

ICOMOS

Report on the ICOMOS Advisory Mission to Coro and its Port (C 658)

12th to 16th October 2015



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Special thanks are extended to the President of the Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural (Cultural Heritage Institute), Oscar Vielma; the Governor of the Estado Falcon, Stella Lugo; the Director of OPEDAP Merlín Rodríguez, Concepción Morales and collaborators; the Major of La Vela; the President of CORFALTUR José Luis Naranjo; the Directors of Institutos de Patrimonio of Coro and La Vela (Heritage Institute); and Architect Américo Parra.

With special thanks also to Daniela Ortiz Piñango, José David Rondón and Juan Zambrano.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Party invited an advisory mission to assist in implementing the recommendations of Decision 39COM 7A.48, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015).

Based on the parameters set by the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted by Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 in 2014, the mission has concluded that the State Party has made remarkable progress as to complying with the eleven corrective measures, but has not yet achieved all of the results specified in the DSOCR:

- a) The number and quality of interventions in restoration, conservation and maintenance performed on traditional civil, religious and domestic examples of architecture is remarkable. All of them contributed to sustaining the authenticity and integrity of the property. An intensive working plan was developed. It prioritized the most significant examples of the World Heritage areas, but it also included buildings of a high heritage value located in the buffer zone of Coro. Other works developed on minor examples of domestic architecture contribute to sustaining repopulation policies of the Historic Centres of Coro and La Vela and to avoiding *gentrification*.
- Despite the satisfactory results of the interventions, some specific cases evidencing difficulties in the application of restoration criteria have been detected (elimination of a painted ceiling at the *Casa de los Ventanas de Hierro*) as well as inappropriate insertions of contemporary works in heritage contexts (Café Venezuela, at the same house).
- The active participation of Master Artisans in the restoration, conservation and maintenance works has contributed to sustaining the authenticity of the property.
- b) The participatory management arrangements have been successfully applied. The OPEDAD-IPC suitably and efficiently coordinates the different actors involved in managing the property: municipal institutes of Heritage, government and Communal Councils. An adequate level of cooperation of institutions at the three levels of government was observed, and the participation of the community through the representatives of its councils is an example of good practice in the management of heritage. However, the main financial resources contributed by the national state were channelled through the State of Falcón, not thorough the IPC. Even though it is worth highlighting the sensitivity and concern about the property of Coro and La Vela expressed by Mrs Governor of the State of Falcón, it would be desirable that in the future resources were allocated directly to the IPC.
- There is a visible need for the IPC-OPEDAP to incorporate professionals who are experts in the restoration and conservation of heritage. In this sense, it is also recommended to develop bonds with universities which offer specializations in restoration and conservation to generate training and specialization programmes for the IPC-OPEDAP technicians and the various institutes having the historic centres of Coro and La Vela within their scope.
- Regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones have been adopted. However, a Management Plan providing a clear guide to manage the property in all aspects is not available yet.
- c) The disaster risk preparedness plan is still in the preparation stage. Likewise, a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability is at the project phase; studies are advanced, the possible alternatives have been defined and the financial resources have been assured for execution.

- d) Finally, the legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development. Approval of the Ordinance of La Vela and the amendment of that of Coro contribute suitable regulatory measures for the World Heritage areas and buffer zones of Coro and La Vela. The enforcement of the Environmental Penal Law (passed in 2012) enabled the establishment of exemplary sanctions for those who trespass heritage protection ordinances.

Substantial progress has been made in response to the measures set out in Decision 39COM 7A.48, but this progress was not comprehensively communicated to the World Heritage Centre. During the mission it was established that many actions have been fulfilled or are at an advanced stage of completion.

