

REPORT ON THE ICOMOS ADVISORY MISSION TO
HISTORIC INNER CITY OF PARAMARIBO, SURINAME
FROM July 28th to August 1st, 2013

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paramaribo is a former Dutch colonial town from the 17th and 18th centuries located on the northern coast of tropical South America. The original and highly characteristic street plan of the historic centre remains intact. Its buildings illustrate the gradual fusion of Dutch architectural influence with traditional local techniques and material.¹ In 2002 the World Heritage Committee inscribed the Historic Inner City in the World Heritage List on the basis of Criterion (ii) “Paramaribo is an exceptional example of the gradual fusion of European architecture and construction techniques with indigenous South American materials and crafts to create a new architectural idiom” and Criterion (iv) “Paramaribo is a unique example of the contact between the European culture of the Netherlands and the indigenous cultures and environment of South America in the years of intensive colonization of this region in the 16th and 17th centuries”²

Due to alarming news received since 2009 on the redevelopment of Paramaribo’s waterfront and other areas of the property, the World Heritage Centre repeatedly requested the State Party to halt interventions until the documentation on those projects and their impacts were evaluated by ICOMOS. After an ICOMOS technical review on April 2013 concluded that there could be threats to the property, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Paramaribo, to review the Waterfront’s and other areas’ projects and on-going interventions as well as to assess the State of Conservation of the Property. The Mission was undertaken from July 28th to August 1st, 2013.

As a result of meetings with authorities from the Ministries of Education and Community Development, Public Works and others, physical inspections onsite and the review of documentation, the Mission appreciated that some restoration of buildings had been done, for in example the impressive wooden Cathedral. Also, that a very good Management Plan 2011-2015 had been elaborated. But, it was also observed that the legal and institutional frameworks have dualities and omissions that do not allow an efficient management. Among the most controversial issues is the fact that the Management Authority (SGES) has not been properly empowered.

It was also found that there is a lack, at governmental levels and civil society, of awareness on the significance and responsibility of the World Heritage status. There are no sustained conservation programs and budgets by stages. Funding is limited but the creation of Stadherstel Paramaribo by SGES will indeed help.

The Mission understands that the interventions on the Waterfront until now executed (a seawall and the traditional steps on the river), which had been two of the concerns expressed by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, were justified due to erosion and floods and did not appear to affect the riverside area. The Harbour Village Project seems to be halted for the moment. The Flags Square on the Independence Square was unnecessary but might be reversible.

Despite the above-mentioned difficulties and threats, to date the property maintains the attributes for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, if urgent measurements are not taken the Inner City will fall into an irreversible decay or suffer significant transformations, which will lead to the progressive erosion of the attributes that warranted inscription of the property on the World Heritage List.

¹ At <http://whc.unesco.org/es/list/940>

² Idem

List of Recommendations

-The World Heritage Centre should request the State Party to develop an Emergency Plan, before December 2013 that would allow it to urgently implement measures to address factors currently affecting the World Heritage property. Specific measures should be aimed at gradually correcting the management and conservation deficiencies and concerns noted during the Mission in order for it to be discussed during the World Heritage Committee's 38th Session in 2014. These include the strengthening of the management authority (SGES), the adequate staffing and the definition of precise actions, with timelines and budgets, for required interventions and projects on specific buildings or heritage areas.

- The State of Conservation of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo should be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee at its 38th Session to evaluate whether the State Party has developed the requested plan and emergency program as well as the implementation of efficient measurements to safeguard the World Heritage Property.

-In case that the Surinamese State Party has not taken urgent measures to begin addressing issues of concern affecting the World Heritage Property, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee consider inscribing the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo on the World Heritage List in Danger.

-The State Party needs to update the legal instruments on heritage conservation and urban development, focusing on addressing their overlaps and omissions.

-The institutional structure related to heritage conservation (mainly regarding the Historic Inner City as a World Heritage property) needs to be reorganized as soon as possible, eliminating overlapping, overruling, etc.

-The authority of SGES as the Site Manager ought to be urgently reinforced through adequate regulatory and legislative measures and communicated to all governmental levels as well as to all stakeholders and the community.

-The Paramaribo Historic Inner City Management Plan 2011-2015 must be circulated and approved at governmental levels in order to progressively implement it.

-A Master Plan with a proper zoning and detailed integral urban and architectural regulations ought to be part or complement the Management Plan in order to wisely organize the Inner City, achieve its functional balance and promote the preservation of its values as well as to serve as a guide for all conservation and construction programs and activities. It can be completed on the basis of the definitions; diagnosis and proposals contained in the Management Plan 2011-2015, on the different studies elaborated with universities and other sources, the criteria from stakeholders, etc. With this purpose, SGES will need funding to hire a qualified team of urban planners, architects, conservation specialists, etc.

-The Master Plan must be discussed with stakeholders and its stages approved by the Council of Ministers in order to guarantee its implementation.

-While more comprehensive and updated regulations are prepared, the State Party, based on the existent ones, has to urgently halt all the construction, expansion,

additions, repair, demolition, painting or any intervention that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

-A study needs to be done on the buffer zones as to include other areas bordering or close to the World Heritage property. For example the beautiful natural landscape of the riverside, the river as such, and areas across it, in front of the Waterkant.

-The existent traffic and drainage studies must be implemented although a previous review by SGES and heritage authorities is needed to assess whether or not they coincide with the needs of preserving the World Heritage Property. An urgent control of traffic within the property needs to be implemented and correct solutions for parking sought.

-Powerful sectors as Tourism and Industry should be involved as important actors for the preservation of the World Heritage Property, under the guidance and approval of the Site Management authority.

-Since the Central Bank of Suriname is one very important occupant of the Inner City and of its Waterfront, and has shown interest on preserving their buildings and facilities, they could be requested to submit to SGES their planned project for the Numismatic Museum on the Fort Zeelandia area and promote a better design which would allow the current ruins to have the protagonist role they deserve.

