given its importance as a cultural and creative industry.

The mission raised concerns regarding a potential project for the construction of a new museum, *Museo Nacional del Gran Chimú* which already has a museological proposal. The Presidential Law no. 29529, dated 7 May 2010, authorizes the Executing Unit 110 to execute the preinvestment, investment and postinvestment phases of the construction of the *Museo Nacional del Gran Chimú*. Also unclear is the status of the project for a theme park proposed by the Executing Unit 110 (February 2009) to be built within the property's northern limits, that would include an interactive museum, convention centre, theatre and concert halls, botanical garden, mini zoo, and other facilities. The project was rejected by the INC in the past, but at the time of the mission, the status of this project was not clear therefore official information needs to be requested from the State Party.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that efforts have been made to implement some of the corrective measures and that these are reflected in progress made regarding the conservation of the palaces, the installation of the drainage system, among others. However, significant progress, stronger stance, political will and continuity are still required to address the vulnerability of the property. They consider that a precise timeframe and revised corrective measures should be determined to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A*,

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.30,** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to implement some of the corrective measures;*

4. *Notes the results of the November 2010 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to:*

   a) *Secure regular funding for the protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and management of the property,*

   b) *Install a clear institutional structure that allows for effective decision-making and the implementation of the Master Plan,*

   c) *Review and update the Master Plan, including a public use plan and a comprehensive risk prepardeness plan,*

   d) *Continue its work to prepare the property for strong rains connected to the El Niño phenomenon,*

   e) *Approve and apply all pertinent legislation and its regulations, mainly Law No. 28261 and regulations related to the buffer zone,*

   f) *Design and install a monitoring system with clear indicators for the state of conservation of the site, the effectiveness of the conservation interventions and the management efficiency,*

   g) *Submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the* Operational Guidelines*, information on the proposed Museo Nacional del Gran Chimú and the project for a theme park, for consideration and review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to approval and implementation;*

5. *Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation and updated corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, 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 36th session in 2012;*

7. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1993

Criteria
(iv) (v)

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

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

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

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

a) Presidential signature of the PLINCODE (*Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela*), submitted to the authorities in August 2006;
b) Effective functioning of the management structure and institutional arrangements foreseen in the PLINCODE, with sufficient allocated resources;
c) Completion of comprehensive drainage systems as well as the rehabilitation of underground networks, public spaces, sidewalks and streets in the historical area;
d) Prioritized implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan.

Corrective measures identified

a) Obtain official approval of the PLINCODE at the presidential level;
b) Reinforce the Framework Agreement for Emergency Intervention in the area of Coro and La Vela, signed by the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC), mayors of the municipalities of Miranda and the regional government on 14 February 2006;
c) Create a Council to assist the Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, and to formulate and revise intervention projects on the infrastructure, buildings and public spaces of the property;
d) Formulate and prioritize a comprehensive conservation plan to complement the existing PLINCODE by defining a precise course of action with intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms to assess its effectiveness and implementation;
e) Strengthen capacity building for conservation and restoration through existing opportunities of workshops with the schools of conservation in La Vela and Coro;
f) Create awareness in the local community through exhibitions and community involvement.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

a) The Presidential Commission was established in 2005 and the Framework Agreement with the local government was signed in February 2006.
b) A conservation plan was developed in 2007, and priority actions are currently being implemented (2008). Since PLINCODE has not been officially signed, the definitive timeframe has not been established. Following the Presidential signature to ensure its ratification, the necessary corrective mechanisms of PLINCODE can be fully implemented.

Previous Committee Decisions
32 COM 7A.30; 33 COM 7A.30; 34 COM 7A.31

International Assistance
N/A

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

Previous monitoring missions
December 2003: Roundtable in conservation and management; September 2006: World Heritag Centre Evaluation Mission of the state of conservation; July-August 2002, April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

a) Serious deterioration of materials and structures;
b) Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property;
c) Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;
d) Absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007.

Illustrative material
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 2 February 2011. From 16 to 21 February 2011, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was carried out as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th Session (Brasilia, 2010). The mission report is available online at: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/35COM

a) Corrective measures implemented

The State Party indicates that since 2005 when the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, measures have been carried out to address conservation issues at the property. These have included infrastructure works to mitigate the impact of rain on built heritage, the formulation of a Conservation and Development Plan and inter-institutional agreements to ensure adequate management arrangements. Progress made in this respect was noted by the 2008 reactive monitoring mission, which also underscored the actions that had yet to be implemented.

b) State of conservation of the property

From October 2010 to January 2011, Falcon State, where the property is located, has experienced an exceptionally intense rainy season which resulted in a state of emergency declaration in late November and early December 2010. This affected the property's built heritage and the State Party notes that consequently conditions have not been met to consider the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

A systematic condition survey was carried out in November 2010, and based on the results; general actions have been identified for continuous maintenance, as well as long-term actions for interventions at the urban and infrastructure levels to consolidate the urban-architectural unit. The survey also identified buildings that were affected by the rain, including 247 in Coro and 94 in La Vela; to date 143 have been addressed within the emergency programme.

