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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of World Heritage
properties inscribed on the World Heritage List**

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of reactive monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/38COM/>

All previous state of conservation reports are available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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I. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

1. **Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (Lebanon) (C 850)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1993-2004)

Total amount approved: 71,666 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2003: World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission; April 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of legislative framework and comprehensive management plan;
- Absence of coordination mechanisms;
- Illegal constructions and encroachments;
- Degradation of the mural paintings and buildings;
- Uncontrolled tourist development and absence of visitor management.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 March 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. This brief report acknowledges that during the past year the property has been subject to projects considered by the State Party to have impacted negatively on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and in particular its authenticity. It also indicates that a lack of adequate management has contributed to what is seen as a degradation of the state of conservation. In order to address immediate issues, the Ministry of Culture has taken measures to limit the impact of three projects.

- *Monumental cross and mausoleum at Bcharreh*: This project involved the construction immediately next to the small church of Saint George of a large, 13 metre high cross above a 4 metre mausoleum mound. Construction work started in early 2013, apparently without any permits being issued and in a zone where construction is forbidden under comparatively new urban planning

regulations. The small rectangular flat roofed church of Saint George is part of the monastery of Mar Lichaa (Saint Elisha). Sited on the top of a steep cliff, it is part of a complex of numerous caves and hermitages associated with Maronite eremitism. The mound and cross would have completely overwhelmed the intimate relationship between the church and its dramatic, sacred valley landscape and would have had a highly negative visual impact on its OUV and in particular on the strong sense of place of the property in its context. The State Party reports that the project has been completely abandoned and the reinforced concrete structure of the mausoleum removed following a negative review by ICOMOS.

- *Works at the eastern entrance of the Forest of the Cedars of God:* Excavation works and construction of a structure to host a wedding ceremony have been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage Site, within the buffer zone. In two letters to the Ministry of Culture dated 14 August and 23 October 2013, the World Heritage Centre enquired with the State Party about the measures to address the damages incurred to the property. On 17 August 2013 the Ministry of Culture expressed concern about these works and about their impact on the environment and on the site's visual integrity and reported that the project was halted and the concrete layer removed leaving behind a mound of earth. The State Party reiterated this information in its report and stated that the "rehabilitation" of the area was being negotiated with the owner of the land.
- *Road:* In response to negative comments by the 2012 mission on the impact of a proposed new road around Qannoubin Monastery (as part of a wider tourism programme), the project has been scaled down to a narrow stone paved rural road. A sample section of 40 metres has been constructed as requested by the Ministry of Culture. The Directorate General of Antiquities has requested a management plan before authorizing work on the entire 4.5 km.
- *Large statue, and construction works on the edge of the valley's cliff:* In April 2014, the World Centre received photographs that show a large statue, an abandoned concrete structure and a large pile of sand on the edge of the valley's cliff, all of which are likely to impact the OUV and the integrity of the property. On 28 April 2014, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the Lebanese Government requesting the verification of the source and content of this information and recalled the necessity of informing it of any intention to undertake or authorize new constructions in an area protected under the *Convention*.

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

It is noted that remedial actions have been taken to reverse work on a cross and mausoleum at the church of Saint George within the property, and excavation and construction works in the vicinity of the property in the buffer zone. It is a concern that these projects progressed so far without any permission and in contravention of the current zoning regulations that had been reported to the Committee in 2012. In both cases, it is considered that priority should be given to reinstating the landscape as it was before building work commenced, rather than undertaking afforestation.

A satisfactory sample of stone paving has been completed for the projected road around Qannoubin Monastery which has been downgraded as recommended by the 2012 mission. No confirmation has been provided to indicate whether the Committee's request to abandon the associated cable cars and model villages has been complied with.

The State Party's report did not respond to the Committee's requests relating to the recommendations of the 2012 mission. In particular there is a need for the following:

- Establishment of a management structure;
- Establishment of a funding mechanism to allow the functioning of the management structure and the implementation of rehabilitation and enhancement activities;
- Undertaking detailed cartography of the property and an inventory of all buildings;
- Revision of the maps of the property and its buffer zone to include neighbouring villages in the latter;
- Elaboration of a conservation and restoration plan;
- Elaboration of a visitor management plan;
- Elaboration of a risk preparedness plan;
- Undertaking of studies aiming at improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the property and of surrounding villages.

The problems with the planning violations for the cross and mausoleum at the church of Saint George, the large statue, and construction works on the edge of the valley's cliff, and the excavation and construction works in the buffer zone are symptomatic of the general lack of coordinated management, as discussed during the 2012 mission. There is an urgent need to address the recommendations of the mission and put in place a coordinated official response to development control issues, stakeholder involvement, monitoring, appropriate funding, and specialist conservation input. As stated in the 2012 state of conservation report, these measures need to be addressed in the near future to mitigate threats to the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to apply for international assistance, specifically for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 mission.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Welcomes progress made with the construction of a sample of the proposed paved road around Qannoubin Monastery; and requests that the project plan for the remainder of the road be submitted for review before work progresses;*
4. *Reiterates its request to abandon the associated project of cableways and model villages in the property;*
5. *Notes with extreme concern the planning violation near the church of Saint George and the excavation and construction works in the property and its buffer zone, and also notes that remedial measures have been taken to demolish the mausoleum structure and halt construction works; and also requests that details are provided as to how the landscape will be rehabilitated as it was before both works commenced;*
6. *Further notes the State Party's acknowledgment of the negative impacts arising from the lack of adequate management;*
7. *Regrets that the State Party has not responded to the main recommendations of the 2012 mission and reiterates its request to implement these, and in particular to:*
 - a) *Revise the management system for the property and establish a permanent management structure,*
 - b) *Update the 1998 management plan on the basis of the 2007 guidelines, including a conservation plan and a sustainable visitors management plan,*
 - c) *Undertake socio-economic studies aiming at improving the living conditions of the communities in and around the property;*
8. *Reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 mission;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; August 2008: World Heritage Centre mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need to complete the Conservation and Management Plan in order to co-ordinate actions in the short- and medium-term;
- Need to provide a detailed map at the appropriate scale showing the boundaries of the property and buffer zone, as well as regulatory measures foreseen to ensure the protection of the property;
- Inadequate protection leading to threat to rock-hewn monumental tombs, vandalism and the development of agricultural activities in the rural zone;
- Urban encroachment and uncontrolled building construction leading to destruction of archaeological areas;
- Inappropriate earlier restoration work;
- Problem of discharge of sewage from the modern town into the Wadi Bel Ghadir;
- Inadequate on-site security and control systems;
- Need for a presentation and interpretation system for visitors and the local population.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 April 2014, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property with maps and pictures showing roughly the areas which have suffered from the violations, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/documents/>

The State Party confirms that the main factors affecting the property are the urban encroachment and violations consisting in the construction of buildings and a road within the archaeological areas thus leading to the destruction of the remains and notes the recent acceleration of those factors. The State Party indicates that the archaeological areas which are most affected are the first and second archaeological campuses, Path way, Wadi Bel Gadir, and Temple of Demeter. The archaeological remains located within the modern urban settlement of Shahat are in a critical condition, undocumented and unprotected.

In general, the property is suffering from a serious lack of maintenance, and the use of inappropriate conservation techniques and materials.

To address the on-going threats and in order to respond to the World Heritage Committee's decisions, the Department of Antiquities sent a mission to the site on 7-9 April 2014 which assessed the damaged areas and antiquities warehouses. The mission also held a series of meetings with the local

authorities, community and civil society representatives. These meetings focused notably on the need to raise awareness about the importance to protect the site, as part of humanity's heritage, and to undertake a series of emergency measures to stop the violations at the site and ensure the latter's protection.

UNESCO is currently supporting the Libyan authorities in providing urgent measures (mainly training of guards, repairing of the fence, rehabilitation of guard posts on the property and at the museum/warehouses), as well as supporting the production of a map of the endangered areas. The World Monument Fund conducted a study on the "Sewage discharge in Wadi Bel Gadir and its effects on the archaeological site and surrounding populace" (December 2013), and is currently collaborating with the Libyan authorities to consolidate the walls of the Demeter Temple. The World Bank is currently collaborating with the Libyan authorities to elaborate a management plan for the property.

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

There is serious concern that the urban encroachment at the property and its relating destruction have increased since the end of the conflict in Libya due to the deterioration of safety and to difficulties in local governance. The responsible national and local authorities have difficulties to stop these violations and undertake emergency measures to protect the site. There is also concern about the lack of detailed information about the situation on the ground which makes it difficult to have a precise idea of the damage and threats at the site, although the State Party submitted a map thereon.

It is recommended that the State Party undertake emergency measures to stop the violations and initiate a dialogue between all institutions and parties concerned to address the issue which threatens the integrity of the site, including the need for housing, which seems to be at the origin of the urban encroachment, outside the property and its buffer zone.

It is also recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to visit the site as soon as possible in view of establishing an accurate assessment of the damage at the site and envisage the necessary steps to reverse the on-going situation.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 37 COM 7B.53, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Takes note with great concern of the information provided by the State Party in its report on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Urges the State Party to undertake all possible measures to stop encroachment and destruction of the archaeological areas as soon as possible;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit a detailed map of the current encroachment and destruction at the property, and to accelerate the elaboration of its management plan;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the site as soon as possible and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before the visit of the mission, a precise mapping of the different violations at the site;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to pursue its efforts towards the establishment of a dialogue between the responsible national and local authorities and the local community in order to guarantee the long term protection of the site;*

8. Strongly advises the State Party to initiate an action, at national level, with all concerned governmental institutions in view of ensuring the effective conservation of the property, with a focus on legal protection and alternative housing solutions;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 **February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

3. Ksar Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005-2007)

Total amount approved: 49,833 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2003: reactive monitoring mission; November 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; February 2007: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Partial abandonment of the property;
- Gully erosion;
- Rock falls due to erosion;
- Increased offences in old *ksar* and degradation;
- Delays in the establishment of a technical and administrative structure responsible for the property;
- Uncontrolled tourism and visitor pressure.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2013, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party and is available at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/documents/>.

The report indicates that the new management entity created in 2010 falls under the authority of the Cultural Heritage Directorate (Ministry of Culture) with a conservator of historic monuments based at the property as its director. The management entity has an annual operating budget allocated by the Cultural Heritage Directorate and has a clearly defined mandate enabling it to fulfill its role. The report recalls the existence of a management committee, chaired by the Governor of the Province. This committee is responsible for the monitoring and execution of decisions, in consultation with representatives of the inhabitants of Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou. As indicated in the report, the management entity ensures the secretariat of the management committee. With regard to the

relationship of the management entity with the Centre for Conservation and Rehabilitation of Architectural Heritage of Atlas and Sub-Atlas Zones (CERKAS), the report indicates that this latter body has an important technical role and works in close collaboration with the conservator of historic monuments, who directs the management entity.

In terms of conservation, the State Party confirms that the construction work for the bridge linking the World Heritage property and the new village overlooking Oued El Maleh was completed in 2011. It also highlights the benefits of the construction of the bridge for the local population and especially for the inhabitants of the ksar. Indeed, it is indicated that the achievement of this construction, exclusively for pedestrian use, has enabled, among others, an increase in the number of inhabitants living in the ksar due to the improved accessibility of the site, encouragement in the establishment of infrastructures required for the creation of activities generating income for the population, notably linked to tourism. Finally, the report provides information regarding the budget for the restoration of the houses in the ksar in 2014 and 2015, under the supervision of CERKAS.

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

The report confirms the strengthening of the management system. The inauguration of the bridge linking the World Heritage area and the new village overlooking Oued El Maleh, the work for which was completed in 2011, has had a positive impact on the life of the inhabitants and contributed towards the reinforcement of the management system of the property.

It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to provide additional information regarding the cooperative mechanism established between the management entity and the management committee, as well as the positive impact of the commissioning of the bridge linking the two banks of the Oued El Maleh. This information could be used as an example of good practice in the integrated management of an urban ensemble including an historic area inscribed on the World Heritage List. It is also recommended that the State Party adopt an approach focused on the historic urban landscape as an additional tool in the sustainable development of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the efforts achieved in the management and conservation of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre more detailed information on the management system established and the positive impact of the commissioning of the bridge linking the two banks of the Oued El Maleh, so that this may be used as an example of good practice in integrated management of an urban ensemble including an historic area inscribed on the World Heritage List;*
5. *Recommends the State Party adopt an approach focused on historic urban landscape as an additional tool in the sustainable management of the property.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

9. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(ii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Proposed lift-up project of Yuzhen Palace at the property

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 31 January 2014, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/documents>. Subsequently, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 8 – 13 March 2014 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/documents>).

Key issues addressed during the mission and in the State Party report involve a project to raise-up the Yuzhen Palace (one of 62 sites of the serial property) above the level of the new Danjiangkou Reservoir, and the overall management system for the property.

Project to raise up the Yuzhen Palace: This project was planned in 2007, and implementation began in 2012 without details being presented to the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The mission was informed that, in response to the imminent flooding, the State Party had considered three options:

- Scheme one: Dismantling the palace and reassembling it at a different site;
- Scheme two: Leaving the palace *in situ* and protecting it with a surrounding dike on the exposed sides;
- Scheme three: Lifting parts of the palace (three gates); and dismantling/removing all other parts including archaeological remains, and reassembling/reinstalling them on a new earthwork platform, 15 meters above the original ground level.

After consideration by a team of Chinese experts, the third scheme was selected and the work carried out beginning in 2012. At the time of the mission, the wooden buildings and archaeological remains had already been dismantled/excavated (documented and numbered) and put into storage near the

site. In addition, the three gates had already been lifted, and the work undertaken to construct the earthwork platform. The platform was near completion with only final compacting of the infill to be completed. Once that work has been completed and a number of other details finalized, work will then begin on the re-erection of the wooden palace buildings and the replacement of the archaeological remains.

The mission found that the technical quality of the work carried out was excellent (details can be found in the State Party state of conservation report). The mission noted, however, that the raising up of this palace has necessarily changed the relationship of the palace to its setting. In the case of Yuzhen Palace, the spatial dimension is important, especially the relationship of the complex to the surrounding landscape. In particular, with the change in height, the surrounding hills are less pronounced and less effective in the context of feng shui.

The mission further identified five key issues for the ongoing work:

- the shape of the final earthwork platform;
- reinstallation of archaeological remains;
- landscaping of the final earthwork platform;
- site usage;
- site interpretation.

Management System for the Property. The mission team was presented with the current management system for the property. It was also presented with an outline of the *Master Plan on Conservation Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains* which was still under elaboration at the time of the mission. The mission report pointed out four key aspects of the management that need reinforcement as the planning process continues in order for the OUV of the property to be fully sustained. These four issues include:

- Development of a living heritage management approach for this serial property that takes into account the entirety of the cultural landscape rather than looking at the 62 component parts as individual elements that need protection;
- Management of tourism development to ensure that tourism infrastructure does not overwhelm the delicate landscape setting of the property;
- Respect for the carrying capacity of the individual elements of the property;
- Harmonization of the various planning instruments that cover the World Heritage property, Wudang Mountains Special Zone, and Wudang Mountains National Scenic Zone.

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

It is regrettable that the project to raise up the Yuzhen Palace was not presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2007 when the idea was first considered. It may have been possible for a solution, other than the three developed by the State Party, to have been considered which could have had less impact on the property. The lack of adequate consultation appears to reflect the lack of an adequate management structure at the property.

It should be acknowledged that the work has been carried out to a high technical quality and with great care, which will allow for the palace buildings to be re-erected once the work on the platform is completed. It is further acknowledged that this extreme solution was taken in response to the flooding that will take place as part of a development project of national importance which will supply drinking water to the Beijing area. It is clear from the results of the mission that the raising up of the Yuzhen Palace has caused a change in the relationship between the palace and its setting and context, both in terms of its relationship to the surrounding hills, and to the agricultural land which will now be submerged by the reservoir. It should be noted that the Yuzhen Palace is one of only 62 component parts of the property which include the Golden Shrine and the Purple Heaven Palace to name a few. It does, however, undoubtedly contribute to the overall OUV of the property, and all components part of the property should be equally safeguarded in the interests of protecting the OUV.

Nevertheless, taking into consideration all of the factors related to the imminent risk of flooding, the technical aspects of the project, the changes to the context of the component part, and its relationship to the overall property, it is considered, on balance, that while the changes impact on the integrity and authenticity of one component they do not constitute a threat to the OUV of the overall property, as the harmony between the disposition of the Yuzhen Palace and the other serial components within the

wider mountain landscape will be maintained. It will be important, however, that the State Party take note of the recommendations made in the mission report, particularly in regard to the final shape of the earthwork platform which should follow a more natural contour of the land rather than creating a more artificial peninsula or island effect. Further consideration must also be given to the final disposition of the archaeological remains that have been excavated from the property, as well as to the eventual landscaping, interpretation, and use of the palace.

In regard to management, it is recognized that the State Party is carrying out ongoing work to reinforce its management and monitoring framework at the property. There are serious concerns, however, that this framework must take into account the fact that this property is a living heritage site which must incorporate religious leaders and community members into the management system. It is also considered crucial that from a management perspective, the property be treated as a cultural landscape, since the OUV of the 62 individual components cannot be protected without taking into account the entirety of the landscape. For this reason, it will be of utmost importance to ensure that the various tools and plans developed for the World Heritage property, the Wudang Mountains Special Zone and Wudang Mountains National Scenic Zone are harmonized so that a single management system can be put into action. In keeping with this landscape approach, the State Party should also confirm that the buffer zone of the property includes the entire Wudang Mountains National Scenic Zone, as acknowledged at the time of inscription, rather than the 62 component parts with individual buffer zones as submitted during the retrospective inventory exercise.

Special attention must also be paid within the management system to avoiding the overdevelopment of tourism infrastructure within the property and within its larger cultural landscape. The mission found that tourism development has begun to reach a critical mass which could cause significant changes to the property if not controlled. Further, although the carrying capacity of the individual component parts has been considered, there is a need to enforce these limits, especially at peak tourism periods which occur several times per year. Many of the component parts are very fragile in nature and need constant monitoring and control if they are to be protected.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.60** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Strongly regrets that the project to raise the Yuzhen Palace was not brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Takes note of the report of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property and the assessment made that the project, while altering the setting and context of the Yuzhen Palace, does not constitute a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the overall property;*
5. *Notes the recommendations of the mission in regard to the final shape of the earthwork platform, the final disposition of the archaeological remains, and the eventual landscaping, interpretation, and use of the palace, and requests the State Party to implement those recommendations in the final implementation of the project;*
6. *Also notes the ongoing work on the finalization of the Master Plan on Conservation Management of the property and also requests that the work on this plan be completed as soon as possible for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

7. *Urges the State Party to institute a living heritage approach to the management of the property which ensures that it is managed as a cultural landscape in order to protect the OUV of the 62 component parts within their overall landscape setting and context;*
8. *Invites the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre that the buffer zone of the property corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area as acknowledged at the time of inscription, and not the 62 individual buffer zones submitted in the framework of the retrospective inventory exercise;*
9. *Also urges the State Party to protect against the overdevelopment of tourism at the property, and in particular to enforce rules related to carrying capacity for the more fragile sites that are part of the property;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2016**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

11. Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu (China) (C 704)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Need to enhance the management plan (issue resolved).

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 March 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report; a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/documents/>. This report was prepared in response to a letter from the World Heritage Centre dated 9 December 2013 requesting the State Party's comments on the razing of historical housing stock within the buffer zone of the property in spring 2013, and the reported scheduled development of a new hotel complex in its stead.

The State Party considers this to be a comprehensive renovation project (partly funded by the World Bank) that responds appropriately to an urgent need to improve the living conditions of residents in the

buffer zone, while protecting its historical sites and features. The planned project covers 13.34 ha in the buffer zone. All the registered historical buildings and valuable historical housing will be retained, and the archaeological site of the Ancient *Panchi* area will be presented to the public through the construction of related facilities. There is no plan to build a new hotel complex, according to the State Party.

The State Party further reports that the Qufu municipal government has completed a "Site Plan and Schematic Plan of the Ancient *Panchi* Area." This plan was examined by a panel of experts in May 2013, but has yet to be submitted to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. A total of 588 households have been moved since the first half of 2013; residents of this area have priority to purchase newly constructed houses in the area. Each building was assessed before demolition. The State Party characterizes the area as being full of makeshift housing built within the last half-century, located within a badly decayed environment and lacking basic infrastructure. After the demolitions an archaeological survey was carried out by local department of cultural heritage. Based on the archaeological findings, experts suggested some modifications to the plan for the area.

The State Party's report also includes a short excerpt from the conservation plan for the property, which has been completed and is currently going through the approval procedure. In brief, the excerpt indicates that no construction or facility that causes an immediate or potential negative impact to the property or its setting is allowed.

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

Based on the report submitted by the State Party, there is concern about the potential impacts that the large-scale demolition and redevelopment of the Ancient *Panchi* area within the buffer zone may have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity. As a consequence, It is recommended that the Committee strongly urge the State Party to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as a part of all proposals for all major restorations or new constructions – including for the comprehensive Ancient *Panchi* area renovation project – in accordance with the ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*, in order to ascertain the extent to which the attributes that sustain the OUV of the property may be affected.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee also strongly urge the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit information about the full scope of this redevelopment project and that of any other proposals that may affect the OUV of the property, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to enable a formal assessment of the new developments and their potential impact on the property's OUV and urge the State Party to submit a HIA for the Ancient *Panchi* area project, together with the complete conservation plan for the property that is currently undergoing approval in advance of such a reactive monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Takes note of the information submitted by the State Party regarding the comprehensive redevelopment of the Ancient Panchi area that is currently underway within the buffer zone of the property;*
3. *Expresses its concern about the potential impacts that this project may have on the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity;*
4. *Strongly urges the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, about the full scope of the Ancient Panchi area project, in accordance with*

Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and about any other projects that may potentially affect the OUV of the property, including its authenticity or integrity, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

5. *Requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to enable a formal assessment of the new developments and their potential impact on the property's OUV;*
6. *Also strongly urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Ancient Panchi area project, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage Cultural Properties, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the complete conservation plan for the property as well as its summary in English, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

16. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan) (C 1103)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 (from 2000-2000)

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Construction of a new mosque
- Newly developed Master Plan
- Conservation and Management Plan

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 February 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report and an executive summary, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents>. The report contains detailed information addressing the conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Plans and drawings of the Mosque for 2000 prayers have been provided illustrating the layout of the construction, infrastructural details for water and sewage, as well as its architectural design which is maintained in a regional style. The plans also show that the minarets are at a height of 33.1 metres and the height of the dome at 31.5 metres. In 2013, the construction was initially planned at 38.5 metres in height for the minarets and 31.5 metres for the dome.
- The report also contains recommendations prepared by a Round Table held in December 2013 that included stakeholders, scientists and experts in the field of cultural heritage preservation. The recommendations of the Round table consider, among other points, the creation of an independent advisory group to oversee and coordinate all works and projects directly or indirectly relating to monuments, World Heritage properties and sites on the Tentative List; the creation of a research and design restoration institute; training for specialists in the field of preservation and restoration; and the elaboration of a development strategy for the City of Turkestan.
- Information on the Master Plan confirms the commitment to retain the standard construction height of 2-3 stories in Turkestan and strict regulations in the buffer zone. A map of the property has been provided illustrating additional protective zones (buffer zone, extended protection zone, planned control zone and the zone of landscape protection).
- The State Party provided, in March 2014, the "Management plan for research, preservation and development of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, Petroglyphs of Tamgaly and other properties included on the World Heritage List". ICOMOS has carried out a technical review and has made recommendations for the review of the document.

The State Party also provided information on the present condition of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and clarified that no construction projects are being implemented nor planned within the buffer zone.

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

In reviewing the plans and drawings provided for the Mosque for 2000 prayers, it is noted that despite assurances provided by the State Party the height of the minarets have only been reduced to 33.1 metres instead of 26 metres and that the height of the dome has remained at 31.5 metres instead of 25 metres, despite the recommendation made by the Advisory mission in 2010 suggesting that the height should not reach more than 28 metres including the minarets, and that even this is higher than the buildings of the surrounding city of Turkestan, hence the issue should be further discussed among conservation architects and other stakeholders. While the architectural design of the mosque does not have an immediate impact on the setting of the Mausoleum, the possible visual impact in terms of height remains a concern. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide an architectural perspective illustrating the visual relationship between the setting of the Mosque and the Mausoleum.

The recommendations presented by the Round Table concerning the establishment of an Advisory Group for monitoring and coordination of all projects related to monuments and World Heritage properties, as well as the need to elaborate a development strategy for the City of Turkestan are valuable steps towards ensuring the adequate preservation of the setting of the Mausoleum and the City of Turkestan. In regard to the Management Plan submitted for evaluation, it is considered that the document needs considerable review so that it can be an effective and adequate tool for the management and protection of the property. The proposed plan places emphasis on addressing the

fabric of the property but not the overall management and conservation of the property in relation to the attributes that embody its Outstanding Universal Value or the necessary management arrangements that are needed to address current shortcomings in the system, particularly in relation to conservation policies and protection of the buffer zone and setting of the property. A series of recommendations on how to move the review process forward have been made. It is also important to integrate the specific recommendations made by the Round Table in relation to the overarching policy for conservation and management of the property that has yet to be defined.

It is proposed that the Committee request the State Party to provide a complete electronic copy of the Management Plan of the property and its summary in English to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, in addition to the official submission of the revised buffer zone of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party to respond to the issues raised concerning the architectural design of the Mosque for 2000 prayers and the inclusion of various stakeholders and national experts in the planning process;*
4. *Regrets that despite assurances provided by the State Party, the heights of the minarets have only been reduced to 33.1 metres, instead of 26 metres, and that the height of the dome has not been reduced at all, much less to the 28 metres recommended by the Advisory mission carried out in 2010;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre the following documents for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
 - a) *an architectural perspective illustrating the visual relationship between the setting of the Mosque and the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, in order to judge whether the slight reduction in the height of the construction still poses a potential negative impact on the setting of the Mausoleum,*
 - b) *an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan for the property, in accordance to the recommendations made in the technical review, as well as its summary in English,*
 - c) *the revised map of the property's buffer zone;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015** an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation and the above mentioned documents, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

17. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: 13,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Japanese-funded project: USD379,040 (1996-97), Total Italian-funded projects through Lerici Foundation: USD 482,194 (1996-2004; 3 project phases): Phase I (1996-1997) = USD161,124; Phase II (1998-1999) = USD 164,000; Phase III (2003-2005) = USD 157,070

Previous monitoring missions

January/February 2011: UNESCO Mission; November 2011: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2012: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission; April 2013: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission, March 2014: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- New infrastructure construction including new proposed road
- Lack of coordinated management mechanism
- Parking lot and visitor centre
- Lack of sufficient professional staff

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 24 January 2014 which notes progress on the following:

- *Route 14A:* The road network plan has been reviewed and downsized to address potential direct, visual and traffic flow impacts from the construction of a large transnational thoroughfare. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport have approved the new design, which now limits the width of certain sectors, identifies new alignments to create a larger buffer zone, cancels the Ban Tan Khob bypass, provides a new alignment for the section near the North-west corner of the ancient city, and provides small 100m buffer zones. Other measures are also considered, such as a requirement to conduct archaeological explorations before work commences, colour treatment of railings, and a ban on trees along the edge of the road. The report also mentions that priority has been given to the upgrade of Route 14B as an alternative route.
- *Master Plan and Land Use Plan:* A project to revise the overall Master Plan and to develop local Land Use Plans for the Vat Phou Champasak protected area was begun in 2012. A revised Master Plan (an annotated map) and several local zoning plans (annotated Google earth photographs) were included in the report, along with associated regulations for each area. Approval has been given, in principal, by the Provincial Government for these planning tools, subject to further consultation with different villages inside the property to identify precisely areas where potential construction is limited or forbidden. Architectural conservation recommendations will be developed at a later stage.