-A research on success stories on the preservation of historic towns should be carried out, mainly on waterfronts, in order to analyse all their potential for a sustainable use reconciled with the preservation of heritage values. A meeting with authorities and specialists from Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay), Havana (Cuba), Buenos Aires (Argentina), New Orleans and San Antonio, among others, could be organized so as to arrive to relevant conclusions that might contribute to decision-making in Suriname.

-All projects (since their first ideas and drafts) for the Waterfront and their impact on the World Heritage Site (i.e.) Harbour Village, before any governmental acceptance, have to be approved by SGES and Monuments Committee, as well as evaluated by the World Heritage Centre in accordance to the Operational Guidelines for the World Heritage Convention.

-A systematic Capacity Building Program aimed at creating awareness and providing updated information on World Heritage matters, applying it to Paramaribo, needs to be developed with the collaboration of UNESCO, ADEKO and other universities, international cooperation agencies and other sources. The Caribbean Capacity Building Program (CCBP) sponsored by UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean could be employed with this aim. The State Party can apply for International Assistance for training.

-The local universities as ADEKO should include heritage studies on their pensum as well as organize postgraduate courses on conservation (at least beginning with short ones) addressed to architects, engineers, and other professionals.

-Educational programs and press campaigns addressed to the community must be systematically organized.

1 Background to the mission

1.1 Inscription history

In June 1999, during its 23rd Session held in Paris, the World Heritage Committee deferred further consideration of the Paramaribo Historic Inner City's nomination and suggested the Surinamese State Party to take account of the recommendations of the ICOMOS evaluation before a resubmission.³

On the property's evaluation, ICOMOS had recommended the State Party to undertake the following actions⁴:

1. Creation of a central governmental body responsible for the protection and presentation of the historic heritage;
2. Extension of the legislation so as to include guidelines for interventions in town centres and on monuments;
3. Provide legislative protection for the entire centre of Paramaribo, as defined in the nomination dossier;
4. Define the area of 18th century expansion, plus the area to the north of Van Roosenvaldkade, as the buffer zone for the proposed World Heritage site;
5. Organize, with the assistance of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, an International Workshop on the Conservation and Protection of Historic Towns;
6. Encourage architects and engineers to specialize in architectural conservation and restoration.

The Surinamese Government re-submitted the nomination of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo in 2001.

Finally, during its 26th Session held in Budapest, Hungary, 2002, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo on the World Heritage List (Decision 26 COM 23.20).

1.2 Brief Description

Paramaribo is a former Dutch colonial town from the 17th and 18th centuries located on the northern coast of tropical South America. The original and highly characteristic street plan of the historic centre remains intact. Its buildings illustrate the gradual fusion of Dutch architectural influence with traditional local techniques and material⁵

The layout of the Inner City consists of a main axis stretching north-west behind Fort Zeelandia (the group of public buildings here is the central ensemble in the town plan), with streets crossing at right angles. To the north of Fort Zeelandia is the large public park known as the Garden of Palms. The wide streets and the public open spaces are tree-lined, giving a serene and spacious townscape. The larger public buildings, such as Fort Zeelandia, the Presidential Palace, the Ministry of Finance, the Reformed Church, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral, were built from stone and brick in traditional Dutch style but increasingly incorporating native elements. Thus, the ground floor of the Presidential Palace is of stone but its upper storeys are of wood. Interestingly, the Neoclassical Reformed Church is built from brick but the Neo-Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral is entirely of wood. Most of the buildings in

³ From Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015. P 2. In fact, these recommendations were not fully followed by the State Party after 1999.

⁴ ICOMOS evaluation, April 1999 .At <http://whc.unesco.org/es/list/940>

⁵ At <http://whc.unesco.org/es/list/940>

Paramaribo, both commercial and residential, are built entirely from wood, the majority of them following the 1821 and 1832 fires. Local craftsmen carried out the work. They all conform to a general layout: they are rectangular and symmetrical in plan with steeped roofs and brick substructures. Both these and the public buildings are generally painted white, the brick elements being highlighted in red. Doors and window shutters are in dark green.⁶

1.3 Criteria and World Heritage values

The Historic Inner City was inscribed on the basis of the following criteria⁷:

Criterion (ii) Paramaribo is an exceptional example of the gradual fusion of European architecture and construction techniques with indigenous South America materials and crafts to create a new architectural idiom.

Criterion (iv) Paramaribo is a unique example of the contact between the European culture of the Netherlands and the indigenous cultures and environment of South America in the years of intensive colonization of this region in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Another relevant aspect that has been mentioned to define Paramaribo is that the urban pattern was subtly adapted to its natural environment.⁸

The original urban pattern is still authentic in relation with the historical built environment because no major infrastructural changes have taken place, no building lines have been altered and no high-rising buildings have been built in the city centre.⁹

1.4 Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau

The World Heritage Committee has not examined the State of Conservation of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo on any of its sessions.

However, in 2012 the World Heritage Centre requested ICOMOS-as an advisory body-to undertake the review of the property due to an alarming documentation it had received on the proposed redevelopment projects for the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo.

The ICOMOS Technical review was completed in April 2013 and delivered to the State Party.

The current monitoring mission was undertaken from July 28th to August 1st, 2013¹⁰. It had, among its aims to assess the State of Conservation of the Property.¹¹

1.5 Justification for the mission.

In November 2009, Mr. Francesco Bandarin, then Director of the World Heritage Centre, addressed Mr. Stanley Sidoel, Director of Culture at the Surinamese Ministry of Education and Community Development, regarding information received by the Centre on projects for the Riverside Harbour Village on the Inner City and asking the State Party to submit this complete technical project and an impact study of the

⁶ At <http://whc.unesco.org/es/list/940>

⁷ Idem

⁸ Idem

⁹ Idem

¹⁰ Due to financial decisions this Mission could not take place until July 2013.