The 2011 mission noted that in general, the property maintains its conditions of integrity and authenticity. However, several effects were evident as a result of environmental conditions and the nature of the subsurface soils that affect the property. These include water infiltration, loss of earthen surfaces, deformation and wall structures, fissures, cracks, collapses and cave-ins. It also indicated that although the drainage system had been completed, it was proved ineffective and insufficient during the heavy rains of 2010, which led to the central area of the city being flooded for several days.

In addition to physical factors, the mission noted that with the changes in the management structure, several issues remained unaddressed such as the development of conservation plans with intervention criteria, and the monitoring mechanisms which have led to a situation where interventions are mostly reactive rather than proactive. It also noted that a decision had been made to allow free vehicle traffic flow in the historic area, which significantly affects the qualities of the city. Similarly, regulations for new constructions are not systematically enforced, leading to buildings that impact to some extent the character of the property.

c) Buffer zone

The mission noted that the review of the boundaries of the protected area and the definition of the buffer zone with their regulatory measures were still pending. These actions would have regulated interventions in the buffer zone that would impact the urban landscape of the property. Ordinances to protect the historic area of *La Vela* have also not been passed.

d) Planning and management tools

The *Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela* (PLINCODE) which was developed in 2007 has not yet received official approval. However, a new management tool

called “Management Commitment” has been developed for the planning and sustainable conservation of the protected area. It is recognized as a legal entity by the Organic Law of Public Administration and was signed in January 2011 by community councils and local and regional institutions, including the Government of the State of Falcon and the Municipalities of Miranda-Coro and Colina-Puerto *de la Vela*, and is awaiting official publication. This has resulted in the creation of a Management Unit with a Board of Directors including representatives from the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC), the Government of the State of Falcon and the Municipalities of Colina and Miranda, as well as representatives from each of the community councils, who will then appoint a Technical Council charged with the implementation of action plans and policies. It is expected that this new entity will replace the current Management Office so that community councils are effectively integrated in planning and decision-making processes.

Although awaiting official formalization, since 2010, work has commenced through the hosting of six meetings involving stakeholders, resulting in the definition of two strategies for the restoration of domestic architecture. The first one considers priority interventions in areas at risk, and the second is geared towards the creation of means so that restoration activities are imbedded in daily practices. For the implementation of the latter, earthen architecture artisans will be coordinated with building owners; with materials being provided by various institutions, and administered by community councils.

The mission noted that this positive development has resulted in greater social participation in heritage endeavours and confirmed that adequate levels of co-operation currently exist between the three levels of government. It indicated however that the Management Agreement is only a legal instrument and that the definition of a conservation plan is still necessary, which should take into account historical and archaeological research in the formulation of restoration projects. Also, the enforcement of laws and regulations is still needed for the effective protection of the property.

Conclusions

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the progress made by the State Party in addressing the state of conservation of the property. They welcome the participatory nature of the “Management Commitment”, but however note that it is crucial that its formalization process be finalized in order for it to become fully operational. They also underscore the pressing need to identify precise boundaries and buffer zones for the inscribed components as well as the development of a management and conservation plan to ensure the conservation of attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Recognizes the efforts being made by the State Party for the conservation of the property and encourages it to continue such efforts in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

4. *Notes the results of the February 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to:*

   a) *Finalize the approval process for the creation of the Office of the Management Commitment and provide adequate resources for its full operation,*

   b) *Develop the Management Plan for the property, including programmes for conservation, public use and risk management,*

   c) *Finalize the delimitation of the property and the buffer zone for the inscribed components, including the corresponding regulatory measures and submit them to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory and of the Periodic Reporting exercise;*

5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012** ,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 36th session in 2012;*

6. *Requests furthermore the State Party to update, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Desired state of conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;*

7. ***Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

GENERAL DECISION

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

Current conservation issues

As a result of the continued severe threats to the five World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) called upon the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to convene a meeting with the DRC authorities to discuss progress in addressing their deteriorating state of conservation.

At the invitation of the Congolese Government, this high-level meeting finally took place in the capital Kinshasa on 14 January, 2011. Funding for the meeting was provided from the World Heritage Fund, African World Heritage Fund as well as the different donors supporting ICCN. The meeting, which was chaired by the Minister for Environment, was attended by the Congolese Prime Minister, the UNESCO Director-General, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in DRC who represented the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), several Ministers of the Government, a representative of the Director-General of IUCN, representatives of the diplomatic missions and donor agencies in DRC, staff of the Congolese Park Authority ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature), including the site managers of the World Heritage properties, representatives of conservation NGO's, the President of the African World Heritage Fund, members of Parliament, provincial authorities and traditional chiefs.