Recommendations

Taking as a guide the corrective measures adopted by Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 it is recommended:

Regarding the measures to be implemented **within one year**:

- i. Information from all relevant documents issued by the Institute of Cultural Heritage should be included in the February 2016 report: Identification templates of each property, plans corresponding to the building typology surveyed and of the state of conservation, facade profiles of some street stretches, and all documents produced which relate to the development of spatial analysis of the property as well as their interpretation.
- ii. The Management Plan should be based on the Master Plan which is in progress, and a separate Management Plan should not be generated. The site of Coro and La Vela must have a single document serving as a basis for its handling and management. Defining a desirable state of conservation for the property as an orientation element of the strategic lines of the Plan, and establishing an agreement between strategic lines and action programmes (which in turn may split in several projects) is suggested. The Plan must also properly define the enforcement authority or the management unit in charge of enforcing it. Regarding the fulfilment of programmes and projects, timeframes must be set for the short, medium and long term, taking into account the parameters corresponding to the local management and the national circumstances. Indicators allowing for the review of the efficiency of the management must be defined (the State Party proposed some in its Report dated June 2015, submitted to the WH Centre). It is also necessary for the Management Plan to include guidelines for the interventions of conservation, restoration and maintenance according to the different degrees of heritage value.
As stated in Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the Management Plan must include the definition of regulatory measures for buffer zones and heritage areas (in agreement with the approved ordinances for Coro and La Vela), a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property.
For the writing of the disaster risk preparedness plan: the Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage Resource Manual (UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS/UICN, 2014) should be a key reference. The records of preceding disasters which occurred in 2010 and the response given to cope with the emergency may also contribute valuable precedent to be taken into account in the elaboration of a Managing Disaster Risks Plan.
- iii. The development of an action plan is at a very advanced stage, and many interventions are complete. However, this corrective measure must be fulfilled by submitting to the World Heritage Centre information on the plan, planned works, prioritization, resources allocated, type of intervention and extent of progress. The guidelines set for the restoration, conservation and maintenance tasks must also be explicitly stated.

- iv. The plan to formally integrate traditional know-how into conservation strategies has been continuously and efficiently developed and constitutes one of the strengths of the property which now must only be properly informed on in the reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre; including information on the creation of the Social Property Enterprise (EPS) constituted by the Earth Building Artisans and the ways adopted to guarantee the incorporation of Artisans in restoration, conservation and maintenance works.
Information should also include reference to the type of articulation with the Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV) and the Experimental National University Experimental Francisco de Miranda (UNFM).
- v. The State Party has made progress in implementing corrective measures relating to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture. Information on compliance must include reference to the municipal ordinances which establish the obligatory maintenance of real estate, and penalties foreseen to solve issues related to ownership and abandonment.
The State Party has been working on proposals to encourage the incorporation of uses compatible with residential use, thus recovering the traditional relationship existing between residence and commercial stores. Data on such proposals should be included in the information submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Measures to be implemented **within two years**:

- i. The current legal tools which ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed should be clearly stated. To that purpose, it is suggested that an evaluation should be made of whether it is necessary to generate additional instruments that, on one part, make the so called Mixed Commission formal, and on the other, establish the connection of the Mixed Commission with the government of the State of Falcón.
- ii. The management structure and the type of articulation among the different levels of government and community councils in decision-making are included must be clearly stated in the Management Plan and in the report submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
- iii. The articulation of the Management Plan which is in the elaboration process, with local and regional planning tools must be clearly expressed in the reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as well as their coordination with the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela. It is also important to point out its articulation within the current legal framework of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, such as that provided by the Bolivarian Constitution, the *Plan de la Patria* and other legislation such as the new Environmental Penalty Law.
- iv. The closure to vehicular traffic at a sector of a World Heritage area of Coro (already in place) should be formally endorsed and carefully monitored. In the case of La Vela, the Ordinance for restriction and regulation of the access of vehicles to areas of a heritage value should be applied.
- v. The project for a comprehensive drainage system, should be fully defined, including staging and financial resources for its implementation.
- vi. The strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation as well as continued use, by owners should be completed. Among the strategies that the State Party has been implementing or managing, it would be desirable:
 - a) to complete the continuity of the productive chain for the supply of materials to the Storage Centre, coordinating management with other sectors of the state, such as the Ministry of Environment;
 - b) to reach a favourable resolution so that the Bank grants loans to owners of heritage property built with traditional techniques who are interested in investing in their conservation and maintenance;

c) other strategies that the State Party may keep under study to solve that measure.