¹¹ Terms of reference of the Mission, ICOMOS, 2013

intervention according to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage.¹²

In May 2010, Mr Bandarin wrote to Mr Edwin Wolf, then Minister of Education and Community Development thanking him for requesting the Presidency to halt the above-mentioned project. At the same time, Mr Bandarin again requested the environmental impact study and information on the possibility of continuing the project or its definitive official cancelation.¹³

In January 2012, after not having received the requested information, Mr Kishore Rao, new Director of the Centre, addressed the Surinamese Ambassador to UNESCO, concerned by the news on the finalization of the plans for the waterfront and other areas in the World Heritage property without submitting the repeatedly requested impact study to the Centre.¹⁴

In February 2012, Mr. Kishore Rao, once again addressed the Surinamese Ambassador at UNESCO, expressing his concerns with regard to the proposed plans to finalize the restructuring works on the Waterfront and other locations within the inscribed area, considering these interventions would impact the Historic Inner City. Moreover, Mr. Rao requested the State Party to halt all these works until a thorough review by the advisory bodies would be done and insisted on asking for official information on those interventions to be sent to World Heritage Centre as previously required.¹⁵

In November 2012, the Director of the World Heritage Centre sent a new letter to the Ambassador to communicate to the State Party that the information received had been evaluated by ICOMOS, enclosing the ICOMOS Technical Review. At the same time, Mr Rao kindly asked the State Party to invite an ICOMOS monitoring mission to conduct a full assessment, review potential threats to Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and also to meet with national authorities to establish a sustainable approach to its preservation. The mission report would then be submitted to the World Heritage Committee for its review and decision on appropriate steps.¹⁶

Finally, on the same month, the Minister of Education and Community Development, HE.Ms SS Sitaldin accepted on behalf of the State Party, to invite the monitoring mission.¹⁷

The above-mentioned ICOMOS technical review had, in general, noted:

“Far from revitalizing the Inner City and applying an integrated conservation program as planned by the preservation entities and contrary to their opinions, the project for the redevelopment of the historic waterfront has been promoted and its execution is currently on-going.¹⁸

The Terms of Reference, Programme and Composition of Mission Team are provided on Annex 1

¹² Letter WHC/74/223/ NS/AS/ 231 from Mr. Francesco Bandarin to Surinamese Director of Culture, November 2009

¹³ Letter WHC/74/223/ NS/AS/134 from Mr. Francesco Bandarin to Mr. E. Wolf, Surinamese Minister of Culture, May 2010

¹⁴ Letter CLT/WHC/74/940rev/NS/AR/737 from Mr. Kishore Rao to Suriname's ambassador to UNESCO, January 2012

¹⁵ Letter CLT/WHC/74/940rev/NS/AR/779 from Mr. Kishore Rao to Surinamese Ambassador, February 2012

¹⁶ Letter CLT/WHC/74/NS/AR/IC/1115 from Mr. Kishore Rao to Surinamese Ambassador, November 2012

¹⁷ Due to financial decisions this Mission could not take place until July 2013

¹⁸ ICOMOS Technical Review. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo. ICOMOS, 2013. .

2. National Policy for the Preservation and Management of the World Heritage Property

2.1 Protected area legislation

The Historic Monuments Act from 1963 (Wet Historische Monumenten 1963, G.B. 1963 no. 23) was the first legal instrument focusing on the protection of built heritage including unique monuments and archaeological assets. The Monuments Act replaced it in 2002.

The Town planning Act (Stedebouwkundige Wet) dates to 1972. At local level the Ministry of Public Works is responsible for the execution of the spatial planning and development of urban areas.

The 1973 Planning Act (*Planwet*) assigned the responsibility for a comprehensive and sustainable policy for spatial, ecological, and socio-economic in the whole country to the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.

The Monuments List of Paramaribo: on January 1999 the Minister of Education and Community Development designated, by Ministerial Resolution, various monuments of Paramaribo as protected monument. The Monuments List containing 244 protected monuments was published in the 'Advertentieblad van de Republiek Suriname' of 17 August 1999 (Gazette no. 65). Due to new designations over the past few years Paramaribo now counts 298 official monuments (Report Monumentenopname 2013).

In 2000 the State Resolution for Monuments Registration (Besluit Monumentenregistratie) was published in the 'Staatsblad van de Republiek Suriname' (S.B. 2000 no. 41). In this public Register all designated monuments are registered as officially protected monuments. The Monuments Commission maintains the Register.

The 2001 State Resolution for establishing an Aesthetic Building Committee (Besluit Instelling Bouwcommissie en Aanwijzing Historische Binnenstad), S.B. 2001 No. 74. In this Resolution the inscribed Historic Inner City of Paramaribo has been formally designated as a Conservation Zone with two additional Buffer Zones and also its boundaries are defined.

It also created a Building Committee (Bouwcommissie) as an advisory body to the Director of Public Works and to supervise the building plans within these areas. It gives the Building Committee the authority to evaluate building plans according to a special set of building criteria (scale, architecture, height, colour etc.). These building codes have been established by Ministerial Resolution of April 2003 and published in the Gazette (A.R.S. 2003 No 34) to control new constructions within the World Heritage Site and adjacent buffer zones.

The Monuments Act 2002 (Monumentenwet 2002, S.B. 2002 no. 72) approved by the Council of Ministers in 2002 currently is the main legislation on heritage preservation in Suriname.

The Monuments Act made it possible to appoint preserved areas in towns and villages and states. On its explanatory memorandum, it declares that the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo should be appointed as a preserved area. According to the Act, the Ministry of Education is responsible for its implementation. It also establishes the Monuments Committee (Commissie Monumentenzorg) as the Ministry's advisory body on monuments matters.

The Building Act (Bouwwet 1958 no. 34) and the Building Resolution (*Bouwbesluit*) issued in 1956 no. 108 deal with control licences for new constructions and residential areas in Suriname.

The relevant and instrumental responsibility of the Site Manager (SGES) was designated by the Minister of Education and Community Development in 1997 but has not been enforced by any State Resolution or Act.

2.2 Institutional framework

The State Party's entity responsible for the conservation of the World Heritage property is the Ministry of Education and Community Development.

The Department of Culture, subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Community Development, is an advisory body, also responsible for the maintenance of the historic Palm Garden and the Fort Zeelandia Area, both within the World Heritage property. This office compiled an integral cultural policy document in 2007, but, in general, due to different limitations, an ad hoc policy is applied.