- *Water Towers:* The delivery system in the north sector has been cancelled in consideration of the impacts to the landscape that would have been generated. Feasibility studies, including visual impact assessments, are planned to explore alternatives for the water supply system in this sector. The water system in the southern sector is currently being built. No information was provided on whether visual impact studies were undertaken prior to the construction of towers as recommended by the 2012 reactive monitoring mission.
- *Public use:* The report indicates that in response to the recommendations of the February 2012 mission, the site management office, entrance gate and public toilets were repainted in grey and trees were planted around these constructions to minimise their impact. It also highlights measures undertaken to improve interpretation including publications, improvement of the website and awareness raising activities in regard to heritage management.

The report also includes information on work carried out by the World Heritage Site office to the coordination of internationally funded projects associated with the property's tourism strategy, with the Master Plan and Road Network Plan.

- *Other issues:* Concerns were raised during a visit to the property by UNESCO staff (Bangkok Office) in November 2013. These relate to a number of construction projects proposed, or already underway, in the inner monument zone (zone 4) of the property. The projects include a new bathroom block for visitors next to the eastern baray (underway), a new two-story pavilion next to be the western baray to be built in place of an existing wooden one-storey structure (plans already drawn up and budget allocated), a proposed new field office for the Korean project team on the immediate western perimeter of the monument zone, a new car park and visitor facility in the pavilion complex on the southern axis of the main temple (already constructed). On 12 November 2013, the World Heritage Centre asked the State Party to provide detailed information on these projects in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. At the time of preparing this document, no information has been received by the World Heritage Centre.

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

The efforts made by the State Party towards implementing the previous Committee decisions are acknowledged. It is however not clear if work has been halted on the 14A road, as requested by the Committee.

With regard to the new aligned route 14 A, there is a commitment to limiting the impact of the road through revising its layout and width. However, only large scale plans of the proposed new layout have been provided, which do not give sufficient details. These plans seem to indicate at least four new entry and access points from the road to the site without any detailed explanation, this indicates that access planning is still unclear.

Although it is stated that archaeological surveys will be carried out before work commences, no details have been provided as to how these will be undertaken, or how the results will be used. Information should be provided to explain whether these surveys will take the form of rescue archaeology or, preferably, will be investigations that inform the final design of the road. The 2011 mission identified significant archaeological remains located in close proximity to parts of the road alignment that had already been affected. Also, there is no information on the implementation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), as requested by the Committee, which could inform ways of mitigating impact, particularly visual impact, in relation to the profound spiritual and visual alignments of the cultural landscape.

The work undertaken at the local level to start defining no-construction zones in collaboration with local communities is noted. The definition of such zones is needed as a crucial planning tool to control development. It is not clear from the information provided how the development of these plans has been related to an understanding of the attributes of OUV for the overall cultural landscape, or to the Master Plan and the Management Plan of the property.

The Champasak cultural landscape, including the Vat Phou Temple complex, is inscribed for its remarkably well-preserved planned landscape that was shaped over a period of a thousand years to express the Hindu vision of the relationship between nature and humanity, through a geometric pattern of temples, shrines and waterworks extending over some ten km. This remarkable vision should relate to a Master Plan, which should be the overall development plan for the property, and define how the attributes that carry that OUV will be protected and sustained.

A Master Plan (an annotated map) has been provided, but does not have sufficient detail to explain its relationship to the OUV of the property, nor its relationship to the Management Plan. Furthermore, the Master Plan, in its current form as a single map, is not the strategic planning tool that is needed to address the containment of potential development pressures related to the new road, potential challenges of new service infrastructure, new construction associated with tourism development, and how proposed regulations will be enforced. Such an expanded Master Plan is urgently needed to provide the necessary strategic planning tool for decision-making at the property.

This expanded Master Plan should be based on a landscape approach, taking into account the nature of the property as a cultural landscape and its attributes of OUV. This Master Plan should provide an overall strategic framework within which the Management Plan, the individual Zoning Plans, the Land Use Plan and any other strategic plans operate.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee express its regret that a number of construction projects are being proposed or undertaken without being notified, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Although the many conservation and development initiatives funded by international co-operation are acknowledged, there is concern at the apparent lack of adequate co-ordination.

So far no retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property has been submitted to the Committee, and there is no mention of work progressing on this statement. Its development is of the utmost urgency in order to inform a vision for the development of the property, and provide a detailed framework for the Master Plan that could ensure that individual zoning plans respect the attributes of the overall cultural landscape.

It is recommended that the Committee express serious concern that, in spite of the extensive dialogue and assistance provided, there is still no clear road map as to how the road construction and its related developments should be planned and implemented in order to avoid potentially serious threats to the OUV of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider short, medium and long-term solutions to the problems outlined above.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling decisions **35COM 7B.72** and **36 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively;*
3. *Takes note of the actions undertaken by the State Party towards addressing some of the requests made at previous sessions; in particular work to progress the redesign of the road, to formulate a Master Plan, and to define local land use zones;*
4. *Notes that inadequately detailed plans have been provided for the proposed road alignment and urges the State Party to develop plans of the amended road alignment at a larger scale in order to clarify precisely the proposed details; and requests it to undertake archaeological surveys to assess the significance of buried archaeology along the proposed route, and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), to assess the impact of the new road alignment and the development of appropriate mitigation measures, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre for assessment by the Advisory Bodies copies of the road plans and HIAs;*
5. *Also urges the State Party to suspend any work that may be ongoing on the new road until work on the expanded Master Plan, which includes a landscape approach to formulate a clear guidance for development requested below, is elaborated;*

6. Also notes the submission of a Master Plan and local land use plans by the State Party, but expresses concern that the Master Plan does not have sufficient detail and scope to act as the strategic planning framework to protect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, or to address the large number of major planned projects and potential development threats;
7. Further urges the State Party to develop an expanded Master Plan based on a landscape approach, taking into account the nature of the property as a cultural landscape, and its attributes of OUV, and to ensure that local land use zoning plans conform to the Master Plan; this Master Plan should provide an overall strategic landscape protection and development framework within which the Management Plan, the individual zoning plans, and any other strategic plans operate, and should ensure co-ordination with emerging wider territorial plans; and to submit copies to the World Heritage Centre for assessment by the Advisory Bodies before final approval;
8. Regrets that a number of construction projects are being proposed or undertaken without notifying the Committee and urges furthermore the State Party to provide detailed information on these projects to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the implementation of the above and in order to develop ways of mitigating potential threats to the OUV of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

21. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: 3,334 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2007: UNESCO expert advisory mission; April/May 2008: UNESCO New Delhi Office advisory mission; February 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Weakness in the management of the Galle Heritage Foundation in its role as the managing authority for the property
- Potential impact of a proposed port construction on the integrity of the property.
- Intrusive and illegal constructions within the Galle cricket ground impacting on the integrity of the property;

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, in which the following progress is reported:

- *Proposed port*: This provides further details of the proposed revised port project as follows:
 - Minutes of a meeting on 5 November 2013 of the Galle Port Development project: This mentions the impact of the Southern Expressway on the proposed port, but without further details being provided.
 - Letter from the Sri Lanka Ports Authority to the Ministry of National Heritage, dated 21 October 2013: This includes details of the Galle Port Development Revised Plan 2013, including photo-montages and cross sectional drawings, and the height of the jetty above the water line. The letter also tabulates responses to a report by ICOMOS from September 2013 that provided the State Party with an assessment of the documents that, at that time, had been received by the World Heritage Centre.
- *Boundaries and buffer zone*: No information has been provided on the definition of a buffer zone, or on an extension of the property to include maritime archaeology.
- *Management system/structure*: No information has been provided on enhancing the management mechanism of the property.

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

Following the Committee's Decision **37 COM 7B.67** (Phnom Penh, 2013), ICOMOS provided the State Party with an assessment of the documents that had been received by the World Heritage Centre. This ICOMOS report stated that it was evident from the information submitted that the proposed port development could have a strong negative impact on the cultural and natural landscape of the bay and therefore on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It also sets out clearly what further documents would need to be provided in order to assess the full impact of the project. These included cross-sectional drawings through the bay, as requested by the 2010 reactive monitoring mission, details of the height of the jetty above the water line; photo-montages of the proposed development viewed from the Old Town and Rumassala, details of the scale and location of land development to support the port including the hotel/restaurant development, and details of protection for the Hercules site. The report also stated that the archaeological survey of the property lacked clarity.

The port plans provided, although labelled as revised, are the same as those submitted in May 2013. This additional information, although responding to some of the requests of ICOMOS and the Committee in terms of content, has been provided at a very small scale and with a lack of clarity, particularly the cross sections and photo-montages. Although an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Archaeological Impact Assessment were mentioned, no information on the maritime archaeological impact assessment was provided, nor was there a technical study to ascertain potential impacts on the underwater archaeology, or a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), both of which were requested by the Committee. The document also does not set out details of future land development other than to mention the location of new hotels, nor does it provide details as to how the Hercules site will be protected.

The documents submitted are not detailed enough to allow for a full assessment of potential impact of the proposed port on the OUV of the property. The State Party seems to be in favour of hosting an ICOMOS advisory mission to consider the issue of potential impact. The World Heritage Committee may suggest that such a mission be undertaken and that large scale plans be requested from the State Party, together with photo-montages of a high resolution in advance of such a mission. In addition to progress with an HIA, a maritime archaeological impact assessment may be recommended. There is also some concern regarding the fact that the State Party's report covers only the Port and does not provide any information from the Galle Heritage Foundation on progress on the boundaries or the buffer zone, the international cricket stadium or on the improvement to the overall management of the property. The development of the Port needs to be managed as part of the overall management of the property and, in order to achieve this, there is an urgent need to operationalise the cross-departmental functions of the Galle Heritage Foundation in order to strengthen coordination with other conservation and development bodies, as recommended by the 2010 reactive monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.72**, **35 COM 7B.78**, **36 COM 7B.68** and **37 COM 7B.67** adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges that the State Party has provided further information on the proposed Port project including cross sections and photo-montages, but regrets that these have not been submitted in sufficient detail to allow a full assessment of the potential impact of the proposed port on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and also notes that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has not been undertaken as requested, with a technical study to ascertain potential impacts on the underwater archaeology;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to invite an ICOMOS advisory mission to the property, to be financed by the State Party, in order to consider the potential impact of the Port project, and requests the State Party, in advance of such a mission, to provide large scale plans, photo-montages of a high resolution, and to have made progress on a HIA and technical underwater archaeological studies;*
5. *Expresses its concern that the State Party's report has only addressed the Port and has not responded to other requests of the World Heritage Committee;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to formally submit the proposals for the revision of the buffer zone and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to consider an extension of the property to cover the maritime archaeology of the bay;*
7. *Urges the State Party to make progress with reinforcing the overall management system for the property through the operationalising the cross-departmental functions of the Galle Heritage Foundation in order to strengthen coordination with other conservation and development authorities, as recommended by the 2010 reactive monitoring mission;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of*

conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

22. Golden Temple of Dambulla (Sri Lanka) (C 561)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: 3,333 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 1994: ICOMOS mission to Sri Lanka

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, upon request made by the World Heritage Centre regarding the introduction of a Buddha statue at the entrance of the property and other issues related to the management and ownership of the property.

The State Party reports that while the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) has officially been responsible for its conservation and management since 1996, it could not intervene any more in the management of the property. Instead, since 1996, the management has been taken over by the Temple Authorities and this includes the management of entrance fees, infrastructure in and around the property, visitor facilitators, and conservation and restoration of 2100 m² mural paintings as well as 157 medium to oversized polychrome sculptures.

The State Party enlists the current issues in the property as follows:

- Poor working relationship and coordination between the Temple Authorities and the principal heritage management authorities;
- Continued deterioration of the paintings due to no system of monitoring of the elements and features;
- Misunderstanding and lack of confidence of the Temple Authorities on the approach to mural painting conservation by the principal heritage management authorities;
- Rapidly decreasing traditional skill and the talent of the direct descendants of the Master Painters suggest that if this trend continues, the traditional knowledge of preparing paint using natural materials will also be lost in the near future;
- The lack of focus in conservation and presenting attributes of the property;

- Lack of maintenance plan for the elements which needs technical input by the Temple authorities;
- Lack of statutory control of the buffer zone in the preservation of the property's setting and inadequacy of the extent of the buffer zone;
- Disruptive impact on the sanctity of the sacred space and spiritual activities of the devotees due to tourism;
- Need for a strategy in site interpretation that does not destroy the sanctity of the site;
- Restricted access to different spaces of the cave shrines.

The State Party also reports that recently a new Buddha statue has been introduced at the entrance to the property. The State Party indicates that the large, gold painted Buddha statue is perceived by many professionals as intrusive and not in harmony with the spirit and setting of the Temple. However, it seems that the relevant authorities are not able to intervene. The State Party reports that there are unauthorized and unacceptable new additions to the property which are beyond the control of the CCF.

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

It is recommended that the Committee express its concern over the current situation in which the relevant authorities seem to encounter difficulties in conservation and management of the property.

In this context, It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to the property to carry out a thorough assessment on its state of conservation, including its management effectiveness ranging from conservation to visitor management as well as the appropriateness of a newly introduced golden Buddha statue at the site, as it is incumbent upon the State Party to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee also encourage the State Party to be involved in the management of the property, in particular on the management system that should involve not only the Temple authorities, but also the relevant authorities of the State Party. For this purpose, the State Party should explore in future the most appropriate way to manage this property, in particular issues related to the ownership, which might be separated from the management authorities.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined* Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. *Recalling* Decision **21 COM VII.C.55** adopted at its 21st session (Naples, 1997),
3. *Expresses its concern* at the current situation under which the property has been managed solely by the Temple authorities without any involvement of the relevant authorities of the State Party;
4. *Strongly requests* the State Party to submit a state of conservation report as a matter of urgency and to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to carry out the following:
 - a) *a thorough analysis on the current situation on how the property is being managed by the Temple authorities and the role of the State Party including any remedial measures if necessary,*
 - b) *a thorough analysis of the state of conservation of the attributes namely, overall interior, paintings, sculptures and the spiritual atmosphere with proposals to ensure their protection,*

- c) *make a series of recommendations addressing the issues related to conservation and management of the property, in particular on its structure, that should involve not only the Temple authorities but also the relevant authorities of the State Party as well as current status of the maintenance and monitoring procedures in place;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress achieved in the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-2009

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1998-1998)

Total amount approved: 15,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 6 January 2014, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958/documents/>. The report provides information on measures implemented in response to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- *Reorganization of management structure* to better respond to conservation and protection issues at the property. Hiring of new staff and attending training courses have also strengthened capacities. A State Program on Restoration and Preservation of Historical-Cultural Monuments and Improvement and development of functionality of cultural reserves (2014-2020) was adopted in December 2013. This is expected to improve legal frameworks and conservation actions for heritage.
- *A moratorium on further construction of tall buildings* in the surroundings of the property has been officially confirmed by the relevant agencies.

- The *Greater Baku Regional Development Plan* was finalised in May 2013. This document is expected to enhance collaboration between stakeholders and to set out clear policies for the development of Greater Baku, including zoning and land use plans as well as management provisions at the regional and city level. No timeframe for official adoption has been indicated.
- *Other measures* to improve protection and conservation of the property include the dissemination of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIAs) guidelines to consider in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property when evaluating projects and the establishment of an inter-agency commission for monitoring conservation works within the reserve area. Additional actions were carried out to strengthen the implementation of the living city policy including healthcare and medical support, identification and interventions for housing, among others. Engagement with the Council of Elders in relation to the property has also improved.

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

The information provided by the State Party regarding the implementation of measures to improve the management, conservation and protection of the property is well noted. Notwithstanding this progress, the visual qualities and skyline of the setting of the property have been impacted due to the number of high-rise buildings. Although a moratorium is currently in place for high-rise construction, it is crucial that other urban development activities within the buffer zone and wider setting, which can hinder the ability of the property to convey its OUV, be controlled.

It should also be underscored that no information was provided on actions foreseen to address the impact, in relation to character and volume, of new constructions, or elevation and transformation of historical buildings within the property. The adoption of the Greater Baku Regional Development Plan and other regulatory measures needs to be prioritised and strict control and enforcement is required to ensure that no further alterations to architectural and urban planning coherence, as well as impacts to the authenticity of the property in relation to location and setting, occur as a result of inadequate interventions. The information provided by the State Party regarding a moratorium on further construction of tall buildings in the surroundings of the property is welcomed.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to introduce a moratorium on further construction, elevation and inappropriate transformation of historical buildings within the property.

In regard to further construction and infrastructure development in the buffer zone of the property and its wider setting, integrating HIAs and visual studies on proposals will be crucial to prevent the erosion of the attributes of the property and of its conditions of authenticity and integrity. These requirements should be included in regulatory provisions for the property, its buffer zone and wider setting. The State Party should give consideration to the recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes in the review of planning and management tools.

Finally, considering the conservation work carried out, it is recommended that these actions extend to other areas so that the decay of the urban fabric in general is addressed. It is also crucial that a strong policy is enforced to promote maintenance and good conservation practice and to prioritise rehabilitation of the building stock.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Takes note of the actions undertaken by the State Party to improve the conservation and management of the property and urges it to finalize the approval process for recently developed management and planning tools to ensure their effective implementation;

4. Encourages the State Party to sustain its conservation and protection efforts with particular attention to the following:
 - a) Formulate and adopt guidance for a consistent conservation and maintenance approach to the building stock within the property to ensure that fabric decay is adequately addressed and urban planning coherence is maintained,
 - b) Actively encourage the rehabilitation of decayed buildings through incentives to strengthen conservation of historic buildings and support a living city approach,
 - c) In accordance with the legislative framework, examine options for the removal of illegal constructions within the property and for alternatives to mitigate the impacts, in relation to character and volume, of existing new constructions and/or elevation or transformation of historical buildings,
 - d) Strictly enforce regulatory measures in the buffer zone, giving consideration to defining a larger protection zone for the wider setting of the property to avoid further erosion of its visual qualities and to enhance protection,
 - e) Continue the work of the Technical Review Committee to review projects for intervention and enforce planning controls and clear procedures for approval of proposals,
 - f) Consider the integration of the Historic Urban Landscape approach for the definition/updating of planning tools for the property, its buffer zone and wider setting;
5. Also urges the State Party to introduce a moratorium on further construction, elevation and inappropriate transformation of historical buildings within the property;
6. Requests the State Party to continue, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform the World Heritage Centre about planned projects within the buffer zone and wider setting of the property and to submit technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments, for projects being considered for approval;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2016** a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

25. City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979, extension in 1994

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1991-1998

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1985-2003)

Total amount approved: 142,053 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total Amount of the postwar major restoration programme co-ordinated by UNESCO: USD 80,000,000

Previous monitoring missions

November 1995: fact-finding mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved);
- Need to extend the buffer zone (issue resolved);
- Earthquake in September 1995 (issue resolved).

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/>

Current conservation issues

After receiving information from the civil society, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide clarifications on a large project in the vicinity of the World Heritage property, as well as on the progress in regulation of cruise ship tourism. On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report providing details regarding the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property of the cruise ship tourism, as well as of the planned sport and recreation centre with golf course and tourist settlement. The State Party reported that the proposed recreational centre would cover an area of protected forest for some 359 ha on the plateau of Mount Srđ and Bosanka, situated directly above the City of Dubrovnik. The proposal includes the construction of two golf courses, a sports center, two hotels, 240 villas, 408 apartments, an amphitheater, equestrian club, parks, promenades, and other facilities. Some of the villas would be constructed at the edge of the escarpment giving them views over the old city.

The State Party informed that this project is going to be approved and that construction of apartments and golf courses is going to start. It noted that the Dubrovnik Conservation Department has determined that, after some revisions to the zones and the volumes of the center, the planned development aligns with previously issued conservation guidelines. The Urban Development plan for the City of Dubrovnik was also revised and adopted by the Dubrovnik City Council on 17 August 2013. As of January 2014, construction of the planned development had not yet started.

Regarding the large cruise ships, the State Party informed that the Ministry of Tourism plans to develop a new "Croatian Tourism Development Strategy until 2020," which will address all relevant issues. It also informed that a tourism strategy will be a part of the property's management plan. The State Party launched the review of a national legal framework to strengthen the legislative protection and management of World Heritage properties in Croatia.

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

The State Party did not provide information, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, of its intention to undertake or to authorize new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property.

The documents provided upon the request by the World Heritage Centre demonstrate that the large size of the development could have an irreversible impact on the property's OUV. The development would eradicate the clear distinction that has historically existed between the urban complex of Dubrovnik, as a unique creation of medieval architecture and town planning, its landscape and rural environment setting.

The analytical documentation annexed to the state of conservation report provided by the State Party does not assess the proposed development in terms of its potential impacts on the attributes that sustain the Old City of Dubrovnik's OUV.

It is recommended therefore that the Committee request the State Party to halt any work on the project until a comprehensive study and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in terms of its cumulative impact on the OUV of the property is completed for the property and its larger setting.

In terms of the impact of large cruise ships, more concrete details on the foreseen solutions to the problem associated with high tourist numbers visiting the property in a very short time (including cruise ship tourism) are needed, in particular details of precisely how the City Management Plan and the Tourism Development Strategy will address present and future tourism challenges.

Given the current situation, a reactive monitoring mission is needed to assess current conditions at the property, to consider the potential cumulative impacts (direct and indirect, including visual, physical, social, cultural and economic) of the project on OUV, as well as to review if the property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **22 COM VII.17**, adopted at its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998),*
3. *Takes note of the information submitted by the State Party regarding the large project planned for the plateau of Mount Srd̄ and Bosanka in the vicinity of the World Heritage property;*
4. *Regrets that details of this project were not provided by the State Party, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and before any commitments had been made;*
5. *Urges the State Party to halt any work on the project until a comprehensive study and heritage impact assessment in terms of its cumulative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is completed by the State Party and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess current conditions at the property, including the evaluation of potential impacts derived from development proposals and identify options for development proposals in accordance to the OUV of the property, as well as to review if the property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the Management Plan of the property, including a tourism strategy and legal regulations of cruise ship tourism;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, and by **1 February 2016** a state of conservation report on the implementation of the above, both reports including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

27. Venice and its lagoon (Italy) (C 394)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice: more than 1,500 projects worth over 50 million euro.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Concern over the announcement of a universal exhibition in Venice (issue resolved)

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/>

Current conservation issues

In response to the appeal launched by UNESCO in 1966, private organizations were established in a number of countries to collect and channel contributions to restore and preserve Venice. UNESCO Venice Office administers the "Joint UNESCO-Private Committees Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice", cooperating with the Association of Private Committees and Superintendencies of Monuments and Galleries of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in Venice in two main areas: the restoration of monuments and works of art and the provision of funding for training of specialists in conservation of cultural heritage. The Private Committees have funded – within the joint UNESCO – Private Committees Programme – more than 1,500 projects worth over 50 million euro.

After receiving information from the civil society, the World Heritage Centre requested in 2012 the State Party to provide clarifications on a number of large infrastructure, navigation and construction projects within the property and its setting including Veneto region, as well as on the progress in the adoption of a planned decree to stop large cruise ships and tankers. ICOMOS reviewed some projects (eg. Dogaletto – Giare Project, Palais Lumière) and provided extensive comments to the Italian authorities.

In the light of the above, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party in August 2013 to provide further information, as a basis for the submission of a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Committee.

On 29 January 2014, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report, with annexes describing a number of new large maritime infrastructures to allow ultra-large ships mainly handle oil, bulk and container traffic to call at the Port of Venice. The report is available on <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/documents/>. It also submitted the Management Plan of the property and a proposal for the establishment of a buffer zone.

The State Party reported that the system of mobile gates called MoSE (Experimental Electromechanical Module) to control high waters temporarily isolating the lagoon from the sea is under construction and will be operational by 2016. Projects currently being developed include an offshore platform at some 8 miles off the Malamocco port, a new terminal "Motorways of the Sea" in Fusina, a new container terminal on the site of former industrial facilities in Porto Marghera, a new multi-functional facility between Venice and its maritime station, and a touristic port in San Nicolò. The report confirms that the project of Palais Lumière has been withdrawn.

The State Party highlighted that the passage of medium to high tonnage ships is progressively causing the erosion of the lagoon bed, mud banks and salt marshes, and that, accordingly to the Piano di Assetto del Territorio (PAT) of the Municipality of Venice, the goal is the final exclusion of ships incompatible with the historic city and with the lagoon. It reported that numerous proposals and alternative projects for the passage of cruise ships within St. Mark's Basin and the Giudecca Canal are currently being examined by various organizations and institutional bodies, and that transitional measures to mitigate the traffic of large cruise ships were established. The State Party informed that in conformity with the 2013 Decree concerning the "Identification of access ways to the Port of Venice Maritime Station alternative to those prohibited to ships over 40,000 GT", the Maritime Authority identified the Contorta Sant'Angelo canal, pending the results from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs), as an alternative waterway. It also indicated that a Steering Committee meets regularly to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan, as well as to evaluate corrective and mitigating measures to sustain the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

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

The State Party has made some efforts to develop a range of mechanisms to safeguard Venice and its lagoon landscape that cover 50,000 km². The nature reserve Valle d'Averto (at the North-West edge of the Lagoon) is also designated as a Ramsar Site within the framework of the 1971 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Ramsar Convention.

Irreversible transformations could however derive from proposals for large infrastructure, navigation and construction projects in the Lagoon and its immediate setting would appear to have the potential to seriously jeopardize the OUV of the property.

Taking into account that the State Party submitted the majority of information regarding new constructions and infrastructure developments in Italian, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit information regarding such projects in one of the working languages, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is taken.

Given the large number of projects that are planned or on-going in and around the lagoon (including new off-shore platform, new terminals, tourist port and large leisure facilities), the cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property needs to be comprehensively assessed. The results need to be submitted in English or French to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

There are also some concerns about the negative environmental impacts triggered by motor boats, cruise ships and oil tankers. The goal aiming to exclude all ships incompatible with the historic city and with the lagoon, as stated in the Territorial Plan (PAT) has not been achieved and that the City Council has fostered a series of in-depth studies. Following media reports about the decision of the regional court of the Veneto region to suspend the law reducing the number of cruise ships entering from the Adriatic, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party, in conformity with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to provide detailed information regarding legal instruments and regulations applicable to this World Heritage property.

It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to implement all relevant measures to prohibit the largest ships to enter the Lagoon. Alternative means to allow cruise tourists to enjoy and understand the value and frailty of Venice should be developed with the tourism and cruise companies.