The meeting discussed the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties. On behalf of the Government, the Prime Minister recognized the challenges for the conservation of the properties but ensured that the Government was committed to implement all the corrective measures which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee. The Director General of UNESCO recalled that, despite the combined efforts of the Government and the international community, the degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the DRC World Heritage properties had not yet been reversed and noted that the World Heritage Committee expected a strong and clear commitment on the part of the Government to secure the sites and halt the illicit exploitation of their natural resources. She confirmed that UNESCO would continue to assist the Government with this task.

The representative of Germany, speaking on behalf of the group of donors that supports the Congolese government in matters concerning the environment, reaffirmed the commitment of the donor community to continue its technical and financial assistance for the conservation of the sites. The Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in DRC noted that the UN would continue to support the Congolese Government in the framework of its mandate. The Congolese Park Authority (ICCN) presented its Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the corrective measures.

The issue of oil exploration in Virunga National park was raised by almost all participants, who unanimously expressed their deep concern to the Congolese Government regarding the granting of a concession for oil exploration in an area of the Park. The Director-General of UNESCO reiterated the position of the World Heritage Committee that oil exploration and exploitation are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the Property. (See Document WHC.11/35COM/7A.Add – Virunga).

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Director-General and the Prime Minister signed the Kinshasa Declaration, in which the Congolese Government committed to implement all the corrective measures and to create the necessary conditions to allow for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan proposed by ICCN. This plan foresees the respect of the

requirements of the World Heritage Convention, the national nature conservation law and the mining code, by securing the sites, reinforcing the operational capacity of the Congolese Park Authority, reducing commercial poaching, stopping the illicit exploitation of natural resources and strengthening the efforts of peaceful evacuation of illegal occupants of protected areas. The Declaration also appealed to the international community to continue its support for securing and rehabilitating the World Heritage properties. The full text of the Declaration can be found on website of the World Heritage Centre (http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/news/documents/news-702-1.pdf)

The Director-General of UNESCO also met with the President of DRC, where the issue of the conservation of the sites was also raised. The President ensured the Director-General that he personally considered biodiversity conservation, and in particular the conservation of the DRC World Heritage a mission for DRC and an obligation for humanity as a whole.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcomed the Kinshasa Declaration and in particular the commitments taken by the Government to fully implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee for all 5 DRC properties. They expressed the hope that the Government would now urgently take the necessary action to create the conditions to make this possible. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also expressed hope that as a result of the commitments made by the Government, progress would be made in addressing a number of important threats to properties which require the full cooperation of other ministries or regional authorities. Examples include mining exploration and exploitation concessions attributed by the Ministry of Mines, the oil exploration concession granted by the Ministry for Oil in Virunga National Park, the issue of the illegal settlements in the corridor of Kahuzi-Biega and the relocation of the Nyaleke army training camp in Virunga National Park.

The World Heritage Centre remains concerned by the continued difficult working conditions for ICCN staff and by the consistent reports from all the properties about continued involvement of elements of the Congolese Army in illegal exploitation of their natural resources, as documented in the reports on the state of conservation of the individual properties (which will be included in 7A.Add). The World Heritage Centre and IUCN call on the Government to address this issue as a matter of priority as a concrete demonstration of the commitments made as part of the Declaration.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),*

3. *Commends the State Party for the organization of the high-level meeting on the Conservation of the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*

4. *Welcomes the Kinshasa Declaration in which the Prime Minister on behalf of the State Party makes the commitment to implement all the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value of the five*

World Heritage properties in Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to create the necessary conditions to allow for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan proposed by the Congolese Park Authority ICCN;

5. *Urges the State Party to ensure a full implementation of these commitments, in particular securing the properties, reinforcing the operational capacity of the Congolese Park Authority, reducing commercial poaching, stopping the illicit exploitation of natural resources, strengthening the efforts of peaceful evacuation of illegal occupants of protected areas as well as respecting the requirements of the* World Heritage Convention*, the national nature conservation law and the mining code;*

6. *Also urges the State Party to address a number of important threats to properties through a comprehensive approach involving the different relevant Ministries, in particular mining exploration and exploitation concessions attributed by the Ministry of Mines, the oil exploration concession granted by the Ministry for Oil in Virunga National Park. The State Party must also address the issue of the illegal settlements in the corridor of Kahuzi-Biega, the relocation of the Nyaleke army training camp in Virunga National Park and the issue of the continued involvement of elements of the Congolese Army in illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the properties;*

7. *Calls upon the international community to continue its support for the maintenance of the security for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*