The Monuments Committee is another advisory body of the Minister of Education and Community Development regarding all historic built heritage according to Monuments Act 2002. It monitors the implementation of the laws, formulates policies and administrates the Monuments Register, reporting on the physical condition of the monuments working closely with SGES. This Monuments Committee, though composed by committed members, faces some serious constraints in carrying out its duties. It does not have a technical staff available and all the workload has to be assumed by its members, who all have a full-time job.¹⁹

The implementing body and managing authority for the World Heritage property is the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation (Stichting Gebouwd Erfgoed or SGES) represented by its Director.

The Ministry of Public Works (PW) is responsible for physical planning, construction of buildings, road infrastructure and parking, walkways, drainage and sewage, waste management, green zones and park development, bridges, sea walls, dikes and other infrastructure. For this reason it has a leading role in Paramaribo's management and maintenance. Among its tasks, two are quite crucial for the conservation of the property: the maintenance of all state owned buildings (including listed monuments) and the work of the Building Committee.

The Building Committee (Bouwcommissie) is appointed by the Minister of Public Works to advise this Ministry with regard to specific criteria for building plans in urban areas with a special character. It deals with new buildings in the historic area and its buffer zones and also has to closely supervise the building plans within Paramaribo. The decisions of the Ministry and the Committee have often been controversial and they have often been blamed for mistakes regarding to new structures within the conservation zone and the dilapidated state of some government owned monumental buildings.²⁰

The Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism are responsible for public transportation and for the development of tourism. There is no specific policy aimed at developing cultural heritage tourism to both World Heritage properties of Suriname (the Central Suriname Nature Reserve and the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo) that represent such an attractive and relevant potential.²¹

¹⁹ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015. P 62

²⁰ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015 P 61

²¹ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015.P 62

The Ministry of Regional Development rules Districts. Paramaribo is administratively divided into two regions each one administrated by a District Commissioner. One of the regions is Paramaribo South-West and the other is Paramaribo North-East, which is responsible for the Inner City.²²

The Commissioner is in charge of licensing shops, parking, businesses, cultural activities, advertisements/bill boards on public space, sport events etc. While licenses are easily provided, monitoring of the effects and applying sanctions are hardly practiced, and if so, not communicated to other stakeholders.²³

2.3 Management Structure.

Surinam Built Heritage Foundation or Stichting Gebouwd Erfgoed Suriname (SGES) is responsible for the World Heritage property's management. It also is an advisory body to the Minister of Education and Community Development and to the Director of Culture.

Among its main achievements was the preparation of the nomination dossier of the Historic Inner City for its inscription on the World Heritage List as well as the *Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015*. It also prepares the designation of monuments in Paramaribo and is responsible for the implementation of the Management Plan.

SGES is a direct counterpart of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and responsible of the Periodic Reporting to this entity. The Minister appoints its board and its chair is the Director of Culture. Though SGES has to permanently monitor the preservation of the World Heritage property and, therefore, has such a relevant responsibility, it is not designated by law but just appointed by the Minister of Education and Community Development.

SGES and De Surinaamsche Bank, the largest private bank in Suriname, established Stadsherstel Paramaribo as a foundation in 2011. It has had support, from Stadsherstel Amsterdam, which advises the redevelopment and protection of built heritage in Paramaribo. This public-private partnership aims to promote the revitalization of the Inner City through sustainable and commercially viable restoration and management. By giving out shares, businesses and banks can invest with a modest dividend. To encourage community interest the *Program Friends of Stadsherstel* was created.

²² The District Commissioners are civil servants appointed by the Minister of Regional Development and generally act depending on the ruling political coalition that is not always aware on heritage matters.²²

²³ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015. P 61

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES

3.1 Management

As mentioned in 2.3, SGES is the Management Authority. In 1998 this Office elaborated the *Plan for the Inner City of Paramaribo. Framework for the Revitalization of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo* which served SGES as a background to promote the formulation of the very comprehensive Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015 which was developed by highly qualified experts with the financial support of the Netherlands Funds in Trust at UNESCO in 2011.²⁴

This necessary Plan focuses, among its fundamental items, on the following²⁵:

Statement of Significance, Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity and Integrity, State of Conservation, Legal framework, Institutional setting, coordination and governance, Ownership, Visitor pressures, Access and carrying capacity, Risk management and monitoring, Awareness, Education and interpretation, Policies and Objectives of the Management Plan, Action Plan, Monitoring and Periodic Review.

The Management Plan shows a profound knowledge on the Historic Inner City and the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It, as well, produces a quite objective and thorough diagnosis of the main problems being faced at the property.

Since 2007, SGES has organized meetings and stakeholder workshops to discuss the Plan with public sector leaders and coordinators, including the Minister of Transportation, Communication and Tourism, private sector representatives, inner city residents and NGOs.

An Action Plan was the outcome of the numerous meetings with stakeholders and reviews of many sources and is aimed to guide policy officials and managers, prospective developers and the community in general. It is also aimed at streamlining essential actions related to the development opportunities and improvements planned in the historic city.²⁶

The key objectives of the Plan-as formulated during its discussion with stakeholders-were²⁷:

- Conserve the site's significance by promoting sustainable management;
- Facilitate the coordination of all actions by all involved parties;
- Improve general awareness of the unique heritage of Paramaribo's Historic Inner City, and involve citizens on its preservation;
- Improve interpretation and access, encouraging all residents and visitors to understand and enjoy the Site.

The establishment of *Stadsherstel Paramaribo NV* has been an important step since it promotes beneficial investments within the World Heritage property. It has its own funding with which some historic buildings (still a few) are purchased, restored and then sold. Its aim is to ensure *sustainable financing from different sources*. This entity

²⁴ <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/21202337/FINAL%20PWHS-MP%20290611.pdf>.

²⁵ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015 P.10

²⁶ Idem

²⁷ Executive Summary Paramaribo -World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015. P X

works closely with SGES. The Site Manager, Mr Stephen Fokke, is at the same time the chair of Stichting Stadsherstel Paramaribo, which constitutes an advantage.

This entity has recently purchased, successfully rehabilitated some dilapidated historic buildings and sold them. They constantly search for this kind of options and keep a catalogue of them.