The exceptionally high tourism pressure on the city of Venice and the extensive tourism related activities that can potentially threaten the OUV of the property if no mechanisms are in place to ensure that no irreversible transformations occur should also be highlighted. A sustainable tourism strategy, which includes options to accommodate development needs, is a priority for implementation within the framework of the Management Plan. The ICOMOS technical review provided recommendations for the revision of the Management Plan and for tentative buffer zone that need to be undertaken accordingly.

Currently, the responsibilities over the Venice Lagoon are divided among the national, regional and local authorities where the Venice Water Authority (MAV) plays a decisive role. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to establish a strong coordination among all stakeholders concerned to ensure the hydro-geological balances of the Venice Lagoon and the whole drainage basin, as well as the protection of all attributes that convey the OUV of the property.

Given the current situation, a reactive monitoring mission is needed to assess current conditions at the property and assist with the evaluation of project proposals and identify options that are in accordance

to the OUV of the property, as well as to review if the property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is recommended that the Committee suggest to the State Party to invite a Ramsar expert to participate in this mission.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 13 COM IX.22, adopted at its 13th session (UNESCO, 1989),
3. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to develop a range of mechanisms to safeguard Venice and its lagoon landscape and of the approved Management Plan resulting from extensive consultations among all stakeholders, and encourages the State Party to undertake its revision based on the results from the technical evaluation by ICOMOS;
4. Expresses its concern about the extent and scale of proposals for large infrastructure, navigation and construction projects in the Lagoon that can potentially jeopardize the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by generating irreversible transformations on the landscape and seascape of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for these projects to assess both individual and overall cumulative impacts of the potential modifications of the Lagoon and its immediate land and seascape, in order to prevent any irreversible transformations and potential threat to the property's OUV and to enhance the protection of the property in relation to sustaining its OUV;
6. Also expresses its concern about the negative environmental impacts triggered by medium motor boats to high tonnage ships that have progressively caused erosion of the lagoon beds, mud banks and salt marshes, and which could represent potential threat to the property's OUV and also requests the State Party to enforce speed limits and regulate the number and type of boats;
7. Urges the State Party to prohibit the largest ships and tankers to enter the Lagoon and further requests the State Party to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a legal document introducing such a process;
8. Recognises the exceptionally high tourism pressure on the city of Venice, and the extensive tourism related activities, urges the State Party to prioritise the development of a sustainable tourism strategy, and also encourages the State Party to develop jointly with the major tourism and cruise companies alternative solutions to allow cruise tourists to enjoy and understand the value of Venice and also its fragility;
9. Further encourages financial institutions and agencies to ensure that Heritage and/or Environmental Impact Assessments are carried out to determine that there are no negative impacts on the OUV, before planning investment in large-scale developments within the property and its setting;
10. Encourages furthermore the State Party to continue with the assessment of the hydrology and geo-mechanics functioning of the Venice Lagoon and its whole drainage basin; and invites the State Party to establish a strong coordination among all stakeholders concerned to ensure the hydro-geological balances of the Venice Lagoon

and the whole drainage basin, as well as the protection of all attributes that convey the OUV of the property;

11. Also takes note of the proposal for the establishment of the buffer zone and also invites the State Party to undertake its revision in line with the ICOMOS technical review and submit to the World Heritage Centre the minor boundary modification by **1 February 2015**;
12. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2015 to assess current conditions at the property, including the evaluation of potential impacts derived from development proposals and identify options for development proposals in accordance to the OUV of the property, as well as to review if the property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and recommends to the State Party to also invite a representative of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to take part in this reactive monitoring mission;
13. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, and by **1 February 2016** a state of conservation report on the implementation of the above, both reports including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

28. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation) (C 994)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2002)

Total amount approved: 85,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2001: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN mission; November 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; July 2009: ICOMOS/IUCN Technical Advisory Mission (invited by Lithuania); December 2010: WHC/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential pollution from the oil exploitation of the D-6 oil field in the Baltic Sea by the Russian Federation;
- Lack of bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and the Russian Federation, including joint assessment of environmental impact of the D-6 project;
- Impacts of sewage spill accident which took place at Klaipėda Water Treatment Station (Lithuania);
- New constructions and possibly illegal constructions;
- Sand dunes erosion;
- Possible tourism economic zone in Kaliningrad.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2014, a state of conservation report was submitted by the State Party of the Russian Federation, and on 6 February 2014, a state of conservation report was submitted by the State Party of Lithuania; both are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/documents/>. These reports respond to some of the requests of the Committee at its 36th session in 2012 and include updates on improvements as well as proposed developments:

- *Illegal buildings in Lithuania:* During 2013, a large building at Juodkrantė was demolished and there were seven further cases of annulment or demolition of buildings in the Lithuanian part of the property; no new cases of illegal buildings have been reported to the authorities.
- *Cooperation between National Parks in Lithuania and the Russian Federation:* In March 2013, a joint seminar was held with an ICOMOS expert to address the management of the overall cultural landscape of the property. In accordance with the agreed recommendations of the seminar, work has started on the preparation of a joint management plan for the property. A joint programme for 2013-2015 has also been developed for the two national parks.
- *Regulation on the National Park, Russian Federation:* In November 2012, the new Regulation was approved. This defines the rights and duties of the National Park and determines its borders that now include the villages of Lesnoy, Rybachiy and Morskoye; it also regulates social and economic activity within the National Park.
- *Liquefied Gas Terminal, Lithuania:* Work on this terminal (outside the property) has started, but the impact assessments requested by the Committee before work commenced were not provided.
- *Proposed bridge and port development at Klaipėda, Lithuania:* In early 2014, the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Lithuania) formed a working group to consider the development of Klaipėda Port and to evaluate the construction of a bridge to the Curonian Spit. On 23 January 2014 the Council of Neringa municipality approved a 'protocol resolution' for a bridge. No further details were submitted.

On 7 April 2014, the State Party of the Russian Federation submitted a letter to the World Heritage Centre expressing concern at the potential negative impacts that the proposed bridge project could have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party of Lithuania on 14 April 2014, but no response has been received at the time of writing this document. Further information on the bridge project is available on the Port of Klaipėda website at: <http://www.portofklaipeda.lt/news/9962/577/Representatives-of-Chinese-company-China-Road-and-Bridge-Corporation-visited-Klaipeda-port/d.archyve> and <http://www.portofklaipeda.lt/outer-deep-sea-port>. These websites outline proposals for a deep sea port to the north of the property and for a large suspension bridge linking the mainland with the Spit, and presumably with the new port.

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

The continuing active collaboration between the two National Parks is welcomed, in particular the agreement to work on an overall management plan for the transnational property and to pursue other outcomes of the joint seminar held in March 2013. The successful measures taken in Lithuania to reverse illegal building permissions must also be commended, including the demolition of structures such as the highly visible restaurant at Juodkrantė.

A new framework has been agreed for the Russian National Park and will regulate social and economic activity within the park. This should pre-empt further major, inappropriate development

proposals and instead encourage sustainable development. The inclusion of the three villages within the park boundaries will also strengthen the links between the local community and the landscape.

The apparent lack of dialogue on proposals to develop a new port and bridge at Klaipėda is a source of concern, particularly as information in the public domain suggests that such schemes have been considered over several years. The apparent haste with which approval in principle for the bridge appears to have been given, before any impact assessments or plans have been submitted for review, is also deeply concerning. It is therefore recommended that the Committee should request the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to the property, to be organised as soon as possible.

While the proposed bridge is within the property and the proposed port would be immediately outside the boundary, both could have major impacts on the highly sensitive Spit, and not only in visual terms. The bridge could allow unregulated access to the Spit, while the port might impact on sea currents and wave motions that could further destabilize the dunes. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to suspend work on both projects until a full assessment of the overall development of Klaipėda in relation to the property has been undertaken.

It is also noted that work on the liquefied gas terminal has commenced despite the fact that none of the impact assessments requested by the Committee were conducted. Together, the development of these projects would appear to indicate that the management of the Klaipėda part of the property is not aligned with the positive management that now prevails within the two National Parks, an issue that ought to be addressed during a reactive monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.78** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Welcomes the continuing collaboration between the two national parks and the commitment to produce a transnational Management Plan for the property, as well as the recently strengthened regulations within the Russian National Park that should support sustainable development within the property;*
4. *Also welcomes the significant progress made within Lithuania to contain and reverse illegal development;*
5. *Expresses its concern however that work on the liquefied gas terminal outside Klaipėda has been approved and commenced although no impact assessments were provided, despite its earlier requests and reiterates its request to the State Party of Lithuania to undertake full impact assessments (Strategic Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments) in order to consider the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; these assessments should be provided to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Expresses its strong concern that approval in principle has apparently been given for the construction of a large suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the lagoon to the Spit, as this structure could have severe adverse visual impacts and affect traffic management along the Spit;*
7. *Understands that the bridge could be part of a larger project to develop a deep sea port at Klaipėda, which could have an impact on the stability of the dunes, and notes with regret that no details of either project have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as required by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

8. *Requests the State Party of Lithuania to halt further development of both projects until full details have been provided, including detailed impact assessments (Strategic Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments), in order to allow an evaluation of potential impact on the property;*
9. *Also requests the State Party of Lithuania to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2014 to consider the proposed bridge and port projects as well as the liquefied gas terminal project;*
10. *Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the implementation of the above and, by **1 February 2016**, 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 40th session in 2016, both reports including a 1-page executive summary.*

36. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 426bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; December 2011: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Construction proposals in the immediate vicinity of the property that could have an adverse impact on the setting, related vistas and integrity of the property;
- Lack of an in-depth visual impact study on possible impacts of development projects, as well as lack of an approved management plan;
- Need for protection of the immediate surroundings of the property through an adequate buffer zone.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>.

In reply to the Committee's request, the State Party reported that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 is currently being complemented by a National Planning Practice Guidance, aimed at providing additional assistance for the use of the NPPF, including specific guidance related to managing World Heritage properties. It underlined that these and other recently published documents on planning policy guidance are considered to be sufficient to guide planning decisions for the wider setting of the property. It expressed its view that a more detailed framework would be inadequate to the metropolitan character of London and would unreasonably limit its development. The State Party also reiterated the procedures in place for submitting planning applications, which allow the national level to intervene only after the responsible local authority took a decision thereon.

The State Party further reported that, following the Secretary of State's decision not to call-in the planning application for Elizabeth House, English Heritage and Westminster City Council lodged legal challenges in the courts to the Lambeth Council's resolution to grant consent for the planning application. In March 2014, the High Court rejected these challenges; the court's decision would now allow Lambeth Council to issue the permission for the development project. However, no formal consent of approval has yet been issued for the Elizabeth House scheme at the time of preparation of this working document, and the State Party informed that Lambeth Council is still requested to reconsider the planning application taking into account English Heritage's concerns before making any final decision. The State Party also reported that Westminster City Council is in the process of exploring ways to define the immediate setting of the property in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Once this process would be finalized, it is expected that the relevant planning policy frameworks would be adapted accordingly.

The State Party finally recalled that the planning applications for the development schemes of Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site were approved and decision notices issued.

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

The State Party has developed its set of planning guidance documents to improve coordination of relevant local authorities in view of planning and decision-making related to the property. It is also noted that regulations for the application of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for World Heritage-relevant projects appear to have been strengthened, and that the State Party looks to improve procedures linked to its obligation arising from Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is further noted that the State Party does not envisage defining a wider setting for the World Heritage properties in London. It is however underlined that, while the regulatory documents and frameworks seem to be reinforced, the dynamic urban development of the metropolitan area of London requires permanent and particular attention to potentially impacting development projects. It is yet recalled that there is a continued need to better define the wider setting of the property and its protection, and to ensure that timelines for decision-taking for planning applications are such that the results of the Advisory Bodies' review of planning applications can be appropriately taken into account.

There is serious concern that legal objections to the Elizabeth House development scheme were rejected and that there would be no legal obstacles to issuing the final permission and to implementing the development scheme. Implementing the development scheme as currently planned would constitute a substantial adverse impact on the important views to and from the World Heritage property, its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity. It is therefore recommended that the Committee consider placing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and request the State Party to reconsider the Elizabeth House development scheme, encouraging the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation.

It is also pointed out that the State Party has not taken any steps to intervene and review the development projects of Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site, which were considered to be potentially impacting on the OUV. It is therefore considered critical that Elizabeth House, as well as the other proposed development schemes of Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site are revised as a matter of urgency, by taking into account the concerns raised by English Heritage.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.92** and **37 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the results of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of December 2011,
4. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen the policy and planning framework through guidance documents and enhanced coordination of the relevant planning authorities;
5. Notes with concern that the State Party has not taken action to revise the development schemes of Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site, and urges the State Party to ensure that the proposals are not implemented in their current form but revised in line with the concerns raised by English Heritage;
6. While noting that formal consent has yet to be granted for the Elizabeth House development scheme, also notes with serious concern that there are no legal obstacles for granting final permission for the development scheme, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the proposal is not approved in its current form and that it be revised in line with the concerns raised by English Heritage;
7. Considers that the implementation of the Elizabeth House development scheme constitutes a potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that the property is in danger in conformity with Chapter IV.B of the Operational Guidelines, and **decides to inscribe the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
8. 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 for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, together with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. Also requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, any planned larger-scale projects in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and that adequate time be allowed for thorough review of each project by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is taken;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

37. New Lanark (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 429rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/429/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/429/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/429/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 March 2014, the State Party provided a state of conservation report (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/429/documents>) on two planning applications located in the buffer zone and in the wider setting of the property: the Pleasance Housing proposal and the extension of the Hyndford Quarry.

Over the last year, local and national NGOs had been expressing concern at potential adverse impacts of both projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Upon request, the State Party had provided updated information about the planning applications, which was reviewed by ICOMOS and its comments were provided to the State Party in October 2013.

- *Pleasance Housing proposal*: On 7 February 2013, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre about a planning application for a housing development in the buffer zone on a 5 ha site located 1 km north-west of the property. On 7 December 2013, the planning application for this housing development was granted permission in outline and in principle by South Lanarkshire Council (accessible at <http://pbsportal.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorerv17/GeneralSearch.aspx> reference CL/12/0201). The Pleasance Housing proposal consists of two parts, one on the low-lying site of existing commercial buildings, the other on a more prominent green field site which appears to be visible from a number of locations within the property. Following Historic Scotland's previous objections regarding the project's potential adverse impact on the OUV of the property, the State Party reported that consultations on mitigation measures have been taken up with South Lanarkshire Council and that Historic Scotland (the State Party's Advisor for World Heritage properties in Scotland) is confident that solutions will be found to mitigate adverse impact through layout and design. The State Party did not provide a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for this project.
- *Hyndford Quarry*: On 29 November 2011, the company Cemex submitted an application for permission to extend sand and gravel extraction in two areas of Hyndford Quarry, situated to the south-east of the property outside the buffer zone; the proposed western extension of the quarry would introduce 17 hectares of quarry operations into the buffer zone of the property, which also corresponds to the nationally protected Falls of Clyde Designed Landscape. The application is accessible at <http://pbsportal.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorerv17/GeneralSearch.aspx> reference CL/12/0525 and was assessed as not impacting on the property's OUV by Historic

Scotland, but has raised substantial opposition from local and national NGOs. However, all parties, including Historic Scotland, consider that the application would affect the Falls of Clyde Designed Landscape. On 29 January 2014, the Scottish ministers decided to call-in the application due to the perceived potential impact after the planning authority notified the Scottish government of its intention to grant permission (accessible at <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Quarry-plan-called-in-8c6.aspx>). Currently, a pre-examination and a subsequent hearing or inquiry will be carried out in view of a recommendation to ministers by autumn 2014, based on which a formal decision will be made.

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

It is recalled that the OUV of the property emphasizes the contribution of Robert Owen's philosophy of industrial towns being developed within sublime landscapes, and that the buffer zone was therefore acknowledged as providing an essential setting for the property, through the way it illustrates the importance of locating factories in healthy and inspirational places. This vital component for the OUV of the property is also acknowledged in the Management Plan, stating that the setting is protected from threats from housing development and further quarrying by adequate planning controls.

It is noted that Historic Scotland advised not to grant permission to the planning application of Pleasance Housing as originally proposed, and that it considers the Hyndford Quarry extension to be detrimental to the nationally protected Falls of Clyde Designed Landscape while also considering that its impact on the property's OUV and setting would be insufficient to merit objection. It is further noted that the two proposed development projects in the property's buffer zone have received significant objections by civil society, and that the Hyndford Quarry extension project has been called-in for examination by the responsible ministers.

Neither of the planning applications has been subject to a HIA. It is considered that the potential for adverse impact on the property and its setting from these projects, and particularly from the quarry extension, is such that it is recommended that the Committee express its concern about the potential adverse impacts on the OUV of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to suspend any further decisions on the two planning applications to allow for the elaboration of HIAs and their submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Notes the report submitted by the State Party on two planning applications for the Pleasance Housing proposals and the extension of the Hyndford Quarry;*
3. *Expresses its concern about the potential adverse impacts of the Hyndford Quarry extension and Pleasance Housing projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;*
4. *Requests the State Party to suspend any further decisions on the planning applications for Hyndford Quarry and Pleasance Housing to allow for the elaboration of heritage impact assessments for each of the development projects, and also notes the decision of the ministers to call-in the planning application for Hyndford Quarry for scrutiny through an inquiry or hearing before their final decision;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre as soon as available the Heritage Impact Assessments for the Hyndford Quarry extension and Pleasance Housing projects, elaborated in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance;*

6. *Encourages the State Party to take up consultations with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding adequate modifications to the projects as currently proposed, and to consider inviting an ICOMOS advisory mission to the property to review the potential adverse impacts of the Pleasance Housing and Hyndford Quarry projects as well as the overall state of conservation of the property and its buffer zone, before further decisions are made;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to notify the World Heritage Centre of any decision or development on the above matters as soon as available and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

43. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1981-1999)

Total amount approved: 391,800 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; October 2013: ICOMOS advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development pressures which impact the authenticity of the site;
- Weaknesses in the decision-making process regarding conservation;
- Works in the Tower of the Complex of the Society of Jesus.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/>

Current conservation issues

An ICOMOS advisory mission visited the property in October 2013. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 31 January 2014. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents>. Environmental impact and heritage impact assessments, as well as a management plan for the property, were later submitted in March 2014 and May 2014.

Progress in a number of recommendations made by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in these reports, as follows:

- Integration of all existing planning tools into a management plan, with a clear management structure;
- Development of a heritage impact assessment, in accordance with ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*, for the proposed interventions at the architectural ensemble of the Society of Jesus (Compañía de Jesús);
- A heritage impact assessment was submitted in May 2014 for the Quito subway project;
- Proposals for new public spaces and development projects.

The ICOMOS advisory mission noted that the State Party did not report substantively on the “development of a single comprehensive conservation plan, with details on costs and timeframes for implementation at different heritage sectors, on the established guidelines, and criteria for interventions on the anticipated changes in use,” as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **37 COM 7B.97**).

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

The Metropolitan Institute of Heritage (IMP) completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre the final Comprehensive Management Plan for the property on 13 May 2014, regrettably too late to allow a complete analysis to be included in this state of conservation report. The submitted Management Plan includes sections that reflect the advisory mission's recommendations that it should require conservation of the attributes that sustain the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as well as a declaration of principles and the definition of intervention criteria.

Regarding the management system, the ICOMOS advisory mission suggests that the decision-making process, which is currently distributed among several agencies, be reduced in instances and participants. In view of strengthening governance of the property, it will be necessary to define the authority for implementing the Management Plan and the municipal bylaws governing the property, and to give that authority a consistent hierarchy in the organizational chart.

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the architectural ensemble of the Society of Jesus prepared in response to ICOMOS advisory mission recommendations indicates that the proposed new hotel use must assure the protection and conservation of the attributes that sustain the OUV, the authenticity, and integrity of the World Heritage property; it also acknowledges that any interventions to the reduced Bell Tower must observe the principles of reversibility and of differentiation of new components. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee urge the State Party to continue consulting with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies during the next phases of the project, including the analysis of alternatives, with a particular focus on the interventions assessed as potentially having a negative impact.

Regarding other issues, the ICOMOS advisory mission recommends, *inter alia*, reviewing the location of the subway station planned for San Francisco Square, and that the projects for new urban public spaces be reconsidered in order to preserve the urban form that contributes to the property's OUV. It further recommends that the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, inform the World Heritage Centre of any new projects within the property, and that HIAs be developed in the context of these projects, to ascertain the extent of potential impacts on the OUV of the property.

In this context, on 13 May 2014 the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a Heritage Impact Assessment study for the Quito subway project's San Francisco and Plaza del Teatro stations. Regrettably, the study was received too late to allow a complete analysis to be included in this state of conservation report. The State Party is therefore urged to continue the consultative process with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding this project.

The World Heritage Committee may urge the State Party to take into account the recommendations made by the ICOMOS advisory mission regarding the management system, including the decision-making process, management responsibilities, and governance. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to consider the implementation of a single comprehensive conservation plan, with details on costs and timeframes for implementation at different heritage sectors, on the established guidelines, and criteria for interventions on the anticipated changes in use.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for preparing a comprehensive Management Plan for the property that reflects the recommendations made by the 2013 ICOMOS advisory mission;

4. *Urges the State Party to take into account the recommendations made by the 2013 ICOMOS advisory mission regarding the management system, including the decision-making process, management responsibilities, and governance;*
5. *Also commends the State Party for undertaking Heritage Impact Assessments of the proposed interventions at the architectural ensemble of the Society of Jesus and of the Quito subway project's San Francisco and Plaza del Teatro stations, in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and also urges the State Party to continue consulting with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on these projects, including the analysis of alternatives, with a particular focus on interventions assessed as potentially having a negative impact;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider the implementation of a single comprehensive conservation plan with details on costs and timeframes for implementation at different sectors of the property, on the established guidelines and criteria for interventions, and on changes of use;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

AFRICA

48. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/>

International Assistance

Request approved: 1 in 1996

Total amount approved: 2,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Soil erosion
- Development projects

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted its report for this property on 30 January 2014, which included a copy of a brief Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) carried-out for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project. The report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents>. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the same project carried out in 2011, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee has not yet been received.

- *Kuraz Sugar Cane Development Project:* The principle conservation concerns continue to be linked to the Kuraz Sugar Cane Development Project, which could have a major negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) if located within or near the property. The State Party reports that this major development project will be undertaken outside the property, while the HIA states that the Kuraz project will include sugarcane plantation on more than 100 km² within the property associated with extensive irrigation and the settlement of thousands of workers. Although the HIA is not based specifically on the Statement of OUV, it does set out clearly the high international importance of the property in terms of the length and continuity of archaeological sequence, the amount of fossils collected and the range of dates obtained as well as the high potential for further scientifically important discoveries. The HIA states that the proposed Kuraz project will have significant adverse impacts on three fossil bearing geological formations. Infrastructure building, deep excavations for building roads and settlements could destroy fossil content to a significant depth. Furthermore roads and settlements near important fossil sites could encourage theft and promote damage from trampling. The current landscape is said to result from a delicate equilibrium between topography and water flows generated by seasonal rains. Changes in routes and quantities of these flows could destroy this equilibrium and may lead to rapid alterations of the landscapes. Mitigation measures proposed in the HIA include full protection of the Shungura,

Kibish and Usno geological formations, and the prevention of all activities threatening significant parts of its outcrops. The HIA also recommends that agriculture in the buffer zone should not be associated with heavy infrastructure building and settlements. Road building should be confined to fossil-poor areas directed and monitored by archaeologists. Lastly, an assessment of 'nearby' fossil-bearing sediments is recommended in order to establish a plan for feasible conservation actions. The HIA report recommends all developments be guided by the Ethiopian Authority for Research & Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) and Omo Paleontological Project experts in order to avoid negative impacts.

- *Boundaries of property and Buffer Zone:* Although the terms property and buffer zone are mentioned in the State Party's report and the HIA, neither have been clearly defined. Confusingly the HIA mentions the 'delineated core and buffer area of the three formations'. This is not a serial nomination but rather one overall property of some 150 km².
- The property also remains in urgent need of a management plan.

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

The initial brief HIA on the Kuraz Sugar Cane Development Project is well noted. The details of the proposed development remain unclear. None of these have been supplied by the State Party. There are also conflicting statements about the location of the sugar plantations, roads and settlements in terms of how far they are within or without the property.

The fact that neither the boundaries of the property or the buffer zone have been delineated does not help. The statement made in the HIA about three separate sites and three separate buffer zones is clearly incorrect. Clarification of the overall boundary of the single site and its buffer zone needs to be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

What emerges clearly from the HIA is the potentially highly damaging changes that could be sustained by the landscape over a large area of some 100 km², which depending on the exact location could cover some two thirds of the area of the property. These impacts include irreversible damage to fossil remains from excavations, the impact of machinery, agriculture and irrigation, and from looting and trampling associated with new settlements.

The HIA suggests mitigation measures including:

- full protection of the Shungura Formation and prevention of all activities threatening significant parts of its outcrops;
- limiting agriculture to buffer zones but only if not associated with heavy infrastructure building and settlements;
- confining road building to fossil-poor areas directed and monitored by archaeologists;
- and protecting agricultural activities and settlements in core zones of the Kibish and Usno formations.

These appear quite inadequate to deal with the potentially massive changes that could be inflicted by the Kuraz project. The current HIA needs to be followed up by a more detailed cultural Heritage Impact Assessment based on the precise location of the project components, on the agreed retrospective Statement of OUV and on the detailed boundaries of the property. This further information and further assessment needs to be provided before any firm commitments are made on the overall project.

In advance of this being carried out, a map should be provided, indicating the exact location of the Kuraz project, as well as a timeframe for its implementation together with detailed project documentation, including the EIA carried out in 2011. Moreover, there is urgency of delineating the property before any intervention takes place. The new European Union Development Project to be carried out in 2014-2015, which will address the needs for definition of the boundaries and buffer zone as well as for a management plan, is well noted.

From the information so far available, it would appear that the property must be excluded from the Kuraz project. There is also concern as to whether much of the buffer zone could still fulfil its function if it became a focus for development activity.

In addition, there remains concern by reports of enforced clearance of indigenous pastoral communities to make way for the sugar plantations. A reply from the State Party to the March 2013 letter from the World Heritage Centre requesting information on this issue has still not been received. For the Management Plan, although the State Party report expresses its wish for international assistance for stakeholder consultations as well as for including adjacent localities as part of an

extension to the property, an official request needs to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before the statutory deadline of 1 October 2014.

As the HIA highlights the high “Paleo-tourism” potential of the site, the State Party should be encouraged to consider testing the new tourism management tools developed through the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee also request the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to assess these issues and the potential impact of the Kuraz project.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Welcomes the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the potential impacts of the Ethiopian Sugar Development Corporation Project (Kuraz project) on the Lower Omo Valley;*
4. *Notes that this HIA indicates the potential for massive adverse impacts on the property from the irrigation and excavations associated with the development of sugar plantations, settlements and access routes, and also notes that there is conflicting information on the precise extent and location of the Kuraz project;*
5. *Strongly urges the State Party to provide as soon as possible clear documentation on the scope and extent of the project and its precise location with regards to the property, in order to clarify whether it is within the property or its buffer zone; and requests clear information on the impact on pastoral communities with regards to resettlement schemes;*
6. *Also recalls its request to the State Party to submit the final report of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out in 2011 to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to improve the HIA with a detailed cultural heritage assessment based on the precise details of the Kuraz project and the precise attributes of the property and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made;*
8. *Further notes that the State Party has obtained funding from the European Union Development Project, which will enable the boundary delineation and management plan to be developed in 2014/2015;*
9. *Encourages the State Party to carry out an assessment of fossil-bearing sediments, as recommended by the HIA, in order to more clearly define areas of potential archaeological importance;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the above issues and the potential impact of the Kuraz project;*

11. Recognizes the high “Paleo-tourism” potential of the site noted in the HIA, and recommends that the State Party seek funding to test new tourism management tools, which have been developed recently through the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme;
12. Acknowledges the State Party’s urgent wish for international assistance for the site management plan and a possible extension of the property, and also encourages the submission of an International Assistance request to the World Heritage Fund before the next annual deadline of **1 October 2014**;
13. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

49. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)

Total amount approved: 31,776 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: for a Heritage Impact Assessment in 2014: 85,000 USD: Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; for a workshop on Historic Urban Landscapes in 2011: 22,943 USD: Flanders Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

March 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission; February 2005: World Heritage Centre advisory mission on water and sanitation assessments; May 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 1 February 2014, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>. Issues stemming from previous Committee decisions

include the implementation of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Lamu Port – South Sudan – Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Development Authority project and halting work on the project until the results of the HIA are finalized, the development of a new section of the management plan to deal with impacts of the project, and the submission of new maps showing the extent of the boundary and buffer zone for the property.

- *LAPSSET Development Project Heritage Impact Assessment:* The HIA process, with technical and financial support from UNESCO and the Netherlands Funds-In-Trust, is still underway at the time of the writing of this report. A first mission of the HIA team was undertaken in January 2014, which met with government officials, community members, and officials connected to the LAPSSET project. A second meeting with government stakeholders took place on 14 February 2014. Although the final HIA was expected in March, it was not available at the time of writing of this report. In the meantime, the State Party indicates that work has not yet been stopped on the port, as requested by the Committee. They do note, however, that a local NGO, Save Lamu, has filed a petition at the High Court of Kenya to have the project halted until all impending issues are resolved. The High Court has since directed that the case be placed urgently before the Chief Justice.
- *Management Plan:* The State Party reports that work is underway to prepare a chapter on the LAPSSET project within the management plan for the property. There was no information provided, however, as to the content or key findings of this chapter.
- *Property Boundary and Buffer Zone:* The State Party reports that it has submitted a proposed extension of the buffer zone to the Lamu County government and is awaiting approval from that body. This approval has been delayed for administrative reasons. Once approved by the State Party, maps documenting the property boundary and the extension to the buffer zone will be published by mid February 2014.

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

There is some concern that the work on the LAPSSET development project has not been halted as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its previous session, in order to wait until the HIA has been carried out and its results discussed by the Committee.

The State Party has undertaken great efforts to carry out the HIA. There has been however some delay in the finalization of the HIA in order to ensure that all necessary information is taken into account, including adequate stakeholder consultations. This document is a crucial tool in understanding the heritage impacts of the massive LAPSSET development project. While waiting for the final results of the HIA, however, there remains concern about the size and scope of the project and its potential impacts on the very delicate cultural and natural ecosystems of the Lamu Archipelago and the property. There is particular concern on the physical fabric of the inscribed area, its infrastructure, its cultural practices, and the livelihoods of its communities, which are all integral parts of the OUV of the property, as well as about the possible environmental impacts of the project, in particular in relation to the dredging of the port and the destruction of mangrove habitats, which may also have indirect negative impacts on the property.

The reports of lack of community involvement and input into the process should also be noted with concern. The mission to carry out the HIA found that residents' concerns about the project were, at least in part, due to the lack of information and involvement in the process. For the LAPSSET development project to have as minimal an impact as possible on the property, it will be necessary for the people of Lamu, who are the embodiment of Swahili culture, to have as much input as possible in mitigation of the development pressures. There will be a need for strong, proactive measures to protect the buildings, infrastructure, and cultural practices of the Lamu Old Town in the face of the rapid changes to the built and social environment that the project will bring.

Work is underway on additions to the management plan, which will take into account this development project, and would require that the additional chapter of the management plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it is finalized. However, it cannot be finalized until the HIA report is completed and validated, and mitigation measures are decided upon.

With regards to the provision of maps of the boundary and buffer zone of the property, this request has been made to the State Party every year since 2010. Progress has been reported, but the clarification of the property boundary would need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as

possible in accordance with the previous Committee decisions. With regards to the extension of the buffer zone reported by the State Party, it is recommended that the Committee request that this extension be submitted as a minor boundary modification as soon as possible for its approval.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.46**, **35 COM 7B.39**, **36 COM 7B.43** and **37 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,*
3. *Strongly regrets that the Lamu Port – South Sudan – Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Development Authority project was not halted, and reiterates its request to the State Party to halt all work on the LAPSSET development project until the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report has been finalized and its results discussed by the World Heritage Committee;*
4. *Takes note of the delay in the finalization of the HIA, and urges the State Party to complete the report and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Also takes note of the progress made on the development of a new chapter of the management plan covering the LAPSSET development project, requests that it integrates the results of the HIA, and that the finalized version be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon it is completed;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to encourage the involvement of the local community in the development and implementation of the planning and mitigation mechanisms that will be developed to offset the impacts of the LAPSSET project;*
7. *Also reiterates its request made at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions that the State Party furnish maps clearly showing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and further requests that any extensions to the buffer zone be submitted to the World Heritage Committee as a minor boundary modification as soon as they are completed and approved at the State Party level;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to discuss the results of the HIA and their implementation with the State Party and local stakeholders, to examine the work already undertaken for the LAPSSET development project, and to examine the state of conservation of the property;*
9. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1981 - 2012)

Total amount approved: 61,310 USD

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 110,000 (Italian Funds-in-Trust); USD 23,100 (Croisi Europe); USD 86,900 (European Commission), USD 53,000 (Netherland Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2005: World Heritage Centre missions; 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission, 2014: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 10 to 15 March 2014. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 24 March 2014. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>.

The State Party report highlights a number of conservation issues that have been exacerbated after the crisis in Mali. The lack of resources has hindered institutional capacities to address conditions currently affecting the property, including maintenance of the building stock, sanitation issues, development pressures, etc. Also, cultural tourism, a considerable source of revenue for the local communities and municipality, has practically ceased. Notwithstanding, efforts have been made to carry-out a condition survey to identify a priority action plan, to evaluate the management plan and to identify required updates to make the system more operational and adequate in response to emerging conditions. Work was also undertaken for the adoption of urban regulations and for the establishment of a management committee that would bring together stakeholders from the administrative, political, and religious and community arenas. The State Party also reports that, in spite of difficulties being faced, the Djenné community organised the annual maintenance of the mosque specially focused on the re-rendering of earthen architecture. Other measures were implemented at the archaeological sites to prevent further physical erosion of the remains.

The reactive monitoring mission to the property evaluated the state of conservation of the property and verified that current conditions at all component parts of the property need to be urgently addressed. It underscored that if action is not taken, the attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as well as the conditions of authenticity and integrity would be significantly threatened. The mission, however, noted the willingness of different stakeholders at the national and local level to coordinate efforts to ensure that pressing conservation and management issues are tackled. A twelve month costed priority action plan has been developed and it is expected that implementation could commence upon securing necessary resources.

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

The State Party has made a number of efforts, notwithstanding the difficult conditions, to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. However, urgent action is needed at the property so that its OUV is not irreversibly compromised. The crisis in Mali has exacerbated issues in relation to the progressive deterioration of the urban fabric of the property, the lack of effective implementation of regulatory measures to control encroachment and other impacts at the archaeological component parts, to regulate interventions at the historic town and to address new informal construction. Issues such as solid waste management, sewage and general sanitation continue to be far from resolved constituting a considerable threat to the local communities. The nature of earthen architecture construction makes it particularly vulnerable and strong efforts are needed to actively maintain and sustain the different attributes.

The findings of the mission are noted and the proposed priority action plan is considered as an important step for the conservation of the property as it includes comprehensive measures that could feasibly be implemented at the local level if the necessary financial resources, approximately USD 120,000, were secured. Interventions such as finalising delimitation of the archaeological sites, reinforcing anti-erosion measures, the update of the management plan and the adoption of urban regulations are essential to improve conservation of the property the short term. The current will at the political, administrative and community level to address pressing concerns is an important opportunity to make fully functional management arrangements that could sustain efforts in the long term.

Finally, if no substantial progress is achieved in the upcoming year, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee consider inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a call for action to garner the necessary and sustained support for the implementation of conservation, protection and management measures.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.41** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party for the implementation of the previous recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, notwithstanding the difficult situations being faced;*
4. *Expresses its deep concern about the current state of the property and the limited resources currently available to achieve substantial progress in addressing conservation and management issues;*
5. *Notes the conclusions of the reactive monitoring mission to the property and urges the State Party to begin the implementation of the proposed priority action plan with particular attention to the following:*
 - a) *Define the boundaries of the archaeological sites and their buffer zones and establish regulations to ensure their adequate protection from encroachment,*
 - b) *Implement anti-erosion measures for the archaeological sites based on a study of hydrological dynamics at the different sites,*
 - c) *Implement measures to address illegal occupations at the river banks,*
 - d) *Define conservation and maintenance regulations for the building stock at the historic town and facilitate access to materials for maintenance actions by the local inhabitants,*

- e) *Secure resources to strengthen the activities of the Cultural Mission and to allow for management arrangements to become fully operational,*
 - f) *Finalise the adoption process of the urban regulatory measures and strengthen institutional frameworks for their enforcement;*
6. ***Requests** the State Party to finalise the update of the management plan and to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan or management system for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
 7. ***Also urges** the State Party, within the framework of the UNESCO Mali Action Plan adopted on 18 February 2013, to cooperate with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as any other relevant international bodies, to identify means to implement the twelve-month emergency action plan;*
 8. ***Also requests** the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the progress made in the implementation of the priority action plan and to ascertain whether the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met;*
 9. ***Further requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations set out in paragraph 5 above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

53. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Groove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: 10,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies requested the State Party to submit a state of conservation report to address recent reports on:

- Development close to the property
- Road construction around the property
- Pollution of the Osun River
- Bush fires within the property
- Adverse impact of the commercialisation of the annual festival

The State Party submitted their report on 28 February 2014, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/documents>. Progress is reported on the following:

Although the report acknowledges the rapid growth of the city of Osogbo and the attendant pressures on land and water resources, it states that development has not affected the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as it is outside the property and the buffer zone. Nevertheless the report notes that in order to respect the sensitive nature of the grove and sustain its OUV, there is a need to curtail negative development pressures in the wider setting of the property, and for the local government to amend its Urban Renewal Programme.

One of the negative outcomes of development has been the pollution of the Osun River as a result of the violation of drainage regulations in the city. However, this has reportedly improved through annual cleaning by the National Environmental Standards Regulation Agency.

In the Conservation Management Plan for 2010 – 2014, the National Commission for Museums and Monuments acknowledged the many factors affecting the site such as development pressures, environmental pressures, natural threats and disasters, as well as visitor/tourism pressures. The plan also sets out actions to tackle these threats such as an arrangement with the Federal Fire Service to deal with bush fires in the property and buffer zone.

The replacement of the tarmac road through the Sacred Grove by a new access road outside the property has been delayed by financial constraints, but the State Party still intends to undertake this work.

Two developments projects are reported: a car park in the buffer zone and a replacement pavilion within the property. These are in line with the Conservation Management Plan, and a Heritage Impact Assessment was submitted to UNESCO. In January 2014, the First Palace was repaired using traditional techniques, materials and craftsmen.

No details are provided on the overall conservation of the forest and the large number of shrines, structures and sculptures in the property, nor on the management processes; however, a Senior Assistant Heritage Officer from the property participated in the Disaster Risk Management Workshop organized by the African World Heritage Fund in May 2013 in Zimbabwe, where a draft disaster risk management plan was developed for the property.

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

In the 9 years since inscription, the city of Osogbo has grown considerably as has the scope, size and profitability of the annual Osogbo festival--these two factors are putting strains on the property, which was inscribed as a sacred forest grove. The adverse impacts of development and potential development in the wider setting are acknowledged by the State Party as well as the need for more controls.

A hotel has recently been built close to the Grove and the road through the property has not been diverted, as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription.

Although river pollution is said to be addressed by annual cleaning, this does not seem to be the optimal approach for a sacred river at the centre of the annual festival, which reconnects the city to the river goddess Osun who is revered for providing the waters of life. Moreover, the natural aspects of the property, such as the river and forest, are still not clearly addressed in the Management Plan, as requested by the Committee. In addition, no information has been provided on how the shrines and forest are being conserved and managed.

The risk of over-commercialization of the festival is a cause for concern with sponsorship being visibly acknowledged. The commercial success of the festival also means that funding for the festival tends to take precedence over funds for conservation.

The need for a cultural tourism management plan has magnified considerably since inscription. Such a plan should set out clearly and precisely the carrying capacity of the Grove, in relation to its spiritual atmosphere, physical fragility and pristine nature, as well as its connections to access routes, car parking, accommodation etc.

The submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the proposed pavilion is noted and they acknowledge the work done to create a Conservation Management Plan. Moreover, the preliminary disaster risk management plan drafted during the Disaster Risk Management workshop in 2013 should be finalised and adopted as an annex to the Conservation Management Plan for the property.

The robustness of the fragile Grove needs to be strengthened to withstand the growing pressures from urban development and from the enormous success of the Festival before both inflict irreversible damage. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to consider how approaches to urban development, cultural tourism management and the conservation of natural resources might be strengthened, and also to consider the appropriate balance between conservation and development in relation to the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.23B**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban 2005),*
3. *Welcoming the continuing efforts of the State Party to improve the conservation of the property through the development of a Conservation Management Plan for 2010-2014,*
4. *Notes with concern that in the nine years since inscription, urban development pressures in the wider setting have increased as have the scale and commercialisation of the annual festival and overall visitor numbers; and considers that development threats in the wider setting need to be curtailed;*
5. *Regrets that the road through the property has not been diverted as requested at the time of inscription, and urges the State Party to ensure this is carried-out as soon as possible;*
6. *Expresses concern that the Cultural Tourism Management Plan, also requested at the time of inscription, has not yet been developed; and also considers that such a plan is urgently needed in order to address ways to sustain the spiritual, symbolic and ritual qualities of the Grove in relation to the very large numbers of people visiting this property, particularly during the festival, through defining clearly and precisely the carrying capacity of the Grove, in relation to its spiritual atmosphere, physical fragility and pristine nature, as well as its connections to access routes, car parking, accommodation etc.;*
7. *Also expresses concern that the natural qualities of the sacred grove, upon which its cultural values depend, and particularly the Osun River, appear to have been adversely affected by water-borne pollution;*
8. *Requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in order to consider with the State Party how approaches to urban development, cultural tourism management and the conservation of natural resources*

might be strengthened and also to consider the appropriate balance between conservation and development in relation to the OUV of the property;

9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2015 a progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

54. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 1997)

Total amount approved: 11,500 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 192,697.13 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement

Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement mission; April 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; 2007: France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement mission; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission; March 2014 Joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission with participation of an expert from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of monitoring and control mechanism;
- Lack of a conservation and management plan;
- New construction and architectural modification and urban projects affecting authenticity and integrity;
- Inappropriate housing restoration;
- Environmental disorder due to the modification of the mouth of the Senegal River;
- Extremely poor state of conservation of numerous derelict buildings endangering occupants;
- Lack of a site manager (Issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property in March 2014 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/documents/>). The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 28 January 2014, which is also available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/documents/>.

The State Party report indicates that management arrangements for the property have been enhanced with the legal establishment of the Committee for Safeguarding of Saint Louis, with the participation of different public and private organizations. It is expected that this entity, along with other management

structures, will ensure larger coordination among different stakeholders and stronger processes for the conservation and management of the property. The Committee for Safeguarding, which will be responsible for the implementation of the management plan and the Technical Committee for the Programme for Tourism Development funded by the Agence Française de Développement (*French Agency for Development - AFD*), has met and assessed current progress in the implementation of activities and identified future actions to implement for the property, as well as specific responsibilities for their undertaking.

The March 2014 mission considered that the overall state of conservation of the property is adequate and that main attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are preserved as decay has been controlled through interventions at these areas. Notwithstanding, the mission underscored that not all sectors of the property are in adequate conditions and that many important issues remain unaddressed regarding the management of the property, changes in architectural unity, lack of maintenance and monitoring, and the potential impact from foreseen development projects, among others. It particularly highlighted a new housing development that was taking place south of the island and not far from the *Comptoir du Fleuve* area, and recommended that this development be immediately halted and that corrective measures to mitigate impacts be identified. The mission also noted that these existing issues of concern could be further exacerbated if community engagement in sustained conservation action is not achieved or if adequate resources are not secured for the full operation of existing management structures.

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

The information provided by the State Party does not provide sufficient details to be able to gauge progress made in the implementation of the Committee's requests or on the existing situation at the property. The findings of the mission regarding the state of heritage buildings show the urgent need to implement sustained and comprehensive conservation actions, as well as to secure resources, to ensure that the conditions of authenticity and integrity, as well as the attributes that convey OUV, do not erode further to a degree that would compromise the OUV.

The State Party has made some efforts in putting in place adequate management structures but stronger coordination between heritage authorities, the Direction du patrimoine culturel (the Direction of Cultural Heritage-DPC) and the municipality is needed. This situation might be resolved with the effective operation of the Committee for Safeguarding Saint-Louis, which would also need to ensure that a single coherent mechanism is in place to guide decision-making. In this respect, the development of the management and conservation plan is crucial and needs to set out provisions for collaboration among stakeholders, integration of existing regulatory measures and a clear action plan that integrates all on-going initiatives, including the Tourism Development Plan. The management plan should also set out mechanisms regarding review of proposed projects at the property for modification or new construction and adequate monitoring processes during implementation to ensure that no impacts occur. Also, for effective and full implementation of the management plan, strengthening of capacities at different levels will be required as well as adequate financial resources.

In terms of conservation, the mission identified the urgent need to define a clear conservation policy, to carry out interventions at buildings in vulnerable conditions and to ensure that regular maintenance is undertaken. A comprehensive condition assessment and survey is needed to define an action plan for conservation and maintenance interventions, as well as a regular monitoring programme at the property. These should not only assess historic buildings but also address improvement and needs of current housing conditions.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 37 COM 7B.42 adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Acknowledges the legal establishment of the Committee for the Safeguarding of Saint-Louis;
4. Takes note of the findings of the 2014 reactive monitoring mission to the property and urges the State Party to fully implement its recommendations with particular attention to the following:
 - a) Develop, within a participatory and inclusive approach, the conservation and management plan for the property, which should include specific provisions for management and decision-making arrangements, including means for enhancing collaboration, the integration of existing regulatory measures and a clear and costed action plan for implementation. The developed management plan should be articulated with the Programme for Tourism Development, funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and with a conservation and maintenance plan for the property,
 - b) Based on the management plan, define mechanisms for the review and approval of proposed projects for modification or new construction and for their monitoring during implementation,
 - c) Strengthen existing conservation and management capacities at different levels and secure the necessary technical, material and financial resources for the implementation of conservation and management actions sustained undertaking,
 - d) Carry-out a comprehensive condition survey and assessment to develop a conservation and maintenance action plan, which should include a clear conservation policy and a road map of actions to address vulnerable heritage components and improvement of current housing conditions,
 - e) Halt the housing development that is taking place south of the island and not far from the Comptoir du Fleuve and identify measures to mitigate impacts on this sector,
 - f) Enhance outreach and awareness raising regarding the conservation and protection of the property and promote adequate dissemination and consultation on proposed projects;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, technical details and specifications, as well as Heritage Impact Assessments, on large scale projects foreseen at the property for review prior to making any commitments to their implementation;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

55. Stone Town of Zanzibar (Tanzania, United Republic of) (C 173rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>.

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1998-1998)

Total amount approved: 15,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 24,000 USD for the inventory of the public spaces in Zanzibar (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust).

Previous monitoring missions

May 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; January 2011: ICOMOS Reactive monitoring mission; September/October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory Mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development pressures;
- Environmental pressures in relation with the Malindi Port project;
- Natural disasters and lack of risk-preparedness;
- Visitors/ tourist pressures;
- Lack of resources;
- Lack of legal framework.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/gallery/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>. An ICOMOS Advisory Mission was carried out from 30 September to 3 October 2013, and the report is available along with the agreed-upon matrix and guidelines for the revised drawings and restoration of the Mambo Msiige Building at Shangani-Zanzibar as well as the State Party's comments on the Advisory Mission Report, at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>.

- Mambo Msiige project: In 2011, information was received about a proposal to build a hotel using in part the Mambo Msiige historic building and the adjacent designated public space. The Committee expressed its concern about the potential impact of this development on one of the most emblematic buildings of the property and urged the State Party to continue working with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to ensure that potential new developments and rehabilitation of the historic building and its associated public space do not impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;.
- Following the recommendations of the January 2012 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), discussions among the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the State Party were held in June 2012, after which a matrix and guidelines for a revised project design were agreed upon. The State Party indicates that revised drawings were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2012. The World Heritage correspondence registry has no record that these drawings were received, however, and therefore no comments were made on the revised design.

- In June 2013, a second meeting was held among the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the State Party, which led to an Advisory Mission being undertaken to the property in October 2013. The Advisory Mission was presented with the revised drawings and found that the ongoing construction was not in compliance with the agreed matrix and guidelines. It recommended halting the building works immediately and recommended measures to mitigate what it saw as potentially permanent, very negative impacts on the OUV of the property. A third meeting among the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the State Party was held on 22 January 2014 and a fourth on 19 March 2014, after which the State Party submitted copies of the revised drawings to the World Heritage Centre on 20 March 2014.
- State of conservation: There has been limited progress in conservation efforts given financial and technical constraints. Actions implemented included an inventory of open spaces to assist in planning for improvement of these areas. Condition surveys have also been carried out in nine zones of the historic town and preliminary results indicate that close to 50% of Grade I buildings are in poor state of conservation. Preliminary measures have been identified for priority interventions and even for vacating buildings at risk of collapse. Technical advice was provided by the Advisory Mission on how to mitigate decay factors. In terms of development, the State Party report mentions that pressures are significant, although efforts are being made to concentrate new construction outside the property. It also mentions that a new traffic plan will be implemented in stages to address traffic issues at the property.
- Monitoring system and illegal development: A new Urban Development Control Authority has been created to improve permit mechanisms and to enhance control capabilities at the property and buffer zone. The final draft of regulations is at the office of the Zanzibar Attorney General's for final legal review. To enhance control, a Stakeholders Forum has been formed, which includes inhabitants of Stone Town, the business community and other partners so that they are actively engaged in heritage matters. A Heritage Board has also been formed to involve all stakeholders in decision-making for all submitted major development projects. In addition, a Special Committee has been appointed for the Mambo Msiige project.
- Planning tools: A Heritage Management Plan is the main planning tool for the property. Conflicts do exist, however, between the Stone Town Authority and the Zanzibar Municipal Council, and insufficient human and financial resources have hindered the effective implementation of the plan. To address overlapping mandates, a Heritage Board has been established which will involve all stakeholders and streamline decision-making.

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

It is recommended that the Committee, recognizing the high cultural significance of the Mambo Msiige building and its important contribution to OUV, strongly regret that the matrix and guidelines agreed upon by the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the State Party for interventions at Mambo Msiige were not respected, and that construction was undertaken without any considerations for the agreed upon parameters set out in those documents. In particular, concern should be expressed about the excessive six-storey height of the new hotel building (two stories above what was agreed), which overshadows both the Mambo Msiige and the Bushir Mosque (both Grade I buildings), the encroachment on public areas of the beach, and alterations to the existing structure.

The Advisory Mission found important impacts to the integrity and authenticity of this emblematic building generated from structural changes, the heightening of the existing parapets, and the addition of a large suite on its roof. The Mambo Msiige project as it now stands has a negative impact on the urban form and silhouette of the property and a substantial adverse impact on its OUV.

Taking into account this analysis, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to halt the ongoing work, and urgently address the mitigation measures recommended by the Advisory Mission.

The ongoing work is a clear departure from the requirements of the Management Plan, the HIA, and existing building regulations, as well as the agreed-upon design parameters within the matrix and guidelines. This lack of compliance appears to reflect a lack of adequate management and development control at the property as a whole. The adopted Management Plan has been only partially implemented and it is not being used to effectively guide decision-making at the property. A strategy and work plan, with clear goals and clarity in the priority for interventions has yet to be developed. This work plan should be the basis for the development of integrated planning tools and

mechanisms to ensure the adequate protection of the property, including control of significant development pressures, such as the Mambo Msiige project.

As a result of the lack of adequate resources and lack of effective governance arising from conflicts within the management structure that are acknowledged by the State Party, and the lack of implementation of the management plan, there is serious concern that the current conditions at the property have remained largely unaddressed. No significant progress has been made in terms of reversing the decay in most of the building stock, in spite of recommendations by the Committee over several sessions since 2007.

The poor overall state of conservation of the building stock, as well as the lack of implementation of the management and conservation plans, and issues with governance arrangements, constitute serious and specific dangers to the OUV of the property.

It is strongly recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to invite a reactive monitoring mission to the property as soon as possible in 2014 to assess the implementation of mitigation measures for the Mambo Msiige and the overall state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.49** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Deeply regrets that in spite of extensive dialogue among the State Party, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, a new hotel and internal alterations at the Mambo Msiige building were carried out in contravention of the agreed upon matrix and guidelines for a revised design; and considers that the new six storey hotel, at two stories above the agreed matrix and guidelines, and encroaching onto the public beach, will have a significant adverse impact on the urban form and silhouette of the property and a substantial adverse impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Urges the State Party to halt the ongoing work, and urgently implement the mitigation measures recommended by the Advisory Mission, which include lowering the overall height of the new building by two stories; and also considers that if these are not implemented then the property will meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in conformity with Paragraphs 177 and 179 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Further considers that as the current structure of the Mambo Msiige is not in compliance with the Management Plan, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and buildings regulations, this reflects a serious lack of adequate management and development control at the property;*
6. *Notes that the State Party acknowledges the lack of adequate resources and effective governance as result of conflicts within the management structure, and that the adopted Management Plan has been only partially implemented and it is not being used to effectively guide decision-making and development control;*
7. *Reiterates its concern that the current critical conditions at the property have remained largely unaddressed with no significant progress having been made to reverse the decay in most of the building stock, in spite of recommendations of the Committee over several sessions since 2007; and considers furthermore that the poor overall state of*

conservation of the property, the lack of implementation of the management and conservation plans, and issues with governance arrangements constitute serious and specific dangers to the OUV of the property;

8. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2014 to assess the implementation of mitigation measures and the state of conservation of the property with the aim to assess whether the condition of the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

MIXED PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

56. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan) (C/N 1377)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in the previous reports

As identified at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List:

- Lack of a database on cultural heritage
- Lack of proper conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites
- Lack of traffic and visitor management plans
- Potential encroachment from development in the village of Rum
- Lack of trained staff and financial resources for the management of the property

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/>

Current conservation issues

The Committee has not yet requested the State Party to provide any state of conservation reports; however, at the time of inscription in 2011, it requested the State Party to invite a mission to the property to assess progress on the various recommendations related to management and conservation and to report back to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014 (Decision **35 COM 8B.15**). A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN monitoring mission visited the property from 28 April to 1 May 2014; the full mission report and results are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/>.