Indeed, the above-mentioned efforts and achievements represent a relevant background for appropriate management. Nevertheless, the Mission has found different problems that do not facilitate the efficient management of the property.

These problems are the following:

- The Government has not granted the Monuments Committee or SGES with enough authority.

- Apart from the lacking political and administrative powers, the management authority is insufficiently equipped with staff and other conditions to fully implement its role.

- In addition, legal provisions and guidelines are insufficient with regard to a sound management showing both omissions and dualities.

- The institutional framework above SGES is too complicated. The responsibilities are scattered among too many entities without a real central body to coordinate their activities.

- Despite the many proposals and studies promoted or led by SGES (some with Dutch universities), there is not yet an official Master Plan for the Inner City and its Buffer Zones, complemented by detailed comprehensive technical regulations, legally enforced at the highest governmental level possible, considering in particular its World Heritage status.

- Supervision of the Inner City is weak. Civil Supervisors (Bestuursopzichters or BO's) are mostly focused on other matters and are not prepared for monitoring impacts on the historic built stock.

- There are no systematic conservation plans in terms of time and their approved budgets at governmental levels. Funding is still quite insufficient though there have been important contributions as, for example, from the Netherlands Fund in Trust for the elaboration of the Management Plan or from the European Union to restore the Cathedral.

- There is a need for a broader and systematic research on the conservation of the town and its buildings, preservation of wooden architecture, effects of climate change, risk preparedness, economic of conservation, impacts of tourism, housing and social components and others.

- The inventories and the large amount of information collected on the Inner City, its areas and buildings are not yet digitalized, as they should.

3.2 Factors affecting the property.

The most alarming affecting factors found within the World Heritage property and also on its buffer zones are the following:

- Vulnerability due to climate change and insufficient maintenance, especially for the valuable wooden constructions and elements.

- Insufficient awareness on governmental levels and the civil society on the meaning of a World Heritage property and the commitments made to preserve it.

- General lack of understanding on the advantages of a wise conservation and use of the World Heritage property in terms of sustainability.

- Incomplete and unclear legal framework.

- Too many entities deciding on the property without a clearly defined central authority, making it quite difficult to coordinate actions and to agree on a course of action.
- Heritage entities and mainly SGES, as Management authority, have limited power and their staff and funds are insufficient to properly deal with their high responsibility.
- Lack of a sound territorial and urban planning comprising the Historic Inner City.
- There is an urban functional disproportion. Governmental offices and public services occupy a large stock of historic buildings, about a 70% while the amount of shops and residences is small²⁸.
- The approved buffer zones do not cover all the areas that could better protect the property and also contain important heritage assets, for example, areas across the river.
- Lack of conservation plans by stages including budgets.
- Little or null contribution from powerful sectors for example Tourism or Industries.
- Insufficient community involvement and education.
- Lack of specialized conservation and heritage management courses and other modalities of learning at the universities and other levels.
- Lack of an integral risk preparedness program.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE SITE

4.1 State of Conservation

- The urban layout, as one of the property's most outstanding attributes, remains mainly intact.
- The physical condition and integrity of the majority of buildings on the inscribed property- many of them wooden- is basically good.
- No major transformations of the unique historic built stock have until now taken place in terms of design, materials, and colours, except for a few cases.
- Though the physical condition of the majority of the historic buildings still appears to be fair, in some other cases there are evidences of neglect, lack of maintenance or inadequate internal transformations or adaptations.
- On the buffer zones (19th century urban extension), just limiting the World Heritage property, there are some decayed historic buildings that would deserve to be preserved. Some are small vernacular houses, which are not properly valued.
- The approximate amount of buildings restored since the World Heritage inscription in 2002 is about 20. Within the property several government owned buildings are currently under a restoration process. They are the Presidential Palace, the Court of Justice, buildings on Grote Combeweg 9 and Onafhankelijkheidsplein 7.
- During this period, the Historic Palm Garden was also rehabilitated.
- Seven other new restoration projects on state owned buildings have been approved in order to start their intervention: Grote Combeweg 3, Grote Combeweg 7, Onafhankelijkheidsplein 7, the Ministry of Labour at Wagenwegstraat 22, the Office of Central Bank of Surinam on Mirndastraat 1 and others.
- Two private restoration projects (Keizerstraat 27 and Zeelandiaweg 9 have been approved for the Surinamese Museum.
- One outstanding intervention was the Cathedral of Surinam, an integral and technically difficult task, undertaken with financial assistance from the European Union.

²⁸ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015 pp. 46-47

-But, on the other hand, there have been a few projects and interventions on relevant areas of the Inner City that were not consulted with heritage authorities and have been a source of concern. For example:

-The unnecessary construction of a new Flags Square on the East side of the historic Independence Square, with relatively aggressive concrete elements.

-The elimination of large portions of the grass on Independence Square modifying its green appearance and serene atmosphere.

-Important massive events-as the recently held Carifesta Festival-which produce a quite heavy flow of participants, often take place at the Independence Square or at the Palms Garden, inserting transitory facilities as stages, chairs, lights and others which are harmful for the maintenance of the area.

-Growing tendencies to request permits to demolish historic buildings in order to build new.²⁹ For example, Grote Combeweg 13.

-Construction of modern buildings (still a few) as the Burger King on Kerkplein (Church Square) and Wagenwegstraat, a poor example of architecture where a very strong palette of colours was employed.

-Expansion of an existent hotel close to Kerkplein (Church Square), radically increasing its height and width and producing a negative visual effect.

-Employment of signs and advertisements with too strong colours as in the shop on the corner of Noorderkerkstraat and Heerenstraat.

-The Central Bank of Surinam is planning to rehabilitate the facade in ruins of Building 1790 on the Fort Zeelandia complex (part of the World Heritage property) in order to install the Numismatic Museum. Though the idea is correct and would contribute to the area's animation, the project presented to the Mission is not adequate. It is a transparent box enclosing the historic facade, which would then cause the façade to lose the protagonist role it deserves.

-Heavy traffic circulating everywhere producing pollution and insecurity for pedestrians, particularly at the Waterfront.

-Due to the large amount of vehicles in the Inner City, there are several improvised parking lots on different empty spaces of the property, between historic buildings or in the interior of blocks. The most representative one regarding its negative effects is the parking lot by the Cathedral. The lack of enough parking areas has promoted internal clearing of some blocks to provide space for this aim, most times altering original morphology of the blocks and the buildings.

-An important sector of research and safeguarding insufficiently focused is that of the archaeological elements which can be found scattered in the Historic Inner City.³⁰

-The only remaining historic canal of Paramaribo, the Sommelsdijckse Creek, which is about 2.3 km. long within the property, has been neglected and there are no plans for its full maintenance and public use.³¹

With regard to the Waterfront, as the most attractive area of the property, the World Heritage Centre had received information on a redevelopment project officially starting on March 2012. This project was never consulted with heritage authorities

²⁹ The Mission knew about this request recently addressed to the Minister of Education located on Grote Combeweg 13. Fortunately it has not yet been approved thanks to the opposition of SGES and Monuments Committee.

³⁰ SGES worked out an inventory in 2005 on brick water wells, brick sewers, cellars, ovens, brick steps from disappeared buildings, etc., which deserve to be restored and exhibited.

³¹ According to Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015 p 56, in May 2010 a study on the Sommelsdijckse Kreek was done by a cooperation between Antwerp and Paramaribo and in August 2010 it was published by Dutch organization World Waternet.

and neither submitted on time to the World Heritage Centre according to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines³². It included:

- A seawall, a water barrier and boulevard on the riverside.
- Dismantling of the traditional old stone stairs on the riverside and rebuilding them into the new concrete seawall.
- Redirecting traffic from the North towards the waterfront,
- Construction of the Suriname Harbour Village (including cruise ship terminal, marinas, hotels, etc.).

With regard to some of the concerns posed on the ICOMOS Technical Review: the Mission observed that:

- The seawall recently constructed by the Ministry of Public Works along the riverfront was justified due to erosion and eventual floods. It is not aggressive at all, though it could have been designed with a lighter look.
- The erosion of these elements justified the removal and rearrangement of the traditional historic steps on the river. The intervention allows to appreciate part of the original steps, sank into the water while new reinterpreted others were added. It is possible to identify which steps are old and which are new, while an agreeable appearance was achieved.
- Traffic on the area is still a difficult problem due to pollution and threats to pedestrians.
- The Harbour Village project has not been started. During the meeting with officers from the Ministry of Public Works no project with this purpose was shown to the Mission. They declared that this Ministry's only aims on the waterfront were the seawall (already executed), the planned improvement of the promenade along the riverside as well as the reorganization of traffic on the area.³³ According to them, the Harbour Village project had just been an idea promoted by some private investors that never had a governmental approval.³⁴

Other problems seen on the waterfront were:

- Lack of high quality cultural, commercial, residential or recreational functions. Besides some kiosks on the riverside, there is only one good restaurant (De Waag). Across the street, on the magnificent historic houses, only one bed and breakfast inn (The Petite Maison) exists.
- On this highly attractive area of the Waterkant, after four o'clock (when most offices and services close in Paramaribo) there is little activity and the area is mostly boring and failing to be the major attraction it could be for both locals and visitors³⁵.
- The stalls and kiosks on this waterfront, though evidently light, do not have the necessary level of design for such an attractive context.
- There are still many tamarind trees, which provide a very nice shade, but, in general, vegetation does not seem to have the best maintenance.
- The urban furniture (walkways, benches, signs, lights, garbage cans, etc.) is not of the good quality such a place deserves.

³² The mission does not reject the idea of regeneration of the waterfront and the insertion of contemporary functions and design but this requires much thinking and care in order not to affect the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage property's values.

³³ The sources for the information on Harbour Village were the World Heritage Centre, SGEN, Paramaribo Management Plan 2011-2015 and Internet.

³⁴ The Mission considers that, apparently, this project was halted after the State Party received the ICOMOS Technical Review from the World Heritage Centre in 2012.

³⁵ When we speak about attraction we refer to those activities that can enhance the area while preserving its values and character.

In spite of this situation, the riverfront still keeps its traditional morphology, its old trees and calm landscape and is enjoyed by people.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

-Despite the above-mentioned problems, the Mission, during the physical inspection of the Historic Inner City found that, in general, to date the property still the attributes for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, existing threats could pose significant danger to these attributes if an Emergency Plan is not developed and implemented by the State Party.

-Considering the Outstanding Universal Value of the Inner City and its vulnerability, the amount of safeguarding actions and restored buildings need to be larger with more funding from the Central Government and Ministries (Tourism, for example) as well as from the private sector.

-Legal provisions and guidelines are insufficient to ensure a sound management and show both omissions and duplication.

-Neither the Monuments Committee nor SGES have been enforced with enough authority. Though SGES has to permanently monitor the preservation of the World Heritage property and, therefore, has such a relevant responsibility, it is not designated by law but just appointed by the Minister of Education.

-The institutional framework acting above Monuments Committee and SGES is too complicated. The responsibilities are scattered among too many entities without a real central body to coordinate their activities.

-The management authority is insufficiently equipped with staff and other conditions to fully implement its role.

Under the above-mentioned conditions it is clear that the Management of the Historic Inner City, though it has had achievements, still faces many difficulties and limitations that must be urgently addressed by the State Party.

According to the Management Plan, "SGES as managing authority is largely hampered by lacking institutional capacities such as funding sources and human resources. There are actually six persons employed, of which two are administrative assistants, two cleaning ladies and one deliveryman. Only its director and his direct assistant have academic backgrounds. However, SGES is regularly supported by outsiders, who voluntarily contribute in filling important gaps".³⁶

As a result of the aforementioned issues and due to insufficient control, there are visible problems affecting the property, representing dangerous trends (See examples on 4.1).