The mission was provided with a draft revised management plan (2014-2018) that is currently under review for adoption during 2014. The Tourism Development and Visitors' Management plan of the Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA), dated 14 March 2013, and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan of the WRPA, were both sent to the World Heritage Centre after the mission. The mission was informed that the site management is preparing a boundary modification for the buffer zone.

The mission noted that the World Heritage area is a complex desert ecosystem with continuous extraordinary interaction between people and their environment since prehistory. It considers that the overall state of conservation of the site remains satisfactory. It noted progress made in regard to the

management of the property and assessed other issues and threats. It underscored that the development of a cultural heritage database, based on a complete and systematic survey, has not been carried out, therefore the state of conservation of rock art that comprises close to 25,000 petroglyphs, 20,000 inscriptions and 154 archaeological sites could not be assessed. Such a database is needed to identify fully the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to serve as the basis for the development of a conservation programme and site monitoring. At the few locations visited, the mission did not find evidence of conservation measures being actively implemented at those sites; it noted that the Nabatean Temple near Rum Village was in fair conservation condition although not appropriately maintained. Deterioration from graffiti was identified as a concern.

Regarding the management of the property the mission noted the following:

- Governance and staffing: lack of representation of the Department of Antiquities (DoA) at the site; lack of an Ecologist/Earth Science specialist;
- Waste management: a Regional/Special Plan was prepared by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) which included improving waste management in the region, however liquid and solid waste are still a big concern particularly with rapid tourism increase;
- Tourism management: about 250,000 visitors visit the site per year with 60% international and 40% local/national tourism but the carrying capacity of the site has not been assessed, which can lead to adverse impacts on the environment and on cultural heritage conservation. There is no proper interpretation, communication and promotion of the World Heritage property as a whole; the mission saw a number of illegal camps within the property (approximately 30 recognized camps and as many illegal camps);
- Institutional coordination: the mission met with relevant stakeholders and noted a lack of coordination between departments as well as between regional and national institutions; a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU 2014-2016) had been prepared between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/DoA and the ASEZA and was ready for signature in May 2014;
- Integrated monitoring programme: there is no integrated monitoring programme or monitoring tools currently in place;
- Funding for the site, established and future partnerships for local communities: official funding from ASEZA had been reduced recently. Funding from entry fees go to the site management. In addition funding is available from a UNDP/Global Environment Fund (GEF) project and from USAID for the management plan;
- Capacity building: while actions are taken to build the capacities of the natural heritage staff with the support of the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia in Amman (Jordan), the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSCN) in Jordan, and the UNESCO category 2 Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) in Bahrain, this is not the case for cultural heritage staff responsible for the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The mission concluded that the property is not under serious threat and that the overall state of conservation of the site remains satisfactory. However, it determined that a number of recommendations made at the time of inscription have to be implemented as a matter of urgency, particularly the full identification of attributes of OUV. The adequate documentation for cultural heritage and establishment of an integrated cultural and natural database is essential for surveying and monitoring the condition of the property and to define and adopt a consistent conservation approach that will ensure long-term preservation and better inform interpretation.

Overall governance needs to be strengthened to mitigate potential threats due to its fragility and tourism and visitation pressures and to effectively implement the management plan. Recommended measures include the appointment of a cultural officer for the DoA for the property and providing adequate capacity building to address the needs of the property. It is also recommended that the MoU between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/DoA and ASEZA, which includes an effective governance model and provides all the necessary financial and technical support for its implementation in the provisions of the revised management plan, are enforced.

Measures need to be taken to better manage tourism at the property, particularly through the enforcement of legal provisions and regulations and through the review of the tourism management plan. The revision should be made to encompass the natural and cultural values of the property and be informed by environmental and cultural heritage impact assessment of the proposed actions for tourism. Specific actions to implement pending the review of the plan include the definition of a maximum number of camps within the buffer zone and the property and providing adequate

interpretation and improved communication and promotion of the site as a World Heritage property. Existing legal provisions and regulations should be enforced in order to regulate tourism activities and the establishment and operation of camps within the property, and illegal camps should be urgently removed and degraded areas rehabilitated.

It is further recommended that sustainable funding mechanisms for the management of the property, including benefits for the local Bedouin communities, be established, potentially through the UNDP project.

Finally, should the State Party decide to submit a minor boundary modification by 1 February 2015, care should be taken to clearly identify the zoning around Rum Village and its approach road and to clearly substantiate the need to revise the inscribed boundaries. It should be noted that at the time of the evaluation of the property, IUCN had requested further information from the State Party regarding the exclusion of Rum village and its approach road from the nominated property. In its response, the State Party had noted that the boundary of the nominated area had been "re-adjusted to include the full size of the protected areas as defined in the Wadi Rum protected area by-law and without the exclusion of the land strip from the visitor centre to Rum village." Therefore, the inscribed property includes Rum village and its approach road.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.15** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Notes the report of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property and the progress made on the conservation and management recommendations;*
4. *Urges the State Party to take urgent measures to ensure the removal of illegal tourist camps from the property, and to rehabilitate degraded areas;*
5. *Also urges the State Party to establish an integrated cultural and natural heritage database to fully identify the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and to serve as the basis for conservation monitoring, and appropriate interpretation;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the updated management plan provides legal measures and policies, backed by the necessary staff and financial resources, to enable effective management of the property and its buffer zone, including the regulation of development activities, tourism infrastructure and facilities, and to integrate the strategy for visitor management including vehicle route control within the property;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure, in implementing the management plan, provisions for additional and appropriately trained staff within the management unit for the property focused on research, protection and presentation of the geological, geomorphological and cultural values of the property and engagement of national and international research institutions in the management system for the property;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to fully implement the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session and the specific recommendations by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission;*

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

58. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (C/N 99ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979, extension in 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1986)

Total amount approved: 20,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 1998: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN mission

December 2013: ICOMOS/UNESCO advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and planning
- Economic and demographic developments

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/>

Current conservation issues

In December 2013, the State Party invited an ICOMOS/UNESCO advisory mission to assess the general state of conservation of the property and to evaluate the project for the “Instauration of St. Clement’s University in Plaoshnik”. On 28 March 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/documents>. The State Party’s report underscores the actions implemented in response to the mission recommendations as follows:

- A comprehensive review has been carried out of the construction plans for the “Instauration of St. Clement’s University at Plaoshnik” which took into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as well as historical and physical aspects of the location and intangible associations. New project designs have followed the detailed mission recommendations and include changes in scale, heights and architectural finishes. An expert board will closely monitor the implementation of the architectural projects for each component to ensure that no negative impact on the property occurs. As further recommended, archaeological research is being carried out and alternatives are being explored for the relocation of Complex IV.
- Permits have been granted for the coastal development Ljubanishta 1 (investor “Sahara India Pariwar”) and for a development at the Struga Municipality. The Ljubanishta 2 tourism development (289.5 ha) is in initial stages of preparation. The State Party reports that Environmental and/or Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs) will be carried out and submitted for review. No further development of new ports or a water aerodrome is foreseen at this time.

- The full project documentation for the Pan European Railway Corridor VIII is expected to be completed by 2017, including EIA and HIAs. On the basis of the assessments, alternative routes that do not cross the property and nor affect the lake's watershed are being considered.
- A regional road A3 from Ohrid to Peshtani is under development and guidance has been provided by the Ministry of Culture to ensure no impacts on registered cultural or historic sites occur during construction. No reference is made to an assessment of impacts on natural aspects of the OUV.

The State Party also reports on conservation interventions carried out at historical houses and archaeological sites. As for planning tools, the Management Plan is under review and an Integrated Protection Plan for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid will be prepared; no timeframe has been provided for their finalisation and approval.

Analysis and Conclusion of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party's positive response to the recommendations of the mission and the substantial review that has been made to the St. Clement's University Project should be welcomed. The careful monitoring during the implementation of the architectural projects will ensure that development at the Plaoshnik area does not impact on the OUV of the property. Continued dialogue with the State Party is also important in this respect as the project progresses further. The new specific architectural projects should be submitted for review.

The findings of the mission in regard to uncontrolled interventions and development in past years and their impact on the conditions of authenticity and integrity are well noted. Strict control and operational management arrangements are required so that the attributes are not eroded to an extent that would compromise the OUV of the property. The new laws for the World Heritage property need to be fully enforced and a management structure is required to coordinate actions at the different levels and among institutions with relevant mandates and decision-making authority. This is particularly important in regard to granting permits for development or restoration of historic buildings.

Effective implementation of planning tools and regulatory measures is necessary to adequately control development pressures, densification and interventions that impact on the character of the historic fabric and the setting of the property. The update and review process for regulatory measures must include provisions to conduct Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs), in relation to the OUV of the property, to better inform decision-making at the national and local level. Revised regulations should be fully integrated through the process of the review of the Management Plan, the Urban Plans for the ensemble and during the development of the Integrated Protection Plan for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid.

In addition to the recently approved development of the Ljubanishta 1 coastal tourism and development zone and the Ohrid-Peshtani regional road, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note publicly available information (<http://www.mepso.com.mk/en-us/Vesti.aspx?itemVID=267>) regarding the State Party's intentions to develop a Ski Centre and Resort in Galičica National Park, within the boundaries of the property and have requested further information from the State Party in April 2014. There is some concern about the potential individual and cumulative negative impacts of the planned infrastructure projects on the OUV of the property, and ski developments in the property would be likely to be incompatible with its World Heritage status. The mission's recommendations should be recalled, in particular that a comprehensive action plan for the lakeshore be developed before the projects progress further and that Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments of these projects be prepared in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties, and submitted along with further technical details of these projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions are taken that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

As for the Pan European Railway Corridor VIII, the EIA and HIA will be crucial for the development of the project and strong consideration should be given to alternative routes that do not cross the property.

Finally, it is noted that missions to the property have highlighted the importance of effective cross-border cooperation and it is recommended that efforts towards seeking a transboundary extension with Albania be prioritized to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the property in the framework of the World Heritage Upstream process.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **22 COM VII.30** and **33 COM 8B.40** adopted at its 22nd (Kyoto, 1998) and 33rd (Seville, 2009) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party in response to the recommendations made by the 2013 Advisory Mission related to the project for the Instauration of St. Clement's University at Plaoshnik and recommends that dialogue between the State Party and the Advisory Bodies continue as the project progresses further;
4. Encourages the State Party to implement all recommendations made by the 2013 Advisory Mission for improving the state of conservation of the property with particular attention to the following:
 - a) Finalise the Management Plan for the property and the Integrated Protection Plan for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid and submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
 - b) Develop a detailed urban plan for the entire monumental ensemble, in line with the existing regulatory framework, to ensure the enforcement of provisions and to control activities that might impact the entire protected area,
 - c) Strictly enforce legal and regulatory provisions and establish a management structure to control development pressures and interventions at the property,
 - d) Develop a comprehensive action plan for the lakeshore to provide adequate guidance on the type and extent of potential developments in relation to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its setting;
5. Expresses its concern over several planned major infrastructure projects within the property, including the Ljubanishta 1 and 2 coastal developments, the Ohrid-Peshtani road, and the Galičica Ski Centre and Resort, and requests that technical details, including Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs), for projects under consideration within the property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Considers that the planned construction of the Galičica Ski Centre and Resort is likely to have significant direct and indirect impacts on the OUV of the property, and requests the State Party to halt the project until the abovementioned impact assessment has been completed and reviewed;
7. Also requests that selected project proposals for the implementation of the Pan European Railway Corridor VIII be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion for review by the Advisory Bodies and urges the State Party to identify alternative routes that do not cross the property;
8. Also encourages the States Parties of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to continue to cooperate in the framework of the Upstream process towards the preparation of a new nomination for a transboundary extension of the property to

include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid and its watershed, in order to strengthen the values and integrity of the property;

9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on urgent progress required to address the issues mentioned above, and by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

AFRICA

60. Cliffs of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (v)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1988-2011)

Total amount approved: 98,640 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient site management means
- Illicit traffic of cultural property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 24 March 2014, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/>. It also submitted the annual report of activities (2013) and a report from the mission undertaken by the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara. Key issues reported on include:

- Management and conservation arrangements for the property, particularly limited funding for the functioning and implementation of actions by the Cultural Mission, have been strongly affected by the conflict in Mali over the past two years. Also, as noted in 2013, cultural tourism, an essential activity to sustain economic benefits and livelihoods for local communities at the property has also notably decreased. In addition, resources for continued maintenance have also not been secured.
- Acts of vandalism that affected the prehistoric sites at Toloy (in the Sangha region). The short mission undertaken at this sector identified impacts at two altars and collapse at one of the structures below the rock shelter and proposed potential measures to address this damage. It also reports on identified uncontrolled activities that can potentially impact architectural cohesion and impact the integrity of the inscribed landscape. No extensive information has been provided on these acts of vandalism to be able to ascertain at this stage what the impacts are on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.
- Some actions were implemented throughout 2013, largely centred on support of local economic activities, particularly with the organisation and structuring of the Koundou artisans and support for women involved in handicraft activities. Actions were also undertaken to reinforce the capacities of heritage committees.
- Priorities for the property include strengthening the role of heritage into local development programmes and the review of the management and conservation for the property to adapt it to

new socio-political and economic conditions. This last action is to be carried out potentially with funding from the World Monuments Fund. A rehabilitation project for three villages in Youga and for the mosque at Nando was developed and it will be implemented in 2014.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

Notwithstanding the limited resources available, the State Party has continued its efforts to manage the property. Resources need to be secured to implement maintenance actions, in collaboration with local communities, before the fabric of heritage locations deteriorates further. Maintenance endeavors can contribute partly to improving conditions. The consideration being made by the State Party in strengthening the role of heritage in development proposals is considered as a positive development. The review of the management plan will be a crucial measure to ensure that adequate heritage provisions are articulated with development planning and used as an opportunity to strengthen community identity and belonging.

Acts of vandalism have been identified and concerns have been expressed by the State Party regarding uncontrolled actions that can potentially impact the integrity of the property. A detailed report is needed to be able to ascertain whether impacts to the OUV of the property have occurred. Sustained monitoring at different component parts of this large property, supported by local communities, is needed for their adequate protection. The process to review the management plan should include the broad participation of different stakeholders so that regulatory measures are identified to better control potential new constructions and development to retain the delicate balance between human occupation and landscape preservation.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party for the management of the property;*
4. *Notes that conservation and management actions are needed for different component parts of the property and that resources will need to be secured for their full implementation and calls upon the international community to contribute and support the State Party in its efforts;*
5. *Notes with concern the acts of vandalism at the prehistoric sites of Toloy, requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on their effects and potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and urges the State Party to enhance monitoring and protection measures at vulnerable sectors;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to commence a participatory planning process for the review of the management and conservation plan to identify a course of action for interventions and to update and articulate regulatory measures and provisions to ensure that the adequate balance between heritage conservation and development is retained, and also urges the State Party to develop a sustainable finance strategy for the implementation of the revised plans;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management and conservation plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of*

conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

62. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (ix)(x)

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: 35,000USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

150000 USD in the framework of the World Heritage marine programme

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2003, 2004, 2013: World Heritage Centre missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal fishing;
- Mechanical shellfish harvesting;
- Oil exploitation;
- Tourism and increased accessibility due to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road;
- Lack of management capacity and resources.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 6-13 January 2014. A report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>.

The mission assessed the status of the major threats to the property:

- A solid legal framework is available restricting fishing to the local Imraguen communities using only traditional methods. An efficient surveillance system is in place. Nevertheless, fishing has become increasingly a commercial activity, leading to an increase in catch and the targeting of commercial species, in particular certain ray and shark species. In addition, there is clearly a problem of overfishing in the waters outside the property;

In 2011, a new road was constructed through the property to the village of Mamghar, without a proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The road has damaged several archaeological shell mounds. Works were stopped and an EIA was conducted "a posteriori". The mission was informed that the alignment was changed following this EIA, although this was not evident to the mission;

- Several other important infrastructure projects include the new city of Chami close to the property's eastern boundary, the extension of the mineral port in Nouadhibou, the development of a free trade zone and a new airport in Nouadhibou and the construction of a high voltage power line along the Nouakchott – Nouadhibou road;
- A substantial extension of the gold mine of Tasiast, located 60 km away from the property, is planned. This will increase water requirements for the mine and it is planned to source the

additional water from the sea, 5 km away from the property. A draft EIA is available and was shared with the mission. In addition numerous exploration permits have been attributed around the property;

- No oil exploration concessions are overlapping with the property, but exploration is on-going in several blocks in its immediate vicinity. The drilling of several exploratory wells is foreseen this year. With the possibility of more future oil exploitation close to the property, but also given the significant shipping traffic close to the property, risk preparedness to deal with a possible oil spill is important. A plan to deal with a potential oil spill is in place and was tested out recently. In addition, with technical support of the World Heritage Centre, efforts are underway to request the status of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA).
- A consultative and participatory “Territorial Diagnostic” aimed at examining all the new development projects and their cumulative impacts on the property has been initiated by the property’s Scientific Council.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Since the inscription of the site, the State Party with support of its technical and financial partners has made important progress in terms of the protection and management of the property: its legal protection has been strengthened, a functional management authority and management system is in place and a trust fund is under development, which could contribute to its sustainable funding. In view of increasing challenges in the governance of the site, a system of shared governance should be put in place, involving all stakeholders. The development of the new management plan should take into account the recommendations of the monitoring mission and the funding for the property from the trust fund should be linked to the management effectiveness of the property and the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

While acknowledging the progress made in managing fishing in the property, there is concern about the increasing catch size, in particular of threatened ray and shark species. It will be important to ensure the sustainability of the surveillance system and to maintain the restrictions on fishing foreseen in the law. A solution to limit the catch of threatened species needs to be agreed.

The new road to Mamghar, constructed using material from neolithic shell mounds, is clearly impacting on the cultural values of the property but also presents serious integrity issues. The EIA, which was prepared when the road was largely completed, is not up to international quality standards and does not assess the impacts on the OUV of the property. To mitigate the impact of the road, its use should be restricted and a system of control of access to the property should be put in place.

There is concern about the many infrastructure projects being developed around the property, which could potentially impact its OUV. No infrastructure should be authorized inside the property or in its vicinity, without having been subject to a proper EIA which clearly assesses the potential impacts on OUV, respecting the highest international standards and taking into account IUCN’s “World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment”. Before taking a decision, all EIAs should be validated by the Scientific Council of the property and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

Although the Tasiast mine exists since 2007, no EIA was ever submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The draft EIA for the water sourcing system linked to the extension of the mine does not assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property and should be completed to assess these impacts and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the fact that no oil or mining exploration permits were attributed within the property. Nevertheless, concerns remain about potential impacts if any of the on-going exploration projects lead to exploitation. In particular, oil exploitation in blocks close to the property where exploratory drilling is going forward in 2014 would further increase the risk of oil spills. The emergency MARPOL plan should be updated urgently to ensure that an operational system is in place to address a potential oil spill. In addition, the request to designate the Banc d’Arguin marine region as a PSSA should be submitted to the International Maritime Organisation as soon as possible.

The mission concludes that so far, the OUV of the property has been preserved in part thanks to its isolation. However the region of the park is undergoing rapid changes characterized by numerous planned infrastructure developments, and it will be important not only to assess the individual impacts of each of these projects but also their cumulative impacts. The planned “Territorial Diagnostic” seems an important tool to achieve this.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.8** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the significant progress achieved by the State Party and its partners since the inscription of the property in terms of its protection and management, in particular the strengthening of its legal framework, the creation of a functional management authority and management system and the management of fishing inside the property which restricts fishing to the local Imraguen communities using only traditional methods and an efficient surveillance system;
4. Takes note of the conclusion of the reactive monitoring mission that so far, the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been preserved in part thanks to its isolation but that the region is undergoing rapid changes characterized by numerous planned infrastructure developments;
5. Notes with concern the many infrastructure projects being developed around the property, which could potentially impact on its OUV, and requests the State Party not to authorize infrastructure inside the property or in its vicinity, without having conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in conformity with IUCN's "World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment" and to ensure that all EIAs are validated by the Scientific Council of the property and submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Expresses its utmost concern about the road to Mamghar, which presents a serious threat to the integrity of the property and is impacting on its cultural values, and urges the State Party to ensure that its use is restricted to mitigate its impact and that a system of control of access to the property is put in place;
7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the draft EIA for the water sourcing system linked to the extension of the Tasiast mine is completed to assess its potential impacts on the OUV of the property, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Appreciates the fact that no oil or mining exploration permits were attributed within the property, but also expresses concern about potential impacts if any of the on-going exploration projects lead to exploitation, in particular, in oil blocks close to the property where exploratory drilling is going forward in 2014;
9. Also welcomes the initiative to conduct a "Territorial Diagnostic" in order to assess the cumulative impacts of the different planned development projects on the property, and further requests the State Party to develop on the basis of this study a strategic vision for the development of the region which ensures the conservation of the OUV of the property;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission and take them into account in the development of the new management plan, in particular:

- a) *Ensure the sustainability of the fishing surveillance system, maintain the restrictions on fishing foreseen in the law and develop an agreement with all stakeholders to limit the catch of threatened fish species, in particular rays and sharks,*
 - b) *Create a residence permit system to ensure that fishing rights are restricted to the local population, as well as to ensure that no new villages develop in the park,*
 - c) *Update urgently the emergency MARPOL plan to ensure that an operational system is in place to address a potential oil spill,*
 - d) *Submit to the International Maritime Organization the request to designate Banc d'Arguin region as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area,*
 - e) *Put in place a system of shared governance involving all stakeholders, including reviving the Board of the Park, its Scientific Council and the participatory management process and reinforcing its cooperation with its technical and financial partners,*
 - f) *Link the funding for the property from the trust fund to the management effectiveness of the site and the conservation of its OUV;*
11. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the recommendations of the mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

64. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2008)

Total amount approved: 75,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 32,590 from Switzerland following a Special Appeal by the Sector for External Relations of UNESCO.

Previous monitoring missions

December 2007: World Heritage Centre mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Loss of monitoring capacity due to cyclone damage

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/>

Current conservation issues

At its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), the Committee requested the State Party to submit a state of conservation report by 1 February 2013, although an examination of the state of conservation of the property by the Committee was not foreseen. To date, the State Party has not submitted the requested report.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information about the construction of a coal fired power plant in Khulna (Rampal) and a widening of the Pashur River along 10 km around Mongla Port near the property to accommodate the transportation of coal to the plant. On 22 May 2013, the World Heritage Centre wrote a letter to the State Party to request more information about this issue, and to remind the State Party of the Committee's request for a report on the state of conservation of the property. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project is publicly available for download from the website of the Bangladesh Power Development Board ([http://www.bpdb.gov.bd/download/coal_EIA_report_rampal_khulna/EIA%20of%20x%20\(500-660\)%20MW%20Coal%20Based%20Thermal%20Power%20Plant%20at%20Rampal%20in%20Bagerhat%20District.%20Khulna.pdf](http://www.bpdb.gov.bd/download/coal_EIA_report_rampal_khulna/EIA%20of%20x%20(500-660)%20MW%20Coal%20Based%20Thermal%20Power%20Plant%20at%20Rampal%20in%20Bagerhat%20District.%20Khulna.pdf)), and was received by IUCN and the World Heritage Centre on 15 October 2013. On 12 December 2013, IUCN provided comments on the EIA. A response to these comments from the State Party was received by the World Heritage Centre on 15 April 2014.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have also received information that the coal-fired power plant has been a catalyst for other infrastructure and industrial development downstream. Reportedly, these developments have not been subject to EIA, although they could potentially cause more significant pollution than the plant itself. Plans for the construction of an additional coal-fired power plant in the same location have also been reported. The World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 11 April 2014 requesting further information about these reports. At the time of writing this report, no reply had been received from the State Party.

Additionally, there are a number of outstanding issues which were raised by the Committee in Decision **35 COM 7B.11**. In particular, the ecological monitoring data for the property, which are necessary to assess the status of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), are still not available and inadequate resources and infrastructure also remain a concern.

Analysis and Conclusions by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The Committee is recommended to regret that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property as per Decision **35 COM 7B.11** and to express its concern about the construction of the coal-fired power plant in Khulna (Rampal). IUCN considers that the EIA of the power plant, published in January 2013, did not adequately consider potential impacts of the plant on the property's OUV. While the State Party has responded that the Sundarbans as a whole including the property were considered in the EIA, an assessment of the specific impact on the property's OUV should nonetheless have been carried out, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

Furthermore, while the power plant will be located about 65km away from the property and local air and water pollution can potentially be mitigated sufficiently, the dredging of the Pashur River to facilitate the transport of coal to the plant, as well as the coal dust released into the environment during transport and transfer, are likely to adversely impact the property. The EIA for the plant does not consider the impact of dredging in the rivers adjacent to the property. Only limited consideration has been given to the transport and transfer of coal in close distance to the property and no mitigation efforts beyond already existing regulations are known. The dredging necessary to keep the channels of the Pashur River open for navigation is likely to alter the morphology of the river channels, which, in combination with erosion and sedimentation caused by the wakes of large vessels, would be likely to affect priority habitat for freshwater dolphins and other aquatic species, such as the critically endangered Batagur turtle (*Batagur baska*) and vulnerable small clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*). Coal dust released into the environment during transport and transfer is likely to have a significant direct adverse impact on mangroves, fish, and probably freshwater dolphins, amongst other endangered species.

While the State Party notes that an EIA for the dredging activities will be carried out before these will start and that experts from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN will be able to contribute to this process, the impacts of dredging should have been included in the EIA for the power plant, given that dredging to keep the rivers open for navigation is directly linked to the feasibility of the power plant. There is concern that indirect and cumulative impacts from the power plant, related activities to facilitate navigation, and other infrastructure and industrial developments do not appear to have been assessed. Therefore, the Committee is recommended to request the State Party to undertake a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of development in the Sundarbans and its immediate vicinity, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

Finally, the Committee is also recommended to request the State Party to provide updated information on ecological monitoring data for the property and on progress achieved with improving park infrastructure and the adequate provision of resources. It should be recalled that, at its 35th session, the Committee invited the State Party to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to further support the ongoing restoration of infrastructure and the procurement of management resources as well as a report on the state of conservation of the property, and progress achieved with regards to post-cyclone restoration and the results from the ecological monitoring programme.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.11**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property as requested by the Committee at its 35th session;

4. *Notes with concern that the indirect impacts on the property of the construction of a coal fired power plant at Khulna do not appear to have been assessed, considers that increased navigation on the Pashur River and the required dredging are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the dredging activities include a specific assessment of potential impacts on OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Also notes with concern the reports of further infrastructure and industrial development downstream of the power plant, and of plans for the construction of an additional coal fired power plant in the same location, and also requests the State Party to undertake a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure that cumulative impacts of developments in the Sundarbans are adequately assessed, including in relation to the OUV of the property;*
6. *Reiterates that in the absence of ecological monitoring data for the property, it is not possible to assess the status of its OUV, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently submit the results of the ecological monitoring programme to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
7. *Recalls that inadequate resources and infrastructure are likely to limit the effective protection of the property against potential threats from poaching, resource extraction and other illegal activities, and encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to further support the ongoing restoration of infrastructure and the procurement of management resources;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the urgent progress required to address the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

67. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-2001)

Total amount approved: 41,400 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2004: IUCN mission; 2008: UNESCO/IUCN Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission; 2011: UNESCO/IUCN Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission; 2014 IUCN Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining;
- Security limitations;
- Development threats;
- Exploitation of marine resources;
- Absence of a co-ordinating agency;
- Absence of a finalized strategic management plan;
- Park boundaries not physically demarcated;
- Inadequate financing.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/>

Current conservation issues

At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the Committee requested the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation of the property by 1 February 2015, and to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the impacts from road construction and to assist the State Party with developing a conservation strategy that will ensure the conservation and strict protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the report of which would be for examination by the Committee at its 38th session in 2014. The mission to Jakarta and the Provincial capital Jayapura took place from 11 to 18 March 2014. Its report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents/>. A field visit was not included, due to security concerns.