If the State Party does not take urgent measurements for a better planning, enough funding, full and efficient management of the property and creating awareness, while threats continue developing or increasing, in a few years the Inner City will fall into an irreversible decay or transformation that will entail the progressive loss of the values for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

³⁶ Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011-2015 P.59

5.2 Recommendations

-The World Heritage Centre should request the State Party to develop an Emergency Plan, before December 2013 that would allow it to urgently implement measures to address factors currently affecting the World Heritage property. Specific measures should be aimed at gradually correcting the management and conservation deficiencies and concerns noted during the Mission in order for it to be discussed during the World Heritage Committee's 38th Session in 2014. These include the strengthening of the management authority (SGES), the adequate staffing and the definition of precise actions, with timelines and budgets, for required interventions and projects on specific buildings or heritage areas.

- The State of Conservation of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo should be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee at its 38th Session to evaluate whether the State Party has developed the requested plan and emergency program as well as the implementation of efficient measurements to safeguard the World Heritage Property.

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-In case that the Surinamese State Party has not taken urgent measures to begin addressing issues of concern affecting the World Heritage Property, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee consider inscribing the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo on the World Heritage List in Danger.

-The State Party needs to update the legal instruments on heritage conservation and urban development, focusing on addressing their overlaps and omissions.

-The institutional structure related to heritage conservation (mainly regarding the Historic Inner City as a World Heritage property) needs to be reorganized as soon as possible, eliminating overlapping, overruling, etc.

-The authority of SGES as the Site Manager ought to be urgently reinforced through adequate regulatory and legislative measures and communicated to all governmental levels as well as to all stakeholders and the community.

-The Paramaribo Historic Inner City Management Plan 2011-2015 must be circulated and approved at governmental levels in order to progressively implement it.

-A Master Plan with a proper zoning and detailed integral urban and architectural regulations ought to be part or complement the Management Plan in order to wisely organize the Inner City, achieve its functional balance and promote the preservation of its values as well as to serve as a guide for all conservation and construction programs and activities. It can be completed on the basis of the definitions; diagnosis

and proposals contained in the Management Plan 2011-2015, on the different studies elaborated with universities and other sources, the criteria from stakeholders, etc. With this purpose, SGES will need funding to hire a qualified team of urban planners, architects, conservation specialists, etc.

-The Master Plan must be discussed with stakeholders and its stages approved by the Council of Ministers in order to guarantee its implementation.

-While more comprehensive and updated regulations are prepared, the State Party, based on the existent ones, has to urgently halt all the construction, expansion, additions, repair, demolition, painting or any intervention that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

-A study needs to be done on the buffer zones as to include other areas bordering or close to the World Heritage property. For example the beautiful natural landscape of the riverside, the river as such, and areas across it, in front of the Waterkant.

-The existent traffic and drainage studies must be implemented although a previous review by SGES and heritage authorities is needed to assess whether or not they coincide with the needs of preserving the World Heritage Property. An urgent control of traffic within the property needs to be implemented and correct solutions for parking sought.

-Powerful sectors as Tourism and Industry should be involved as important actors for the preservation of the World Heritage Property, under the guidance and approval of the Site Management authority.

-Since the Central Bank of Suriname is one very important occupant of the Inner City and of its Waterfront, and has shown interest on preserving their buildings and facilities, they could be requested to submit to SGES their planned project for the Numismatic Museum on the Fort Zeelandia area and promote a better design which would allow the current ruins to have the protagonist role they deserve.

-A research on success stories on the preservation of historic towns should be carried out, mainly on waterfronts, in order to analyse all their potential for a sustainable use reconciled with the preservation of heritage values. A meeting with authorities and specialists from Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay), Havana (Cuba), Buenos Aires (Argentina), New Orleans and San Antonio, among others, could be organized so as to arrive to relevant conclusions that might contribute to decision-making in Suriname.

-All projects (since their first ideas and drafts) for the Waterfront and their impact on the World Heritage Site (i.e.) Harbour Village, before any governmental acceptance, have to be approved by SGES and Monuments Committee, as well as evaluated by the World Heritage Centre in accordance to the Operational Guidelines for the World Heritage Convention.

-A systematic Capacity Building Program aimed at creating awareness and providing updated information on World Heritage matters, applying it to Paramaribo, needs to be developed with the collaboration of UNESCO, ADEKO and other universities, international cooperation agencies and other sources. The Caribbean Capacity Building Program (CCBP) sponsored by UNESCO World Heritage Centre and

UNESCO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean could be employed with this aim. The State Party can apply for International Assistance for training.

-The local universities as ADEKO should include heritage studies on their pensum as well as organize postgraduate courses on conservation (at least beginning with short ones) addressed to architects, engineers, and other professionals.

-Educational programs and press campaigns addressed to the community must be systematically organized.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the World Heritage property of “Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (940 rev)

With reference to:

Letter of Director WHC dated 27 Jan. 2012, ref. CLT/WHC/74/940rev/NS/AR/737;

Letter of Director WHC dated 29 Feb. 2012, ref. CLT/WHC/74/940rev/NS/AR/779;

Letter of Director of WHC dated 14 Nov. 2012, ref. CLT/WHC/74/NS/AR/IC/1115;

Letter of Minister of Education of Suriname dated November 2012

ICOMOS Technical Review on Development Works in the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo, October 2012;

The advisory mission shall:

-Evaluate the state of conservation of the World Heritage property;

-Assess the extent and rate of implementation of the rehabilitation works on the waterfront and on Independence Square and their potential impact on the attributes, and conditions of authenticity and integrity of the property;

-Evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed interventions and assess the technical and financial feasibility of their redesign to mitigate potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property if identified in the assessment;

-Analyse other proposed interventions, such as the project for the Riverside Harbour Village, and their potential impact on the property. Provide technical advice and guidance on the process to undertake the HIA- Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance to the guidance developed by ICOMOS for future projects at the inscribed property and its buffer zone;

-Provide technical advice and prepare practical recommendations for the national and local authorities, as well as involved stakeholders, on the measures to be implemented to achieve a sustainable approach to preservation that ensures the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the property;

-Analyse, as per the Operational Guidelines, whether the World Heritage property meets the criteria for potential inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

A report in English or French shall be produced for review by ICOMOS and to inform the state of conservation report to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013). The report should be submitted to ICOMOS Headquarters by XX at the latest in hard copy and an electronic version.