While recognizing the significant effort by the State Party to improve the management of the property, including through a 65% increase in the property's management budget over the past three years, the finalization of a Collaborative Management Agreement, and an increase in staff capacity, the mission considers that management capacity and effectiveness remain insufficient. The main concerns in that regard are noted to be as follows, among others:

- The property's human and financial resources remain insufficient and funding (USD 0.56/ha) is not strategically allocated to the property's management needs, with 75% allocated to support costs;
- The 2010-2029 Management Plan and the Zonation Document do not adequately reflect the property's OUV. The zonation of the property is very patchy and extremely difficult to monitor and manage, dominated by use zones, while core zones are often small residual areas;
- No monitoring mechanism exists to facilitate early detection of and response to threats.

The mission further reported as follows:

- The construction of the Habema-Kenyem road through the property has continued for 90 km since the 2011 joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, with only 22 km remaining to be completed. Construction has currently been halted, pending completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The State Party is committed to applying the highest standards to the EIA and to mitigating any impacts of the road through technological and managerial measures, including restoration of damaged areas;
- Recent investigations as to the cause of the *Nothofagus* dieback are not conclusive and require further investigation;
- Wildlife trade in species from Papua is significant, which could represent a major threat to the property's OUV. Further investigation is needed to establish the level of poaching in the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party has made efforts to address some of the identified issues, in particular to improve management capacity and its commitment to apply the highest standards to the EIA of the Habema-Kenyem road and to mitigate the impacts from the road and restore damaged areas. The recent development of a Collaborative Management Agreement is welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to formalize this agreement.

The mission considered that despite the known impacts of the Habema-Kenyem road, and notwithstanding the limited recent scientific field survey activities, the OUV of the property remains intact, mainly due to its large scale (2.35 million ha), remoteness, difficult terrain and relative absence of roads. However, it is critical that there is no further development of infrastructure or other development pressure anywhere in the property.

As noted by the mission, the low management effectiveness of the property, while improving, remains a significant concern for its future protection. If the property's management cannot be significantly improved in the short term, its OUV and conditions of integrity are likely to become increasingly threatened. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to further increase the number of forest rangers available to the property, as well as the level of funding, including by seeking more national and international partnerships in support of the property, including with the private sector. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently revise the management plan and zonation scheme for the property in order to ensure that these adequately reflect its OUV. Furthermore, the State Party's commitment to mitigate the impacts of the Habema-Kenyem road through managerial measures should include the development and implementation of an integrated monitoring mechanism in order to ensure early detection of and response to emerging threats, such as poaching, illegal logging, and the establishment of illegal settlements.

It is recognized that roads may bring economic and social benefits to small isolated indigenous communities in the property. However, it should be noted that roads can result in many secondary impacts on conservation values. There is significant concern that the construction of the Habema-Kenyem road has continued for 90 km since the 2011 mission, despite the Committee's request in Decision **35 COM 7B.15** to cease all road construction. The current stop on construction works is well noted, and it is crucial that construction works do not continue prior to a rigorous EIA having been completed, including a specific assessment of direct and indirect impacts on the property's OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. If effective monitoring and strict control of the road and its impacts, and of any future development pressures, cannot be guaranteed, the danger to the property's OUV is likely to increase to the point where the property could meet the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It is further recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to conduct further investigations to the cause of the *Nothofagus* dieback disease and to the level of poaching in the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to improve the property's management capacity, and welcomes the State Party's commitment, as expressed during the mission, to apply the highest standards to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Habema-Kenyem road;*
4. *Notes with concern that despite the absence of an EIA, significant road construction has been allowed to continue until recently;*
5. *Requests the State Party to rigorously ensure that the current halt imposed on further road construction remains in place until the EIA has been completed, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and its recommendations fully implemented, and adequate technological and managerial measures are being implemented to avoid and mitigate impacts of the road on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the development and implementation of an integrated monitoring mechanism to detect and respond to threats as soon as they arise;*

6. Also requests the State Party to submit the completed EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Urges the State Party to guarantee effective monitoring and strict control of the road and its impact and control of any future development pressures, related or not to the presence of the road, and considers that if this cannot be achieved, the property could meet, in the near future, the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and reiterates its request to the State Party to rigorously ensure the protection and conservation of the property's OUV and prevent the fragmentation of the largely intact wilderness that makes up the property;
8. Further requests the State Party to urgently revise the property's management plan and zonation scheme, in order to ensure that they adequately reflect the property's OUV, and to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan and zonation scheme to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available, for review by IUCN;
9. Also urges the State Party to undertake an assessment of the level of poaching in the property, and to conduct further in-depth investigations to the cause of the Nothofagus dieback disease, including an assessment of the health of all Nothofagus forests in the property as well as an action plan to address the dieback, in collaboration with international experts, as required;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the 2014 IUCN reactive monitoring mission;
11. Reiterates its call upon the international community to support the State Party in resolving the severe constraints to the effective operation of the Park management including funding, limited monitoring and surveillance equipment, and limited staff capacity and technical expertise;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2008, 2011, and 2014 reactive monitoring missions, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

68. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-1999)

Total amount approved: 232,097 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2002: IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Pressure and degradation from increasing tourism and mountaineering
- Development of tourism resort and tourism pressure
- Climate change
- Aircraft use
- Mining
- Deforestation for firewood

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report dated 12 April 2014 (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents>). A number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions are presented in this report, including details of the following:

- The issue of the Kongde View Resort has not been decided by the Supreme Court of Nepal;
- There is an on-going preparation of the 5 year management plan of Sagarmatha National Parks (SNP) and its buffer zone (2014-2018);
- A proposal regarding a minor boundary modification to formally recognize the existing Buffer Zone of SNP as a buffer zone to the property will be prepared and local stakeholders consulted;
- The report also recognizes the pressure and degradation from increasing tourism and mountaineering as well as the problems of forest fire, global warming and climate change issue;

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee express its sincere condolences to the families of the Sherpas killed in the avalanche on 18 April 2014 while they were preparing the route for mountaineers.

It is also recommended that the Committee express its continued concern about the range of conservation issues and threats which are impacting the property. In particular, the apparent continued operation of the Kongde View Resort within the property and the protracted legal process concerning its future should be noted. As no final verdict by the Supreme Court has been made, this matter remains unresolved since the construction of the resort in 2005 and legal proceedings have been on-going for more than seven years. The unauthorised operation of this facility at 4,200 masl in the property is most inappropriate and creates an unfortunate precedent for other tourism operators.

Furthermore, it is unknown when the planned review of the Sagamatha National Park (SNP) Tourism and Management Plan for the period 2014-2018 will be finalized and information received by IUCN asserts that tourism continues to have a significant impact. Impacts include tourism related waste such as non-biodegradable litter and human waste disposal, a reported increase in the number of trekkers, increasing use of helicopter access, and unsustainable use of park resources in infrastructure construction. IUCN has also received reports suggesting insufficient funding is made available for waste disposal and recycling carried out by a local NGO, the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC). Related to tourism use are also a range of social, cultural and livelihood impacts on Sherpa communities and other ethnic groups.

Additionally, climate change impacts on the high mountain ecosystems of the property remain poorly understood. The threat of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) continues to exist, currently focused on the Imja Tso lake on the Imja Glacier and the threat to downstream Sherpa communities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are ready to provide assistance to the State Party of its intention to submit a minor boundary modification to formally recognize the existing Buffer Zone of SNP as a buffer zone to the property consistent with the *Operational Guidelines*. All the factors affecting the

property identified in previous reports continue to be priorities for resolution. Furthermore reported staff reductions and funding shortfalls will make addressing these issues even more challenging.

In light of the above, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to request international assistance in order to invite an advisory mission to the property drawing upon IUCN's expertise, particularly that of the Mountains Biome Specialist Group of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA). Such a mission could work with the State Party to address the overall state of conservation of the property with particular attention to the impacts of the Kongde View Resort and tourism on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the Sherpas killed in the avalanche on 18 April 2014;*
4. *Reiterates its concern that the verdict of the Supreme Court of Nepal remains unknown with respect to the Kongde View Resort which is within the property and is reportedly still operating, and urges the State Party to submit the verdict to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is issued by the court;*
5. *Recommends the State Party to consult the Mountains Biome Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the IUCN Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) for technical advice on the overall state of conservation of the property with particular attention to the impacts of the Kongde View Resort and tourism on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the proposed buffer zone,*
6. *Encourages the State Party to invite an IUCN advisory mission to provide advice on these matters and suggests that the State Party request International Assistance in this regard;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the (draft) revised Sagarmatha National Park Tourism and Management Plan for 2014-2018 for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
8. *Also encourages the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification to formally recognize the existing Buffer Zone of Sagarmatha National Park as a buffer zone to the property consistent with the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress with respect to legal proceedings related to the Kongde View Resort, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

69. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1988-1989)

Total amount approved: 80,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching/Hunting
- Ground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information from media reports about plans to construct a road and railway through the property. On 7 February 2014, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to request further information about these issues.

The media reports and further information received by IUCN provide the following information:

- The Ministry of Finance revealed plans for the construction of the East-West Electric Railway and the Tarai Hulaki Highway, both of which would cross the property. Proposed alternative alignments also cut through the property. An alternative alignment following the existing East-West Highway north of and outside the property appears not to be considered, even though it is reported to potentially provide benefits to a larger public;
- Construction of bridges for the proposed highway has started in the buffer zone of the national park. The railroad is still in its design phase, and the Government of Nepal is reported to be planning a Detailed Project Report for the section running through the property;
- The Government of India is reported to be providing financial support for the road project;
- There is much opposition against these projects with their currently proposed alignments, including from international and local NGOs, community groups, Chitwan National Park authority, and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. The Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation of Nepal is also reported to have spoken against development at the expense of the environment;

On 5 February 2014, IUCN was contacted by a consultancy firm tasked by the Government of Nepal to develop a detailed design of the railway alignment and undertake an environmental impact assessment, requesting further guidance on the application of IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. IUCN replied on 7 February 2014, noting its readiness to provide technical support to the State Party.

On 28 April 2014, the World Heritage Centre received a reply from the State Party confirming the financial support of the Government of India for the road and bridge construction. The State Party also confirmed that the road and railways cross the property, and while the construction of one bridge in the buffer zone has been halted by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, another

bridge is planned for further north. The Department of Railways is now undertaking a Detailed Project Report and Environmental Impact Assessment for the railroad where it crosses the property, including consideration of alternative routes.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

There is concern about the reported plans for the construction of the East-West Electric Railway and the Tarai Hulaki Highway through the property. These projects, if implemented as planned through the property, would represent a clear potential danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, including through habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance including restricted movement and potentially reduced breeding, and an increased risk of poaching, illegal logging, and encroachment, among other illegal activities. This is of particular concern in light of the global importance of the property's populations of Tiger and Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, and the conservation successes achieved at the property as exemplified by two recent years of zero poaching of rhino (2011 and 2013) and the strong community support for the conservation of the property recently reported in the media.

It should be noted that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the railway is being undertaken, and the request for further guidance on the application of IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment is welcomed. However, it is not clear whether an EIA has been undertaken for the highway, and the reports of construction of bridges in the buffer zone is a significant concern. It should be recalled that between 2001 and 2004, the Committee noted concern about the construction of the Kasara Bridge across the Rapti River that constitutes the northern boundary of the property, and about the fact that construction of this project had been undertaken without an EIA. The Committee, in Decision **28 COM 15B.11**, also recommended *"that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN continue to communicate with all concerned donors to fully understand how an infrastructure project impacting World Heritage could have been financed without an EIA and how the recurrence of such practice could be prevented in Nepal and elsewhere in the future"*. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently complete all environmental assessments required for these projects, including an assessment of alternative alignments that do not cross the property, before investing in the construction of infrastructure that could preclude the viability of any such alternative alignments.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 28 COM 15B.11, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Welcomes the reported success of anti-poaching measures as indicated by two recent years of zero rhino poaching (2011 and 2013), as well as the reported strong community support for the conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes with concern the reported plans for the East-West Electric Railroad and the Tarai Hulaki Highway crossing the property and that construction of bridges related to the highway project is reported to have started in the buffer zone of the national park, and considers that these projects, if implemented as planned through the property, would represent a clear potential dangerto the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including through habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance and an increased risk of poaching and other illegal activities;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the advice sought by the State Party's consultants on the application of IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
6. *Requests the State Party to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for both projects are completed in conformity with IUCN's Advice Note, including an*

assessment of cumulative impacts and alternative alignments that do not cross the property, and also requests the State Party to submit these EIAs and further details on the proposed projects to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Further requests the State Party to put on hold any construction of infrastructure that could preclude the viability of alternative alignments that would avoid the property, until the EIA processes for both projects have been completed;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, on the status of the above infrastructure projects, and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

70. Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (Philippines) (N 652rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/652/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1997-2001)

Total amount approved: 53,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/652/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/652>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information from a concerned party regarding a number of threats to the property. On 30 January 2014, the World Heritage Centre requested further information from the State Party on these issues. The State Party subsequently submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 1 April 2014, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/652/documents>. The information received by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN provided information about the following points:

- In December 2012 the boundaries of the national park were changed, reportedly resulting in the exclusion from the national park of critical habitats for a number of threatened and endemic species;
- Development of farms and rubber plantations within the property;

- Inadequate tourism management and an increasing influx of tourists following the declaration of the property as one of the “New 7 Wonders of Nature”, which may exceed the carrying capacity;
- Land grabbing and illegal resort development;
- Illegal wildlife trade, including the trade in pets and the trade for consumption, including supplying the market for bush meat and traditional medicine.

In its response to these issues, the State Party notes that:

- No boundary modification has occurred. On the contrary, the ground demarcation of the boundary as defined by the Presidential Proclamation 212 of 16 November 1999, which is also the reference for the boundaries of the inscribed property, even resulted in a comparative increase of the area;
- Human activities in the multiple use zone, the controlled use zone, and in areas inhabited by indigenous communities are closely monitored by park authorities. Farming activities are highly regulated, and farm developments and traditional slash-and-burn methods are strictly prohibited;
- There are no rubber plantations inside the property;
- Deforestation of at least 1,490 ha has occurred in the property between 2002 and 2007. More recent data are not provided. While the State Party notes that this has occurred in the buffer zone of the property, the maps provided by the State Party suggest that some deforestation has in fact taken place within the property’s boundaries;
- The dramatic increase of tourist arrivals since the declaration of the property as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature is confirmed. Tourism management was deficient; however the situation has much improved since the new park administration took up office in July 2013. The number of allowable visitors is set at 900, well below the carrying capacity of 1400 as recommended by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARD) and the Forestry and Environment Research Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). However, it is much higher than the carrying capacity of 342, recommended as an alternative by PCAARD and DENR. The management plan for the property is being reviewed during 2014;
- When the new park administration took up office, there were serious issues with land claims and sales in the property. Initial attempts to address the situation through a land titling process resulted in even more land claims, threatening the forests of the property. In response, a new cadastral survey was initiated, and a Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO) is scheduled in April 2014;
- The new park administration has implemented a number of measures to combat illegal wildlife trade, including increasing the number of rangers from 10 to 21, and round the clock patrols. Since then, no incidents of illegal wildlife trade and hunting were recorded in the property. No information is provided about the scale of illegal wildlife trade and hunting prior to these measures being implemented, nor about any residual impacts.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the efforts undertaken by the State Party to protect and conserve the property; in particular efforts undertaken to manage tourism and control wildlife trade.

The measures reported by the State Party have been in place only since July 2013, and a number of the possible threats to the property have potential to impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Of particular concern are the issues with land claims and illegal land sales in the property, and the planned SRPAO is welcomed in that regard. In addition, the absence of data on deforestation and the scale of illegal wildlife trade and hunting over the past years makes it difficult to draw conclusions on the current state of conservation of the property. The State Party is developing a new management plan for the property, and this should include regulations for appropriate tourism development, including in the vicinity of the property. The information provided also suggests that areas regarded as buffer zone by the State Party are within the boundaries of the inscribed property. Consequently, there is a lack of clarity regarding which activities are permitted inside the property, and some activities incompatible with OUV may be occurring inside the property.

In order to support a comprehensive resolution of these different issues, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, to assess its state of conservation, clarify the boundaries of the property and buffer zone, and consider the measures needed to ensure any impacts from the above-mentioned issues and threats are avoided.

Finally, the tourism management system in place at the time of the property's declaration as one of the "New 7 Wonders of Nature" did not have the capacity to accommodate the increasing influx of tourists resulting from that declaration. Tourism management should be further improved to avoid and mitigate negative impacts on the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **23 COM VIII.A.1**, adopted at its 23rd session (Marrakesh, 1999),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to the protection and conservation of the property, and commends the efforts undertaken by the new park administration to regulate tourism and control illegal activities;*
4. *Notes the State Party's intention to carry out a Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO) to clarify the issue of land claims and land sales in the property, and requests the State Party to take appropriate measures to remove illegal occupants from the property, while ensuring clear land titles for those occupants that are considered legal;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan of the property, including a clear zoning scheme and regulations for appropriate tourism development within the property and its vicinity, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, in order to support a comprehensive resolution of the issues relating to the boundary of the property and buffer zone, impacts from the land claims and illegal land sales in the property, and to assess its state of conservation and consider the measures needed to ensure any impacts from the above-mentioned issues and threats are avoided, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

71. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February/March 2012: joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; January 2014: IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities (poaching and illegal logging);
- Road expansion, in particular regarding Highway 304;
- Forest fragmentation, connectivity and the need for ecological corridors;
- Encroachment;
- Management Planning;
- Tourism and visitor levels;
- Dams and cattle grazing.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/>

Current conservation issues

An IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property on 13-17 January 2014. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 21 February 2014. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/documents>. Following a letter from the World Heritage Centre to the State Party on 10 April 2014, the State Party provided additional information on 22 April 2014. The State Party notes progress on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Efforts aimed at mitigating the impact of the expansion of Highway 304 to four lanes and the associated construction of wildlife corridors include environmental measures (reforestation, artificial salt licks and check dams as well as fences) and speed limit enforcements. Construction of the extra lanes and wildlife corridors, as well as the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan is scheduled to begin in 2015. The Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the sections of Highway 304 from km 26 to 29 and from km 42 to 57 have been approved by the Expert Committee on EIA and are awaiting approval from the National Environment Board and the Thai cabinet;
- Implementation of mitigation measures related to the construction of Huay Samong Dam, including environmental monitoring to prevent impact on the property during the construction and operation phases;
- Land use and encroachment monitoring is currently being undertaken based on data from 2003 and 2011, and is expected to be completed in 2014. Zoning measures are being taken to assist with effective administration, but these are not specified. The State Party maintains plans to submit a request for boundary modifications to assist with addressing issues of encroachment. Aside from more efficient patrolling plans, no further information is provided on how encroachment, land tenure issues, illegal structures and the rehabilitation of degraded land are being addressed;

- Efforts to address the illegal logging of high value timbers within the property, particularly Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) include increased cooperation between concerned administration agencies, police, army and local forest protection units as well as bilateral cooperation agreements with the State Party of Cambodia;
- Programmes are being implemented to increase cooperation with local communities and to provide educational training in order to increase support for the management of the property;
- The total number of livestock fell from 673 to 253, however it is not clear when these numbers were recorded. A number of measures, such as information dissemination and clear demarcation of grazing zones, have been developed with the local communities to avoid illegal grazing in the property by the remaining livestock;
- Specific efforts in regards to overall management of the property include plans for extension of the property, a recently completed revision of the management plan, and sister park arrangements between Khao Yai National Park and the World Heritage property of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, USA.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The implementation and planning of further mitigation measures indicate that important progress has been made to address impacts from Highway 304 and its expansion work. However, the IUCN reactive monitoring mission noted that there are plans for re-opening Route 3462 as well as ongoing discussions on an expansion of National Highway 348, both of which cross the property. Both these plans would likely have a considerable negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Therefore it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to not permit the re-opening or expansion of any roads crossing the property.

The continued implementation of mitigation measures to address potential impacts during the construction of the Huay Samong Dam is also noted. It is important to develop a clear management plan, including specific impact mitigation measures for the area beyond the construction phase of the dam. The State Party, in its additional information of 22 April 2014, confirms information received by IUCN that planning for the Huay Saton Dam project in the Klang Dong area of Ta Phraya National Park started in 1984. This dam, if approved, would inundate important wildlife habitats in the property. The feasibility study for this project has not yet been approved by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and the Government, and an EIA has not yet been carried out. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to make a commitment to not allow any additional dam constructions that are likely to have an impact on the property.

The State Party's ongoing efforts to monitor land use and encroachment are also welcomed. However, the mission noted that the property continues to be under heavy pressure from encroachment, neighbouring land use practices and resort developments. Furthermore, the mission noted a tense relationship between the authorities and some local communities, which is likely to not only impact on management effectiveness but also on the communities' engagement with and support for the long-term conservation of the property. Overall, low effectiveness of current management efforts to address land use, encroachment and conflicts with communities remains one of the highest risks to the OUV of the property. An English version of the updated management plan should therefore be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it becomes available.

There is a strong commitment of the State Party to address the issue of illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*), and commendable efforts continue to be made in that regard, including among other measures the establishment of a Special Prevention and Suppression Task Force, multi-agency patrols and increased law enforcement. Siamese Rosewood was also added to CITES Appendix II in March 2013 to regulate international trade. However, the mission noted that illegal logging by armed gangs within the boundaries of the property continues to escalate, including continued violent encounters with park staff. The mission also noted that the rate at which illegal logging has increased in the last 12 months has outpaced the ability of park officials to address this issue. Therefore, the illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood and other valuable timber species are a severe threat to the property's OUV and remain a cause for serious concern. Furthermore, the State Party also confirmed the reports received by IUCN that at least three rangers were injured in recent shoot-outs, and that park staff are regularly threatened. It also explained that measures have been taken to increase the level of law enforcement, but there is an urgent need for prioritisation of this issue at the highest political level, in close collaboration with other States Parties concerned, and for adequate resources to be made available to ensure sustained management action.

Both the severe and escalating threat of illegal logging, and the continued pressure from encroachment, including resort developments, represent a clear ascertained danger to the OUV of the property and thus the criteria for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes with utmost concern that the threat of illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) by armed groups continues to escalate, despite commendable efforts by the State Party and park rangers to address this issue, often at great personal risk, and also notes with significant concern that the property continues to be under heavy pressure from encroachment, including resort developments;
4. Considers that both of the above threats represent a clear ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. **Decides to inscribe Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement and enforce speed limits and impact mitigation actions along Highway 304 and other roads crossing the property, and urges the State Party to not permit the re-opening or expansion of any other roads crossing the property;
7. Notes with appreciation the actions already undertaken to mitigate the impacts of the Huay Samong Dam on the property during the construction phase and also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue efforts to implement and enforce mitigation measures during and post construction, in cooperation between relevant authorities, specifically the Royal Irrigation Department and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, in order to ensure that the dam does not negatively impact the OUV of the property;
8. Also notes the reported consideration by the State Party to build another dam in the Klang Dong area of the property, which, if approved, would be likely to inundate a significant portion of the property, and also urges the State Party to make a commitment not to allow any additional dam constructions that are likely to have an impact on the property;
9. Requests the State Party to implement all the other recommendations from the 2014 IUCN reactive monitoring mission, in particular:
 - a) Enhance and strengthen inter-agency and international cooperation, including with the military and local police, to address the issue of illegal rosewood logging, transportation, and sale, including through budgetary provisions to facilitate increased regular joint patrolling activities, and through encouraging interactions at higher levels and consideration of new approaches, including ways to reduce demand,

- b) *Urgently address the severe threats from the various types of encroachment to the property and its OUV, by implementing measures specified in the reactive monitoring mission report;*
 - c) *Urgently submit to the World Heritage Centre:*
 - (i) *detailed plans for long-term enforcement actions to prevent encroachment after expansion of Highway 304,*
 - (ii) *any plans to expand or reopen other roads bisecting the property, and confirmation of the status of discussions on expanding Highway 348 and reopening of Route 3462,*
 - d) *Building on the positive results already achieved in reducing illegal grazing activities, continue to engage with local communities to fully remove the remaining domestic cattle from the property, and increase cooperation with local provincial authorities, including the Department of Agriculture, to support small scale cattle herders in finding and securing land outside the property,*
 - e) *Take urgent measures, as specified in the reactive monitoring mission report, to improve the property's management effectiveness;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
 11. *Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
 12. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

76. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: 33,200 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1998: World Heritage Centre monitoring mission; 2001: UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; 2005: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; 2011: UNESCO/IUCN Mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of adequate management system;
- Uncertain legal protection;
- Pollution;
- Illegal timber harvesting;
- Gas and oil pipeline project across the World Heritage property (issue resolved);
- Illegal construction on the Lake shore;
- Illegal sale of land;
- Tourism development
- Lack of mechanism to control waste water discharge.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2014, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents/>. The State Party of the Russian Federation reports the following:

- The Baikalsk Paper and Pulp Mill (BPPM) was closed as of December 2013 and plant facilities shut down. The last activities in relation to pulp production took place in September 2013, although the heat power plant remains in operation. No information about the measures to mitigate the industrial legacy of the plant, including an outline of a closure plan and timeframe, or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to the future plans with the BPPM, is provided;
- The Special Economic Zones “Baikal Harbor” is a project of federal importance. The State Party reports on amendments to Federal Law № 174-F3 “On environmental expert examination” with regard to the expansion of the list of objects of the state environmental expert examination at the federal level, and informs that objects scheduled to be constructed in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) “Baikal Harbor” are excluded from such an assessment at the regional level;

- Ore mining at Kholodninskoye deposit remains suspended until 31 December 2014 and no exploration of mineral resources on the territory of the Central Environmental Zone of Baikal, except for extraction of underground waters and dredging operations, is permitted. A notable budgetary allocation has been made in order to propose actions to prevent negative environmental effects of the Kholodninskoye deposit on the property's values;
- Mid-term management plans have been elaborated for Barguzinsky Reserve, Zabaikalsky National Park and Federal Reserve Frolikhinsky, as well as a visitor plan for Baikal National Park. The State Party also reports on a number of research projects in relation to the state of biodiversity of the property.