Annex 2. Composition of mission team, Itinerary and program

Composition of mission team

Dr. Architect Isabel Rigol, Member of ICOMOS Academy, undertook the Mission.

Itinerary

July 27th 2013–Havana –Panama City

July 28th 2013–Panama City-Willemstad-Paramaribo

August 1st 2013- Paramaribo- Willemstad-

August 2nd 2013-Panama-Havana

Program

Sunday 28 July/ 2013

Arrival at JAP International Airport

Monday 29 July/ 2013

09.00 AM– 09.30 AM

Meeting with Site Manager, Mr. Stephen Fokke

9.30AM – 10.30 AM

Briefing of Mission (TOR) at SGES-office with Site Manager, Mr. S. Fokke and Secretary General National Commission of Suriname to UNESCO (NatCom), Mrs. Anuradha Kamtasing, Director of Culture, Mr. Stanley Sidoel and Mr. Johann Roozer, Secretary of Commissie Monumentenzorg (Monuments Commission).

11.00 AM – 12.00M

Meeting with Mr. Ir. Ashwin Adhin, Minister of Education and Community Development

12.00M –13.00 PM

Lunch

13.00 PM –14.00 PM

Meeting with Mr. Hans Martinus from Anton de Kom University of Surinam .

17.00 PM–19.00PM

Site Visit: Independence Square, rehabilitation works at Waterfront and other areas within the historic inner city of Paramaribo.

Tuesday 30 July 2013

09.00 AM – 10.00 AM

Meeting at the Ministry of Public Works with Mr. Mark Rommy, Director of Public Works and Mr. Satish Mohan, Deputy Director of Civil Works, and Bouwcommissie (Building Commission),.

10.30 AM – 11.30 AM

Meeting with Mr.Anton Smidt from Stichting Stadsherstel Paramaribo

12.00 M– 13.00 PM

Lunch

13.00PM – 14.00PM

Meeting with Central Bank of Suriname regarding new building plans of Central Bank of Suriname

Wednesday 31 July 2013

09.00 AM -12.00 M

Site visit to Fort Zeelandia, Waterfront, buffer zones, etc.

12.00 M – 13.00PM

Lunch

13.00PM – 14.00PM

Evaluation and Wrap-up of mission with Site Manager Mr.Stephen Fokke and Secretary General National Commission of Suriname to UNESCO, Ms. Anuradha Kantasing .

Thursday 1 August 2013

Departure

Annex 3 Key persons met.

Mr. M.A.S. Adhin Minister of Education and Community Development, Email: ashwin.adhin@education.gov.sr or nbennanon@yahoo.com (Secretary)

Mr. Freddy Harrisson (Chair) and Mr. Johan Roozer (Secretary) Monuments Commission. Email: johan-roozer@hotmail.com

Ms. Anuradha Kamtasingh. Secretary General of the Suriname National Commission to UNESCO. Email natcomsur@education.gov.sr

Mr. Stephen Fokké. Site Manager for the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo sges@sr.ne

Mr. Mark Rommy (Director of Civil Works and also representing the Director of Construction/Building.Ministry of Public Works:, email: markrommy@gmail.com or mark-rommy@yahoo.com.

Mr. Satish Mohan (deputy director of Civil Works, Email: - satish.mohan@publicworks.gov.sr)

Mr. Hans Martinus Anton de Kom University, Email: j.martinus@uvs.edu

Mr. Anton Smit. Director Stichting Stadsherstel Paramaribo, info@stadsherstelparamaribo.org

Mr. Kenneth J. Wong A Tsoi .Public Relations.Central Bank of Suriname. Email: kwongatsoi@cbvs.sr),

Mr. D. Samson. Central Bank of Suriname

Mr. D. Bruyne.Central Bank of Suriname:

Mr. M. Wolfram. Central Bank of Suriname

Architect . Arthur Tjin A Djie, Email:tadpar@sr.net.

Ms. Ana Wielkens. Email: anna.wielkens@googlemail.com

Other key persons for the property not met during the mission:

- Minister of Education/Director of Culture (Ms.Shirley Sitaldin/Mr. Stanley Sidoel);
- Ministry of Public Works: Director of Civil Works (Mr. Melvin Foen A Foe) and Director of Building (Mr. Lloyd Kotzebue);
- Contractor of the project: MNO Vervat;
- Project supervisor: ILACO (Mr. Patandin) and CIBOR;
- Commission for Monuments (headed by Mr. Freddy Harryson);
- Aesthetic Building Committee Ministry of Public Works;
- Anton de Kom University of Suriname (mr. Hans Martinus, Angelika Namdar).

Annex 4 Maps and photographs



Map from Paramaribo 18th Century



Another map from Paramaribo 18th Century



Map from Paramaribo 1877



Map from Paramaribo 1879



Map from Paramaribo 1881



Aerial views with Independence Square and Waterkant



View of riverside on Fort Zeelanda with Monument to Queen Wilhelmina



Townscape by the Waterkant or Waterfront.



Mansions on the Waterfront



An outstanding but deteriorated house on the Waterfront



Views of the calm Waterfront and new seawall



Traditional steps on the river recently intervened .



The seawall recently built



Kiosks and benches on the Waterfront lacking a good design



La Petite Maison, the only bed & breakfast on the Waterfront



De Waag, the only good restaurant installed on the Waterfront



A magnificent built stock on the Waterfront and Independence Square areas



Drawings from the Riverside Harbour Village planned for the Waterfront and supposedly halted.



Views of Fort Zeelanda by the River



Restored Houses on Fort Zeelanda



Restored buildings on Independence Square



Contemporary insertions of good quality.



Unnecessary intervention on Flags Square



Massive events on Independence Square deteriorate it.



The remaining facade on Fort Zeelanda must be a protagonist element on the Bank's project for the Numismatic Museum.



Existing ruins should be researched and preserved.



The wooden Cathedral restored with assistance from the European Union.



Other historic houses on the core zone



Improvisation of parking anywhere



Inadequate new architecture on the core area.



A Burger King with aggressive colors on Church Square



Inadequate painting and signs on the core zone



The Sommelsdijckse Creek



A restored old well



Many vernacular houses on the buffer zone deserve to be preserved.