The State Party notes concerns about plans of the State Party of Mongolia to build a hydroelectric power plant on the Selenga and Orkhon Rivers and the lack of research and assessment on the environmental and social impact of the project on the World Heritage property, including threats to biodiversity, changes in water discharge and drifts, and river morphology.

The World Heritage Centre requested the State Party of Mongolia to provide information regarding such a development. On 7 April 2014, the State Party of the Russian Federation sent a letter to the World Heritage Centre, raising again concern about a potential threat to the property from hydropower plant constructions in Mongolia. On 8 April 2014 the World Heritage Centre reminded its request to the State Party of Mongolia to provide further information in that regard. A reply from the State Party of Mongolia was received on 14 April 2014.

Given the early stage of both projects, the State Party of Mongolia considers it is premature to draw conclusions on their potential impacts on the property. The State Party of Mongolia notes that it regularly provides information about these projects to the State Party of the Russian Federation in the framework of the Agreement on Protection and Utilization of Border Water.

The State Party of Mongolia confirms that technical and economic feasibility studies are ongoing for the Shuren Hydropower Plant on a tributary of the Selenga River, which would have a capacity of 300 megawatts. These studies are expected to be completed in 2015. If their conclusions are positive, environmental assessments will be carried out in conformity with current legislation.

Terms of Reference are currently being developed for technical and economic feasibility studies for a multipurpose water complex on the Orkhon River, which would have the aim to enhance water supply to towns and settlements in the region.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party that the facilities for pulp production in the BPPM ceased to operate and that parts of the BPPM for heat production remain in operation is well noted. The Committee's decision should be recalled, that any future use of the BPPM site should be subject to EIA, with particular emphasis on the impact of the BPPM on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

There is some concern that the State Party of Mongolia continues considering plans for dam constructions on the Selenga and Orkhon rivers, which constitute the main source of water inflow to Lake Baikal. Dam construction on either of these rivers may have significant adverse impacts on the OUV of the property and it is recommended that the Committee therefore request the State Party of Mongolia to ensure that no dam construction on either river proceeds before these potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, on OUV have been duly assessed, and to provide a copy of the environmental impact assessments of these projects to the World Heritage Centre. The concern expressed by the State Party of the Russian Federation about these projects and their potential impacts on the property should also be noted.

Considering the concerns mentioned above, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Mongolia to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission, with an invitation also extended to the authorities of the Russian Federation, in order to review the scope, scale and status of the dam projects in Mongolia and to have a discussion early in the planning process about the potential impacts of these projects on the property. The mission should make recommendations to both States Parties and the World Heritage Committee to avoid any negative impacts from these projects on the OUV of the property.

The confirmation that ore mining at the Kholodninskoye deposit remains suspended until end of 2014 is welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to confirm that no

license for mining activities will be granted after this date in conformity with the Committee's established position on the incompatibility of mining activities and World Heritage status.

The information that the SEZ "Baikal Harbor" remains a priority development project is noted. There is concern over its impact on the property's values. No further development within the SEZ should be allowed prior to the completion of a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment of tourism development options within the property and in its vicinity, in order to identify alternatives that do not negatively impact on its OUV.

There has been some progress made with the development of management plans for Barguzinsky Reserve, Zabaikalsky National Park and Federal Reserve Frolikhinsky and it has become a necessity to develop an integrated management plan for the property as a whole, in order for the requirements for management of the World Heritage property to be met, in line with Paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

There have also been reports of proposals being made to introduce changes to Federal Law "On Baikal Lake Protection" N 94-FZ, which appear to weaken the protection of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on these proposed changes and their potential impact on the conservation and management of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.22**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party that the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) has been shut down, although it continues to produce heat, and requests the State Party to develop a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the future use of the BPPM site and its impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the State Party of Mongolia continues to consider the development of dams on the Selenga and Orkhon rivers, and also requests the State Party of Mongolia to ensure that no dam development on either river proceeds before the potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, of these projects on OUV have been duly assessed, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to provide a copy of the environmental impact assessments of these projects to the World Heritage Centre in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Further requests the State Party of Mongolia to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission, with an invitation also extended to the authorities of the Russian Federation, in order to review the scope, scale and status of the dam projects in Mongolia and to have a discussion early in the planning process about the potential impacts of these projects on the property;
6. Reiterates its position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, and requests furthermore the State Party of the Russian Federation to ensure that mining at the Kholodninskoye deposit remains prohibited beyond 31 December 2014;
7. Expresses its concern over the continued development of the "Baikal Harbour" and "Gate of Baikal" Special Economic Zones and the lack of assessment of the impacts of these developments on the OUV of the property, and requests moreover the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Special Economic

Zones (SEZs), in particular concerning tourism development within the property and its vicinity, in order to identify alternatives that will not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;

8. *Also expresses its concern over reported proposals to introduce changes to Federal Law N 94-FZ which would weaken the protection of the property, and requests in addition the State Party to provide further information on these proposed changes;*
9. *Urges the State Party to expedite the development of management plans for the protected areas which constitute the property as well as an integrated management plan for the property as a whole, in line with Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including on the implementation of the actions noted above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

85. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: 19,950 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

20-24 March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development pressures associated with tourism and housing;
- Absence of strict development control process.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 February 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report; a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>.

The State Party reports the following:

- On 22 December 2013, the requested Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Study and a Design Guide were submitted to the State Party by the consultant The Landmark Practice. The study argues that developments since inscription until 2013 have largely not affected the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The report suggests that the limits of acceptable change should be measured against twenty “important views” of the site. Detailed assessments of proposed development projects are provided, as well as approved plans that are currently on hold because of the moratorium; the majority of the planned Freedom Bay development, as well as the Sugar Beach development, is thereby considered to exceed the LAC, and the former may also exceed the criteria for Policy Area 3 as set out in the Hyder Report;
- The recommendations of the LAC study were endorsed by Executive Order (Cabinet Conclusion No. 527 of 2013) and outlined a road map for implementation of the report, including the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry responsible for Physical Development;
- The refurbishment of the Pitons Management Area (PMA) “Inscription Monument Site”, which was damaged by Hurricane Tomas in 2010, has started;
- Projects to address the issue of invasive plants (*Callisia fragrans* and *Tradescantia zebrina*) on the Gros Piton Nature Trail seem to be successful. Additionally, education and awareness raising activities are planned to ensure long term eradication. Likewise, projects have been organised to

engage with different stakeholders, such as schools and communities, to increase public awareness and to highlight the potential impacts from climate change;

- The State Party's intention to pursue geothermal energy explorations within the Soufriere region is noted. Potential locations for drilling bore holes include Fond Doux within the property. While the LAC study also considered the potential impact of exploratory boreholes, it could not determine whether such activities would exceed the LAC given the current lack of detailed plans. Nevertheless, the State Party considers that such activities outside the property are unlikely to have an impact on it, and that geothermal developments within the boundaries of the property may be acceptable, as long as they are located away from Sulphur Springs and subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The completion of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study is welcomed. Its recommendations should be fully implemented, and some additional safeguards to ensure protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) should be applied. In keeping with the findings of the study, all developments where impacts would exceed the defined LAC should not proceed. Projects that are considered to exceed the LAC, such as the Freedom Bay and Sugar Beach developments, should therefore either be abandoned or revised to avoid impacts on OUV. Should any developments exceeding the LAC proceed, the integrity of the property would clearly be compromised, and the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger should be considered in that case.

In all cases, developments that are not considered to exceed the LAC should avoid impacts on "important views" as identified in the LAC study. Each development should be subject to an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property prior to authorization by the State Party. In addition, any revised master plans should fully respect the LAC and the guidelines set out in the Design Guide, and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to any decisions being made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

More information on the "roadmap for implementation" of the LAC study is required, to ensure it is legally recognized and integrated within the development planning and control legislation and processes for the property. Management of the property also needs to be strengthened to ensure that developers comply with ensuing regulations.

The intention of the State Party to pursue geothermal resource development within the Soufriere region is noted with concern. Geothermal development within the property would be likely to have a significant impact on its OUV, and should be prohibited. Any geothermal development outside the property should be subject to detailed EIA to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

The efforts of the State Party to address invasive plants and to improve stakeholder engagement are welcomed and should be continued.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to address the problem of invasive species and to improve stakeholder engagement;*
4. *Welcomes the completion of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Study, and requests the State Party to ensure its legal recognition and integration within the development planning and control legislation and processes for the property, to fully*

implement its recommendations, and to not allow any developments to proceed if they are considered to exceed the LAC;

5. *Notes that a number of planned and ongoing developments, such as Freedom Bay and Sugar Beach, are considered to exceed the LAC, and also requests the State Party to ensure these developments are either abandoned, or significantly modified to ensure they have no impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre any revised master plans, prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Considers that, should any development exceeding the LAC be allowed to proceed, the integrity of the property would clearly be compromised, leading to consideration of the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
8. *Recommends that the development of geothermal energy within the property should be prohibited, and urges the State Party to ensure that any planned development of geothermal energy outside the property is subject to a detailed environmental impact assessment to assess the potential impacts on its OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, and including the legal adoption and full implementation of the recommendations of the Limits of Acceptable Change study and additional measures to prevent development impacting the OUV of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

AFRICA

86. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-1997)

Total amount approved: 84,700 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 60,000, UNESCO FIT Netherlands. USD 193,275 and USD 118,725, respectively in 2008 and 2009, in the frame of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) in the south-west of Cameroon. USD 263 700 from Franz Weber Foundation for the sustainable conservation of the property.

Previous monitoring missions

March 1998: UNESCO monitoring mission; June 2006, December 2009 and February-March 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of entire approval and implementation of management plan;
- Agricultural and forest encroachment;
- Mining exploitation project close to the property;
- Industrial agriculture in the buffer zone;
- Threats exerted by commercial hunting and deforestation around the Park;
- Mekin hydroelectric dam.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 February 2014 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. A summary of this report is available at the Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/> and highlights the following points:

- No activities were carried out in 2013 by the GEOVIC Company; however a number of mining exploration permits around and in close proximity to the property exist. Terms of reference for a Strategic Environmental and Social Study (SESS) of all the projects, mining and other, ongoing or foreseen around the property are being prepared;
- The environmental management plan for the dam project at Mekin foresees several actions for the safeguarding of the integrity of the site. Negotiations are in progress for the development of a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of awareness-raising, anti-poaching and ecological monitoring actions as regards the dam project. The Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) of the project recognizes that regional socio-economic development could lead to increased human pressure on the biodiversity;

- Sud Hevea and the Dja Conservation Service have signed an agreement relating to the implementation of awareness-raising, anti-poaching and ecological monitoring activities in the industrial plantation and the property itself;
- A significant effort in regards to patrols has been undertaken. Nevertheless, poaching has increased in comparison to 2013, mainly due to the lack of operational resources. Awareness raising activities concerning the combat against poaching were carried out and will be continued. The functioning budget of the Conservation Service has been increased by 11.25% in 2013 (from 49,700 US dollars to 56,829 US dollars) with good perspectives for 2014 and new equipment has been acquired.
- With support from partners, 30 ecoguards have been trained in the techniques of ecological monitoring data gathering, and seven officers in the management of databases. This system is currently in its test phase in the eastern part of the property. Furthermore, a database for ecological monitoring is now operational and awaiting its linkage in 2014 with SMART;
- The State Party provides a revised map of the boundaries of the property and its periphery zone. This is presumed to respond to the incoherence of the boundaries of the periphery zone in the development plan (between the descriptive texts and the map coordinates).

The World Heritage Centre project for the sustainable conservation of the property, funded by the Franz Weber Foundation, supports some of the above-mentioned activities.

Analysis and Conclusion of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The reinforced efforts of the State Party through the increase in staff and the operational budget and investment in the Conservation Service of the property should be noted. Efforts in strengthening of anti-poaching activities and the establishment of an ecological monitoring system should also be noted. Nevertheless, due to insufficient resources it remains difficult for the administration to control the threats to the property. Despite these efforts, there has been an increase in poaching and the State Party needs to further support the Conservation Service of the property to countermand this tendency. The active support of the different partners in the sustainable conservation of the property is also appreciated.

As regards the mining projects developed within and around the property, the confirmation that no exploitation activity has been undertaken at the mining site by GEOVIC is an encouraging indication. However, it is not clear whether this situation is exclusively linked to economic constraints. The Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) mentioned in the report appears to be the same as that evaluated by the 2012 mission, not responding to international standards. It is therefore recommended that the Committee recall its request for a new Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIS) in accordance with international standards, before any exploitation of the site, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Impact Assessments. The possibility of mining exploitation around the site remains a concern given that it could have negative impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The project to carry out a Strategic Environmental and Social Study (SESS) of all the ongoing or foreseen projects around the property is a necessity and this evaluation should be carried out rapidly to highlight the challenges linked to the maintenance of the OUV.

With regard to the construction of the Mekin Dam, although the social and environmental plan foresees several support actions for the neighbouring populations and the management of the site, appropriate measures to reduce the direct and indirect impacts of the dam under construction to the OUV of the property do not appear to have been identified or implemented. A similar situation applies to the industrial implantation of Sud Hevea Cameroun that, according to the report, supports the implementation of awareness raising, anti-poaching and ecological monitoring activities, but however presents no concrete measures to prevent, mitigate or compensate the negative impacts of this project to the OUV.

The revised map of the boundaries of the property indicate a reduction in the area in comparison to the original boundary of the Reserve as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 and which is the legal basis for the protection of the property. The State Party should confirm that the original boundaries of the property have not been modified, and take note that any such modification of the boundaries must be referred to the Committee, in conformity with paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and should avoid any negative impact to the OUV of the property and its protection.

The current consultation dynamic of the economic operators should rapidly result in the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of joint operational actions to mitigate the effects caused by their activities. The requests listed in the Committee Decision **36 COM 7B.1** have not been fulfilled and it is recommended that the Committee maintain the eventuality of an inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 39th session in 2015 if these conditions are not fulfilled before the end of 2014.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Takes note with satisfaction of the efforts of the State Party to increase staff and the operational budget and the investment in the Conservation Service of the property, and encourages the State Party to continue and further strengthen its support;*
4. *Notes with concern that to date, the State Party has not yet fulfilled all the conditions set out by the Committee in its Decision **36 COM 7B.1** and in particular that no concrete measure appears to have been taken to reduce the direct and indirect impacts of the Mekin dam and the industrial implantation of Sud Hevea Cameroun to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Commends the commitment of the State Party in carrying out a Strategic Environmental and Social Study (SESS) of all the current and future projects around the property and requests the State Party to undertake this SESS without delay and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Expresses its utmost concern regarding continued deforestation and increase in poaching and also requests the State Party and its partners to strengthen their support to the Conservation Service of the property to reverse this tendency;*
7. *Urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *prevent any start-up of mining work until an Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIS) has been carried out, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Impact Assessments,*
 - b) *define, in consultation with the Sud Hevea Cameroun, adequate measures to be undertaken to foresee, mitigate and compensate the negative effects of the agricultural exploitation project of Sud Hevea and other commercial initiatives to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,*
 - c) *prevent the filling up of the Mekin dam reservoir until such times as appropriate measures to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts to the OUV of the property, have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN;*
8. *Considers that if, by end-2014, significant progress has not been accomplished concerning all the conditions already enumerated in Decision **36 COM 7B1** as well as the new above-mentioned requests, the property would meet, according to Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2015;*

9. *Urges the State Party to clarify whether the boundaries of the Reserve as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 have been modified and recalls that any such modification to the boundaries must be referred to the Committee, in conformity with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, and should avoid any negative impact on the OUV of the property and its protection;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2015, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, and more particularly on progress accomplished in further reducing the threats to the OUV of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

88. Lakes of Ounianga (Chad) (N 1400)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (vii)

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1400/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1400/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property in 2012:

- urban development and infrastructures;
- waste management;
- pollution;
- transboundary road traffic;
- agricultural development;
- tourism development;
- silting of the lakes/reduction in water supply;
- absence of an adequate management plan;
- human pressure.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1400/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report on the property despite the request made by the Committee at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012). However, it has submitted a revised 10-year management plan, in conformity with the recommendation of Decision **36 COM 8B.7**.

Although the Lakes of Ounianga are not seriously threatened due to their distance from large urban centres, thus having a reduced population with less developed economic activities, various current or potential threats do exist. The human and natural factors must be taken into consideration, including waste management, water wastage, truck traffic, infrastructural development and tourism, silting, erosion of the banks and human pressure. Consequently, the implementation of concrete measures foreseen in the management plan remains crucial.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the conditions and recommendations made at the time of inscription. The property is located in an extremely sensitive geo-climatic conditions; any action linked to excessive development and/or poor management of human activities around the lakes could have a significant impact with very limited possibilities for restoration.

Therefore, it is important to fully implement the management plan, including ensuring efficient functioning of the management unit and its long-term funding. The management plan was developed in a participatory process in accordance with the Committee recommendations. It contains a certain number of expected actions expressed in general terms that should be defined and confirmed in the annual budgets and planning.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 36 COM 8B.7 adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report that was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), but welcomes the publication of a management plan for the property for 2014-2023, as requested by the Committee;*
4. *Requests the State Party to implement the management plan for the property and to provide adequate staffing and resources to this end;*
5. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in Decision 36 COM 8B.7, adopted at the time of inscription of the property;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2015, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the time of inscription of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (viii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2001)

Total amount approved: 35,300 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012: Joint reactive monitoring mission World Heritage Centre/IUCN

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of the Gibe III dam;
- Oil exploration;
- Wildlife populations and pressure from poaching and livestock grazing;
- Impacts of the larger development vision for Northern Kenya;
- Management capacity of KWS and NMK;
- Design of the World Heritage site.

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2014, the State Party of Kenya submitted a short progress report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/documents>.

The report refers to a high-level meeting which took place in January 2014 between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to discuss the modalities of sharing information and preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) relating to developments on the Omo River in Ethiopia. It was agreed that:

- The State Party of Ethiopia would provide all necessary background information concerning developments on the Omo River which might impact the OUV of the property, for study by the State Party of Kenya (February-April 2014);
- A follow-up meeting will be held in May 2014 to discuss issues, decide on a course of action and engage a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to carry out a SEA of the Lake Turkana Basin, identifying appropriate mitigation measures to ensure maintenance of the OUV of the property;
- At the time of the above-mentioned meeting in May 2014 representatives of the State Party of Kenya will be invited to visit the site of the Gibe III dam;
- A draft of the state of conservation report will be completed by December 2014 and finalised in time for submission by the State Party of Kenya by 1 February 2015.

The State Party of Ethiopia did not invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to review the impacts of the Gibe III dam and related developments as previously requested by the Committee at its 35th, 36th and 37th sessions.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Initial bilateral discussions have been held between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia and it is recommended that the Committee welcome this development. While the reports states that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of developments in the Omo River basin and their impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property were discussed, the report provides no clear timeline for the preparation of this study.

The construction of the Gibe III dam and development of large-scale irrigation schemes in the lower Omo Valley seem to have continued uninterrupted despite the Committee's earlier requests to the State Party of Ethiopia to suspend developments until the SEA had been completed and to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission. It should be recalled that the Committee decided not to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger on two previous occasions, to allow the mission to take place and consider its findings, and before the likely severe ecological and social consequences for Lake Turkana, the property, and the livelihoods of surrounding communities have been adequately considered in the planned SEA

News reports, which indicate that the filling of the reservoir is scheduled to commence this year, are noted. A letter was sent to the State Party of Ethiopia on 31 March 2014 to verify this information but at the time of writing this report no reply was received. In addition, it should be recalled that ongoing development of large-scale irrigation schemes could significantly amplify the severe impacts of filling the reservoir, as these would further reduce the flow of water to the lake. The most important one, Kuraz Sugar Scheme is developed by the state-owned Ethiopian Sugar Corporation. According to the website of the Corporation, 175000 ha of sugar cane will be planted and the irrigation of these fields will be ensured through a water diverting scheme from the Omo River.

Recent publicly available satellite imagery of the lower Omo valley clearly shows newly-built irrigation channels and large-scale agricultural development.

A number of new studies confirm the likely hydrological and other changes that dam filling and irrigation schemes will cause. According to these studies, the filling of the dam will result in a drop of the water level of the lake of 2 m. The Kuraz Sugar Scheme could deprive Lake Turkana of 50% of its water inflow, which experts consider would result in a lowering of the lake level by an estimated 20 metres and a recession of the northern shoreline by as much as 40 km. The ambitious agricultural development plan for the lower Omo, if fully implemented, could cause the waters of the Omo River to no longer be able to replenish Lake Turkana at all, and undoubtedly lead to the loss of the OUV of the property, and have detrimental impacts on the livelihoods of local communities who depend on the lake.

In view of the severity of the potential impacts, and the immediacy of the threat, with the imminent filling of the dam and the diversion of water for the irrigation schemes, it is recommended that the Committee immediately inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.4** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Welcomes the initiation of bilateral discussions between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia on the potential impact of the Gibe III dam and associated agricultural irrigation projects on the property, and the stated intention to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the developments on the Omo River, the completion of which is expected in December 2014;*
4. *Notes with utmost concern that construction of large scale irrigation schemes has continued, and that initial filling of the Gibe III reservoir is reported to start this year, i.e.*

prior to the expected completion of the SEA, and prior to the identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures;

5. *Regrets* that the State Party of Ethiopia has not invited a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to review the impacts of the Gibe III dam, other planned hydro-electric developments and associated large-scale irrigation in the Omo region on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, despite requests by the Committee, since its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), that the State Party of Ethiopia invite such a mission;
6. *Considers* that the imminent completion of the Gibe III dam and initial filling of its reservoir, and the ongoing development of associated large-scale irrigation projects in the Omo River Valley could lead to an irreversible loss of the OUV of the property and represent a clear potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. ***Decides to inscribe Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***
8. *Urges* the State Party of Ethiopia not to start the filling of the dam and to halt the construction of the large scale irrigation projects before the SEA is completed and appropriate mitigation measures are identified to guarantee sufficient inflow of water to Lake Turkana and sufficient seasonal variations to preserve the OUV of the property;
9. *Requests* the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop, a set of corrective measures and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, which should include actions and indicators to ensure that impacts to OUV from the filling of the dam and irrigation projects will be avoided, for examination by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. *Recalls its request* to the State Party of Kenya, in consultation with the State Party of Ethiopia, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

91. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1999-2001)

Total amount approved: 45,000 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information about a number of issues related to the management and the state of conservation of the property, namely uncontrolled and unregulated new buildings on the shores of Lake Elementaita, concerns of the involvement of the Endorois people in the nomination of the Lake Bogoria component and the development of geothermal power plants at Lake Bogoria. On 9 October 2013, 3 February 2014 and 16 April 2014 respectively, the World Heritage Centre sent letters to the State Party to verify the information. The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 24 March 2014.

- *Uncontrolled and unregulated new buildings on the shores of Lake Elementaita:* According to the information received, several buildings were under construction including a hotel, within the riparian land around the lake. Plans to build an additional 50 houses are reportedly underway. In its report, the State Party confirms that developments had started in part of Ututu Conservancy to the South of the lake, which forms part of a critical buffer zone, without any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) having been undertaken. In December 2012, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) issued an Environmental Restoration Order to the developer. Responses from various stakeholders to address the situation have been slow. On 28 February 2014, a stakeholder meeting was held which resulted in an action plan to address the issue. A 1-year moratorium on development of new facilities in the riparian area was expected to be put in place as of 30 March 2014.
- *Concerns about the involvement of the Endorois people in the nomination of Lake Bogoria:* The World Heritage Centre was informed by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) about the lack of free, prior and informed consent from the Endorois community for the inscription of Lake Bogoria on the World Heritage List, and concerns on the lack of participation of the Endorois in management and decision making. On 5 November 2011, through its Resolution 197 "[...] on the protection of indigenous peoples' rights in the context of the World Heritage Convention and the designation of Lake Bogoria as a World Heritage site", the ACHPR "[urged] the Government of Kenya, the World Heritage Committee and UNESCO to ensure the full and effective participation of the Endorois in the decision-making regarding the "Kenya Lake System" World Heritage area, through their own representative institutions". ACHPR Resolution 197 also recalls Communication 276 / 2003 brought on behalf of the Endorois Welfare Council (EWC). The State Party did not provide comments on the concerns raised by the ACHPR in its report.
- *Development of geothermal power plants at Lake Bogoria:* Information was received about plans for the development of geothermal energy in the Bogoria-Silali block, including Lake Bogoria, with eight 100 MW power plants projected to be completed by 2017. No reply has been received from the State Party at the time of writing of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee note the concerns raised by the ACHPR in their Communication 276 / 2003 in favour of the EWC, following EWC's complaint regarding the lack of recognition of their right to development, and in subsequent and related ACHPR resolutions concerning the World Heritage listing of Lake Bogoria, and urge the State Party to respond to ACHPR regarding these resolutions.

The possible development of geothermal energy within the property is likely to have a significant impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and should not be permitted. Any planned development of geothermal energy outside the property should be subject to rigorous environmental

assessment, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

The State Party provided information regarding proposed actions to address the issue of developments at Lake Elementaita, including a moratorium on further developments. However, there is concern that neither the Environmental Restoration Order from NEMA, nor the action plan as laid out in the State Party's report, appear to foresee any removal of illegal development and the ecological restoration of the affected area. The developments, in close proximity to the hot springs and Pelican breeding islets, and in an area of critical habitats for birds and fish, are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and should therefore not be permitted.

There is also some further concern about the reported plans by the State Party of Tanzania to construct a soda ash plant on the shores of Lake Natron. Lake Natron is the most important breeding site for Lesser Flamingo in the world, with 75% of the global population of Lesser Flamingo hatching there. Its protection and conservation is of great importance to the integrity of the property, and it is worth recalling that, at the time of inscription of the property, the Committee encouraged the State Party of Tanzania and other relevant States Parties to consider potential serial extensions, including Lake Natron, to the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Tanzania to provide further information on this development, recalling Article 6 of the *Convention* which stipulates that "*Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage [...] situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention.*"

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.6**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Welcomes the decision of the State Party to stop further developments in part of the Ututu Conservancy on the southern shores of Lake Elementaita, including a 1-year moratorium on developments in riparian areas, considers that the developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in a critical buffer zone to the property is likely to have significant adverse impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to ensure that any existing illegal developments are removed, and affected areas ecologically restored;*
4. *Notes the resolutions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) with regard to the recognition of rights of the Endorois in relation to Lake Bogoria, and urges the State Party to respond to ACHPR regarding these resolutions and to ensure full and effective participation of the Endorois in the management and decision-making of the property, and in particular the Lake Bogoria component, through their own representative institutions;*
5. *Also considers that any development of geothermal energy within the property is likely to have a significant impact on its OUV and should not be permitted, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any proposed development of geothermal energy outside the property is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a specific assessment of potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
6. *Further requests the State Party of Tanzania to provide to the World Heritage Centre further information on reported plans for the construction of a soda ash plant at Lake*

Natron, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to ensure that the EIA for this project assesses its potential adverse impacts on the OUV of the property;

7. *Reiterates its encouragement to the States Parties of Kenya and Tanzania to cooperate regarding the effective conservation of Lake Natron and other lakes in the region, and to consider further potential serial extensions as part of a potential transnational serial World Heritage property, taking account of relevant recent thematic studies by Birdlife International and IUCN;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party of Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2015, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

92. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (N 289)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1986 - 2012)

Total amount approved: USD 126,344

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Plan or System
- Oil exploration/exploitation

Illustrative material See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. Subsequently, a joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property in March/April 2014. Both the State Party's report and the mission report are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents>. A number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions are presented in those reports, including details of the following:

- Progress with the preparation of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for an oil exploration concession covering the northern part of the lake (outside the property) awarded to the company Surestream, based in the United Kingdom;

- Award of an additional oil exploration concession to a company based in the United Arab Emirates, RAKGAS, covering the southern portion of the lake, including the entire property;
- The state of existing knowledge of biodiversity in the lake, including an important (2004) publication arising from a Lake Malawi/Nyasa Biodiversity Conservation Project, as well as publications in the aquarium literature;
- Considerations and scope for extension of the property to ensure a more complete representation of the lake's unique biodiversity and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Some other issues are also reported by the State Party and the mission, including the following:

- Expansion of human populations within the enclave villages and associated pressures on terrestrial and aquatic resources in neighbouring parts of the property;
- Land degradation in the lake's catchment, leading to increased rates of siltation, nutrient loading and ecological change;
- Overfishing in the near shore fisheries of the lake, including illegal fishing within the property;
- Impacts of tourism infrastructure development and activities;
- Pollution of lake waters with domestic waste and excessive nutrient loads originating from commercial fish-farming operations;
- Inadequate enforcement of protection measures due to resource constraints affecting the management authority, particularly in respect of the aquatic zone of the property;
- Persistent risk of intentional introduction of non-native fish species which could permanently alter the ecosystem of the lake.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The possible long-term consequences of oil exploration and exploitation anywhere within the lake are of significant concern, with its associated risks of pollution and the potentially devastating impact this could have on the ecology of this unique evolutionary system. It is especially important to note that due to the size and great depth of the lake combined with its relatively small catchment and annual through-flows, any pollution would take a very long time to be flushed out of the lake, increasing the likelihood of permanent ecological damage should an accidental oil spill or other pollution occur. It is understood that no exploration will commence until appropriate Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) have been carried out and exploration activities will initially not involve any test drilling.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its position on the incompatibility of oil and mineral exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status and urge the State Party to revise any exploration licences overlapping the property in order to exclude the property from these licences. Furthermore, it is recommended to call upon the companies that have been awarded concessions on the lake to make a commitment not to explore and/or exploit oil or gas within World Heritage properties, as has been done by Shell and more recently TOTAL. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its concerns about the potential impacts of oil exploration throughout the lake and ensure that the planned ESIA assesses the impact on the OUV of the property.

The introduction of exotic fish species to the lake would also have disastrous consequences for the unique and highly endemic biodiversity of the entire lake, including the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the States Parties of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania to ensure that an introduction of any exotic fish species is avoided at all cost, and to take urgent measures to eradicate any exotic fish species that are identified in the lake.

As recognised by the mission, management of the property needs to be strengthened and additional resources allocated to ensure that threats are contained. Some of the pressing management issues that require attention to safeguard the property's OUV include the need for measures to curb illegal fishing within the aquatic zone of the property, strengthen work with local communities, better regulate tourism and develop an efficient monitoring programme which includes the fish, water quality and other aspects of the aquatic ecology. The Committee is therefore recommended to urge the State Party to update the 2007-2011 management plan for the property, and to ensure that provisions are made within the revised management plan to address the above-mentioned issues.

There is clearly scope to extend the property to encompass a more fully representative sample of the lake's unique species, biodiversity and evolutionary processes. This might involve the States Parties of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania (which share the lake's shoreline) and should build on existing scientific knowledge of species distributions and ecology. It is thus recommended that the Committee encourage each of the States Parties to initiate a process to identify important localities for possible future incorporation into an extended trans-national serial property, and recognise the potentially important role that international conservation non-governmental organisations and scientific experts could play in facilitating necessary research and dialogue towards this objective.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),*
3. *Reiterates its concern over oil exploration activities throughout the lake, noting that an accidental spill would pose a potentially severe risk to the integrity of the entire lake ecosystem including the aquatic zone and shoreline of the property*
4. *Notes that an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for oil exploration in the northern part of the lake is being carried out, and requests the State Party to ensure that this ESIA includes a specific assessment of potential impacts of oil exploration and subsequent exploitation on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
5. *Urges the State Party to cancel the oil exploitation permit which overlaps with the property and reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;*
6. *Calls on Surestream and RAKGAS, who have been awarded oil exploration concessions on the lake, to make a commitment to not exploit nor explore for oil or gas in World Heritage properties;*
7. *Also requests the State Party of Malawi to implement all the recommendations of the 2014 joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission:*
 - a) *Demarcate the boundary of the outer limits of the aquatic zone of the property with floating buoys,*
 - b) *Deploy patrol boats, other equipment and personnel to ensure enforcement of fishing restrictions and other measures aimed at protecting the OUV of the property,*
 - c) *Design and implement an effective monitoring protocol to provide a basis for assessing changes in fish diversity and populations, other fauna, water quality and management parameters that could be used in adapting management interventions for better protection of the property's OUV,*
 - d) *Closely engage with communities in the village enclaves and in the periphery of the property to develop suitable resource management programmes,*
 - e) *Promote low-impact eco-tourism ventures that comply with appropriate environmental and social impact standards;*

8. *Also urges the State Party to revise the 2007-2011 management plan for the property, provide an electronic and three printed copies for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as soon as it is available and to ensure that the revised management plan includes provisions for the implementation of the above-mentioned mission recommendations;*
9. *Encourages the States Parties of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania to collaborate in identifying important localities for the protection of endemic fish and evolutionary processes with a view to incorporating such areas into an extended trans-national serial property, in cooperation with international conservation non-governmental organisations and scientific experts;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1984-1999)

Total amount approved: 67,980 USD

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2007, November 2008 and December 2013: Joint reactive monitoring missions World Heritage Centre/IUCN.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Significant decline of wildlife populations due to poaching;
- Insufficient funding and management;
- Mineral and hydrocarbon prospecting and mining;
- Tourism management and development;
- Proposed dam development.

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property in December 2013. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 1 February 2014. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents>.

The State Party report includes information on the following points:

- Increasing anti-poaching measures since July 2012, in particular new permanent and temporal staff recruitment, equipment and funding;
- Receipt by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) of an official notification on the proposed Stiegler's Gorge dam project from the Ministry of Minerals and Energy in March 2013. However, the State Party commits itself to the full consideration of the World Heritage status in the assessment and to refrain from development in case of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) beyond mitigation;
- The adding of valuable forestland to the property is hindered by overlapping uranium prospecting licenses;
- The willingness to conduct the requested Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and ongoing efforts to secure external support are confirmed.

The mission found that the most acute threat to the property is poaching, as demonstrated by the results of the 2013 elephant survey which shows a drop of the elephant population from 70000 in 2005 to 13000, as well as the dramatic decline in the black rhino population, mostly triggered by international demand for ivory and rhino horn. Despite some progress, important further challenges include funding and management, possible impacts and risks related to uranium mining, possible future prospecting and mining and large-scale development projects proposed within and near the property, including the Stiegler's gorge and Kidunda dam projects.

Analysis and Conclusion by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The result of the recent elephant survey shows a drop of close to 90% of the population compared with the time of inscription, and clearly indicates the magnitude of the poaching problem. While the important efforts by the State Party to reconsolidate funding and management of the site are well noted, there is no indication that this poaching crisis has been brought under control. The recent suspension of a major anti-poaching campaign serves as a reminder of severe challenges and a stronger response is urgently needed. The dramatic reduction in populations of key species explicitly referred to in the Statement of OUV is unprecedented. This provides a clear foundation to recommend inscription on the List of World Heritage List in Danger in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to fully acknowledge the scale of the challenge, draw political attention and rally support, including at the international level. The development of a Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation should be used as tools to guide a consolidated management response. The efforts coincide with the imminent updating of the General Management Plan (GMP) of Selous Game Reserve and the processes could ideally be merged. It is clear that the implementation of anti-poaching and overall management requires adequate funding in line with the scale and significance of the property.

Beyond the immediate concerns about poaching, multiple ongoing or proposed development projects within and near the property require increasing attention in terms of direct and indirect impacts on OUV. Careful and comprehensive analysis and decision-making is required at the level of the Larger Selous Ecosystem. This would also provide a framework for involving the communities adjacent to the property in decision-making and benefit-sharing. The legal changes in 2009 permitting the exploration and extraction of uranium, oil and gas in game reserves, and apparently granted licenses overlapping the property, are clearly incompatible with its World Heritage status. The mission also confirmed that adequate water monitoring and risk preparedness remain to be ensured for the Mkuju River uranium mining project (MRP), immediately adjacent to and upstream of the property. The possible application of In-situ Leaching (ISL) at MRP would inevitably prompt a need for additional Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

The Committee's position on the incompatibility of the Stiegler's Gorge dam project with the World Heritage status of the property should be recalled. In addition, there continues to be a need to better understand the potential impacts of the Kidunda dam on the property's OUV. The Committee may recall the State Party's commitment to the protection and conservation of the property, as stated in the letter of the State Party received on 1 July 2012, as well as the Committee's requests to the State Party not to engage in any mining activity within the property after exclusion of the Mkuju River Project, and not to undertake any development activities within the property and its buffer zone without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee.

Given the complexity and cumulative effects of the multiple existing and potential threats, a better understanding beyond individual Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) is needed to guide decision-making. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) should be conducted as requested by the Committee in Decision **37 COM 7B.7** and as desired by the State Party according to its report.

It is recommended that the Committee call on the international community, and in particular States Parties where there is a high demand for ivory and rhino horn such as China, Thailand and Vietnam, to support the State Party in halting the illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn. In addition, it is recommended that the Committee also call upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to the management of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.5**, **36 COM 8B.43** and **37 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party on progress made towards the establishment of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and urges the State Party to conclude the process, while ensuring direct revenue retention and direct re-investment of at least 50% of the revenues in the property;*
4. *Expresses its utmost concern about poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in wildlife populations, as evidenced by the results of the recent aerial wildlife survey, and considers that poaching and the effects thereof represent a clear ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. ***Decides to inscribe Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
6. *Requests the State Party to develop in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN and implement as corrective measures, a comprehensive emergency anti-poaching programme with the objective to halt poaching in the Larger Selous Ecosystem within 12 months, and to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including a timeframe for achieving it, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;*
7. *Calls upon the international donor community, to provide urgent technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of an anti-poaching programme, and also calls upon the States Parties where a high demand for ivory and rhino horn exists, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives in particular through the implementation of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);*
8. *Also requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2013 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, which build upon earlier mission recommendations, in particular to:*
 - a) *Ensure full disaster preparedness and independent quantitative and qualitative water monitoring related to the Mkuju River Project (MRP) and conduct an*

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the case of consideration of In-Situ Leaching (ISL),

- b) *Develop a strategy to manage the property at the wider landscape level of the “Larger Selous Ecosystem” and formalize this landscape level management through the establishment of a buffer zone and potentially strategic additions to the property,*
 - c) *Unambiguously clarify the status of planning and decision-making of the Stiegler's Gorge Dam project and ensure a comprehensive understanding of the impacts, risks, costs, benefits, and alternatives as a basis for any decision-making regarding the project both in the form of an in-depth EIA and the comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) noted below, taking into account the OUV of the property,*
 - d) *Complete the existing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda dam project and fully consider the OUV of the property in all assessments and decision-making,*
 - e) *Take advantage of the upcoming updating of the General Management Plan to fully consider the World Heritage status of the property and to address the emerging issue of alien invasive species,*
 - f) *Further enhance the involvement of, and benefits for, local communities, in particular by consolidating Wildlife Management Areas as a promising entry point and framework;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party not to undertake any development activities within Selous Game Reserve and its surrounding areas without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;*
 10. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party not to engage in any mining activity within the property after exclusion of the Mkuju River Mining site as per Decision **36 COM 8B.43**, in line with its established position that mining and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;*
 11. *Welcomes the willingness of the State Party to address the multiple threats to the OUV of the property, and to undertake a SEA for the Larger Selous Ecosystem, and recalls that this SEA should comprehensively identify the cumulative impacts of the various existing and proposed developments both within the property and in important wildlife corridors and dispersal areas that are critical for maintaining the OUV and integrity of the property, including but not limited to the Selous -Niassa Corridor, in conformity with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
 12. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

II. OMNIBUS

As part of its functions and within the reactive monitoring process, each year the World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of a number of selected properties, inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and those that are under threats (see Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*). To this effect, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prepare detailed reports on the state of conservation (“SOC reports”) of those properties which are presented for examination to the Committee (see Documents WHC-14/38.COM/7A, 7A.Add, 7B and 7B.Add).

On the basis of these reports, the World Heritage Committee decides, in consultation with the State Party concerned and as per Paragraph 24 of the *Operational Guidelines*, whether additional measures are required to protect the property.

At its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), considering time constraints during its sessions, the ever-increasing number of properties placed under the reactive monitoring process, as well as its impact on the workload of all parties involved, the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision **27 COM 7B.106**, which requested that the SOC reports be grouped in two categories as follows:

- a) Reports with recommended decisions which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, require discussion by the World Heritage Committee,
- b) Reports which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, can be noted without discussion, unless a request is made by a Committee member to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in advance of the discussion of this agenda item.

However, considering the significant number of SOC reports which remain to be prepared for the 38th session of the Committee in 2014 (150 reports) and after a careful review of the state of conservation reports submitted by the States Parties concerned, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that in a number of cases, the requests made by the World Heritage Committee to the State Party have been responded to in a satisfactory manner by the authorities concerned and/or adequate measures have been taken (for example, a comprehensive Management Plan for the property has been finalized or a development project potentially affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been cancelled) and that the property can therefore no longer be considered under threat.

In this sense, and in the context of the ever-growing workload of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that it is not necessary to present yet another detailed SOC report for examination by the World Heritage Committee but rather a brief summary of the progress achieved for the conservation of such properties, which can therefore be removed from the reactive monitoring process.

With Draft Decision **38 COM 7B.98** proposed below, the World Heritage Committee is therefore invited to note with satisfaction that its requests have been addressed by the States Parties concerned and that in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties listed below is no longer under threat.

As a result, no further report on the state of conservation of these properties is required in the future, unless in the event of a new threat or development at the property.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479bis)

In response to the request made by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report on 17 January 2014 that itemizes the progress made in addressing the points raised in Decision **36 COM 7B.63**.

The State Party reports that major development plans are now satisfactorily controlled. With regard to the Committee's request that the hotel projects be altered to conform to the newly revised urban plan and be supported by a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), the State Party reports that two luxury hotel projects are currently in development. One, the Hotel Anathara with a total area of 4.5 ha, is located in south-east of the Luang Prabang, within the buffer zone. The State Party assures the Committee that the project has been studied with great care by the architectural team of the Maison du Patrimoine, and has been revised several times in order to conform to the rules recently established for the buffer zone and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Decision **37 COM 8B.47**). However, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note that a mission was undertaken in March 2014 within the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention and that it recommends that the position of the Hotel Anathara building, currently too close to the Mekong river, should be revised to respect the visual aspect of the river.

The second project is the hotel Yunna Copper Luang Prabang Laos, also located within the buffer zone, with a total area of 16 ha; 6 ha of this is to be preserved as rice fields while the remaining 10 ha is earmarked for the construction of the hotel building. The State Party reassures the Committee that the same criteria will be applied to this second hotel project.

Regarding the proposed new town in Chompeth Valley, and the plan to construct a Dam in the Mekong River 60 km from Luang Prabang, the State Party reports that these two projects are still pending, as the investors who expressed their interest in 2008 have not returned to the relevant authorities. Therefore, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Mekong Dam to be constructed 60 km upstream of the property have not been submitted.

In light of the progress made by the State Party, it is considered that the main concerns of the World Heritage Committee are currently being addressed. However, the State Party is encouraged to continue with strict application of the PSMV (Plan de sauvegarde et de mise en valeur) in controlling the development pressure in the property and the buffer zone to prevent any threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. In addition, the State Party could revive the Heritage Fund, established in 2012 to finance the Maison du Patrimoine.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation) (C 540 bis)

On 31 January 2014, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report that addressed the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Committee Decision adopted at its

36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), including the results of an international open-ended group of experts on boundary issue, as well as information regarding development of a legal mechanism for the protection and management of the World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation.

The State Party also submitted, within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory a revised Serial Property Table in order to correct mistakes and inaccuracies concerning the component parts of this serial property as identified in the original submission. The Table is presented in Annex III of Document WHC-14/38.COM/8D and will be reviewed by the Committee under item 8D.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the state of conservation of the property is being adequately addressed by the State Party. The State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of all relevant measures and plans, defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property, in order to prevent any threats to its Outstanding Universal Value.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (Barbados) (C 1376)

In response to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Decision **36 COM 7B.95**), the State Party submitted a report on the implementation of the management plan for the property and other progresses. The report is accessible at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1376/documents>. In 2011 it was established a national committee for management and monitoring, the Barbados World Heritage Committee (BWHC), which now manages the property under the presidency of the Town and Country Development Planning Office (TCDPO). The BWHC has launched seven themed action plans: Protecting, Preserving and Enhancing Heritage; Education, Capacity Building and Research; Traffic Management; Tourism Management; Heritage and Cultural Interpretation; Public Awareness; and Risk Management. Financial support is granted by the Ministries, departments and NGOs that compose the BWHC. In addition, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth is assisting in drafting the terms of reference for a new Foundation responsible for fundraising and identification of funding sources addressed to the management plan implementation.

The State Party continues developing educational, training and conservation programmes, such as the Heritage in Classroom Workshops, carried out in 2013, and the proposal for a project for the preservation and conservation of the traditional wooden houses (chattel houses) planned to start in 2015. Furthermore, a request was submitted in October 2013 to the World Heritage Centre for International Assistance for the development of an introductory course in conservation techniques aimed at academic staff. In 2013 the TCDPO entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with qualified consultants who are undertaking a technical assessment of listed buildings in the property. Phase 1 identified, measured and documented 18 Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, while another 20 buildings were identified in Phase 2, scheduled to be completed by March 2014. Phase 3 is planned to begin in September 2014.

Information on urban development projects was also submitted, notably for the Marina, the Bridgetown port and the Constitution River, all within the limits of the property and buffer zone. For those reasons, the urgent conservation issues with regard to the property are being addressed and the State Party is commended for its continuous efforts. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue monitoring the interventions at the property, particularly the major development projects, as well as follow-up on the implementation of the management plan.

Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia) (C 285)

In response to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Decision **36 COM 7B.98**), the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents>. It encompasses the completion and implementation of the Special Protection and Management Plan for the property, as well as progress in the elaboration of the Conservation Action Plan for the components of the serial property, and the demarcation of its boundaries.

The State Party submitted the proposal for revised boundaries for the property for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the context of the retrospective inventory exercise. Approval for the proposal is still pending. With regard to the Conservation Action Plan, in 2012 the Ministry of Culture delegated the administration and protection of the fortifications of Cartagena to the Workshop School of Cartagena (*Escuela Taller de Cartagena*) through a Loan for Use Agreement (commodatum). The agreement requires the Workshop School to submit annual reports to the Ministry of Culture on the activities of maintenance and conservation undertaken in the fortifications.

Documentation was submitted on technical studies undertaken for the preservation of San José and San Fernando Fortresses within the framework of proposed development projects for the expansion of Bocachica Canal, planned to provide access to large vessels to the Bay of Cartagena. It is imperative that those refereed studies be concluded to ensure that proper conservation measures are imposed to restrict any potential impacts on the integrity and authenticity of the fortresses by the increase in marine traffic.

The State Party has made some progress in the strengthening of conservation measures and overall protection for this serial property. No further reporting to the World Heritage Committee is currently required. Nevertheless, further continuing cooperation will be necessary with the State Party in the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property, to ensure the implementation of the Special Protection and Management Plan, the conservation action plan for all the components of the property and the close scrutiny of the current project for the expansion of the Bocachica Canal.

Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C 414)

In response to the request made by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Decision **36 COM 7B.101**), in January 2014, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report that addresses the main issues noted by the decision and is accessible at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/414/documents>.

The State Party has carried out an exhaustive inventory that assessed the physical state of conservation of archaeological areas within the buffer zone of the property. The inventory recorded architectural structures and wall paintings and any deterioration was quantified and its cause identified. Conservation and structural works have been undertaken, along with cleaning and the introduction of measures such as drainage systems and protective shelters, to prevent damage from water, insects and vegetation. Although this does not equate to an overarching conservation strategy, the State Party reported that inter-disciplinary meetings will be held in 2014 with the aim of implementing a conservation programme over the next four years to address the general conservation needs of architecture and wall painting, and the protective drainage systems and shelters.

It was further reported that an inter-institutional committee was set up in 2013 by the National Institute of Anthropology and History and the surrounding municipalities of the property for protection of the property and the management of urban development pressures, though little information has been submitted on this issue. Federal, State and Municipal bodies have entered into an agreement to create a Tourism Corridor Ecatepec-Teotihuacan-Nopaltepec to strengthen its historic cultural character and promote its tourism potential. It was also stated that a review of the Management Plan is being prepared by the National Coordination of Archaeology.

The report provided information on the monitoring of land use and urban pressure on the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property. For this purpose, a regional diagnosis based on aerial photography has been developed to identify inconsistencies in the urban development policies of the surrounding municipalities, with the aim of updating local development plans.

The current challenges facing the conservation and management of the property appear to be well understood and the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) are being properly addressed. It is expected that the State Party will continue to monitor the state of conservation of the property through the enhancement of guidelines for interventions and pursue its efforts towards the rationalization of the Management Plan with land use policies and local development plans.

Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) (C 747)

In response to the Decision taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Decision **36 COM 7B.105**), the State Party has submitted a state of conservation report on 22 January 2014. It provides information requested on the harmonization of planning tools for the property and the definition of its boundaries within the framework of the Retrospective inventory exercise. The report is accessible at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/747/documents>. Clarifications on the property boundaries were submitted and will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session for approval.

In support of the harmonization of planning tools for the property, the State Party reports on the creation of a Technical Office by the Commission of Cultural Heritage for the Nation (CPCN) to provide support in the management of the property, as well as the creation of a consultative committee named the Honorary Council for the Management Plan of the Historic Quarter of Colonia del Sacramento. This council is responsible for improving the management of the property, sharing expertise, enhancing community participation and ensuring coordination among the teams in charge of the implementation of the Management Plan. This council will have a temporary duration and will carry out periodic meetings. Information was also submitted on an agreement held between CPCN and the UNESCO Office in Montevideo foreseeing the completion in 2014 of the inventory of the property, which was initiated in 2005.

Even though no specific information on the harmonization of the Management Plan with the Local Plan for Sustainable Land Use, Planning and Development for the City of Colonia del Sacramento was provided, the State Party reported that the Territorial Ordinance Plan for the Department of Colonia it is currently being reviewed by the regional legislative authority. It is expected that with these management arrangements the State Party will be able to ensure an effective implementation of the Management Plan for the property.

The challenges that have been faced in terms of decision-making for the management of the property are well noted. The main concerns of the World Heritage Committee for the property are being addressed at this stage by the State Party. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies however recommend that the full implementation of the Management Plan and the future extension of the property by including the Bay and Islands of the City of Colonia del Sacramento be closely followed.

AFRICA

Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323 bis)

On 31 January 2014, in accordance with Decision **37 COM 7B.46**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Royal Palaces of Abomey, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents/>

The State Party reports that rehabilitation and conservation work has been completed on the Houegbadja Palace (affected by the fire in 2012) and on the northern part of the museum. The first draft of the new management plan was finalized in December 2013 and is being implemented during a transition period of 6 months in order to refine it and finalize the evaluations of the previous management plans. In line with the recommendations made by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in December 2012, the State Party has included a chapter on the new reconstruction policy for the property within the new management plan, which divides the property into four categories: museum, interpretation centre, artisan centre and a space for the conservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage related to the property. Following a one-month training workshop organized by the African World Heritage Fund in February 2013, the State Party has elaborated a Disaster Risk Management Plan for the property. Since then, staff is undergoing ongoing risk preparedness training with the involvement of royal families and local communities in order to support conservation efforts and promote the property.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that a report to the Committee is not necessary at this stage, in order to provide more time to the State Party to evaluate the previous conservation and management plans and to finalize the new conservation and management plan.

Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)

On 28 January 2014, in accordance with Decision **36 COM 7B.42**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18/documents/>. It also submitted the Management plan for the property.

The State Party reports that, concerning the maps of the property's boundaries and its buffer zone, all data required were obtained and will be included in the draft law for the management of the property, expected to be endorsed by the Council of Ministers. No additional information is provided on the specific provisions of this law in relation to the property.

Regarding the Management Plan, it was developed with a participative process and a validation workshop took place in December 2013 for its finalization. It considers the management of the property as a cultural landscape to include natural corridors and associated hills and valleys as well as intangible elements associated to the property. Regarding the resettlement plan, the State Party indicates that it is one of the four components of the World Bank project and that relocation from the inscribed property has commenced to the newly designed settlement zone. Concerning the assessment of the temporary shelters, actions started in January 2014 and a first draft of the report has been received. Information about the implementation of the World Bank Tourism Development project is also included. Following the report made by the State Party, the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage has accepted the pilot project on the Biet Gabriel Rufael Church and works are expected to begin shortly. Finally, a Heritage Impact Assessment for on-going project proposals has been conducted to the Lalibela Churches in August 2012 and is attached to the State of Conservation report.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that a subsequent report to the Committee is not necessary at this stage, in order to provide more time to the State Party to finish the shelters evaluation and assess potential courses of action. They will continue with the exchange of information with the State Party on the evaluation of the management plan, on the expected law for the management of the property and on the implementation of the specific projects to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately protected and sustained.

Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius) (C 1227)

On 13 January 2014, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/documents/>. It addresses the progress made in the implementation of the Committee Decision (**36 COM 7B.45**) adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012). As requested by the Committee, the report provides information on the steps taken to improve the management system for the property and to secure resources. Furthermore, the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Management Plan 2013–2018 has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Mauritius, and has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. A capacity-building strategy has been initiated to ensure that qualified conservation and management professionals are available to support the work of the Technical Committee (which is mandated to evaluate all applications for any type of development in the buffer zone), and a Conservation Manual has been produced. Collaboration mechanisms have been instituted to ensure the adequate protection and management of the buffer zones and to better utilize mechanisms such as the consultative meeting to strengthen participatory decision-making. Finally, awareness-raising activities have been increased (including a dedicated web site with an interactive map) and summaries of existing planning tools have been produced for easier consultation by different public users.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the recent concerns of the World Heritage Committee in relation to the management and protection of the property are being addressed by the State Party. They therefore are of the view that no further reporting to the World Heritage Committee is currently required. The State Party is encouraged to fully implement all relevant measures in order to prevent any threats to the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the property.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties :*
 - ***Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic),***
 - ***Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation),***
 - ***Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (Barbados),***
 - ***Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia),***
 - ***Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico),***

- ***Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay),***
 - ***Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin),***
 - ***Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia),***
 - ***Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius);***
3. *Encourages* the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;
 4. *Reminds* the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.