Finally, so as to comply with what was requested by Decision 39 COM 7A.48, the State Party should submit to the World Heritage Centre before 1 December 2015 information on the strategy adopted, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation.

Regarding the updated report that the State Party must submit by **1 February 2016**, it is recommended that every action taken to comply with the corrective measures should be included, and that information should be ordered based on such measures. This report should also include a specific response to each of the items listed in the DSOCR. All documents deemed necessary to account for the commitment and responsibility with which works are developed to remove Coro and its Port from the List of Heritage in Danger must be attached.

1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1.1 Inscription history

The property was inscribed in 1993 as a cultural site at the 17th session of the World Heritage Committee in Cartagena, Colombia, by Decision 17 COM XI, under the name “Coro and its Port” and criteria (iv) and (v) (the history of the inscription is described in detail in the Mission Report dated August 2002).

In 2005 the site was inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger by Decision 29 COM 7B.92.

1.2 Inscription criteria and Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

By Decision 37 COM 8E, the World Heritage Committee adopted the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Coro and its Port: (see Annex 8)

Criterion (iv)

Unlike other cities on the Caribbean Coast, the buildings of Coro and its Port are constructed with earthen architecture and domestic buildings show unique examples of traditional mud building techniques including *bahareque* (a system using mud, timber and bamboo), adobe and *tapia* (rammed earth). These are building techniques that are still in use today that have been modified and adapted to social, climatic and environmental conditions as well as to local materials, resulting in a unique example of earthen architecture.

Criterion (v)

Coro is an outstanding example of a historic town, dating from the earliest years of Spanish colonization on the Caribbean coast of South America, which has conserved its original layout and early urban landscape to a remarkable degree.

The urban value of Coro is represented by a building style derived from a colonising process where strong Spanish and *Mudéjar* building and architectural character and an indigenous building tradition converged. Afterwards, from the second half of the 17th century, this style was influenced by a Dutch architectural pattern introduced through the neighbouring islands of Curaçao and Aruba.

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

The World Heritage Committee has examined the state of conservation of the property during 13 sessions, yearly from 2003 to 2015. The last sessions were the 38th session (Doha, 2014) and the 39th session (Bonn, 2015).

In July 2002, April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions visited the property invited by the State Party as requested by Decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore, in September 2006 a World Heritage Centre mission visited the site to assess its state of conservation

In 2005 the site was inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger by Decision 29 COM 7B.92, considering the following threats:

- Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004 and 2005 (repeated in 2010);
- Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;

- Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements.

In 2014 the World Heritage Committee, by Decision 38 COM 7A.23, adopted the following revised Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

- a. Traditional civil, religious and domestic architecture has been conserved in accordance to clear conservation principles that ensure that conditions of authenticity and integrity continue to be met. Conservation interventions are based on a prioritised and comprehensive strategy and plan that ensures continued actions;
- b. The participatory management arrangements for the property are sustained through adequate resource allocation and staffing and guided by the adopted Management Plan, which includes provisions and regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones;
- c. The disaster risk preparedness plan is fully operational and a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been implemented;
- d. The legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development.

In February 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre for review at the 39th session of the WH Committee.

The Committee well noted the progress made by the State regarding “the progress in the implementation of concrete actions that contribute to the achievement of the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), such as an important number of conservation interventions in public and privately owned buildings, traffic management, transfer of know-how, improvement of drainage systems and progress in inter- institutional coordination through strategic alliances and the establishment of a Mixed Commission” (Decision 39 COM 7A.48).

However, the Committee recalled that “the timely implementation of the revised corrective measures defined in Decision 38 COM 7A.23 is an essential requirement for achieving the DSOCR”, and regretted that on the basis of the report of the State Party, it was not possible “to assess the real and concrete progress in the implementation of the revised corrective measures and make additional recommendations as could be required” (Decision 39 COM 7A.48).

Regarding the cartography, the Committee required “further clarification to meet the requirements for Minor Boundary Modifications”.

Furthermore, the Committee requested the State Party to urgently prepare a strategy, work plan and timetable to respond to the revised corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as adopted by the Committee at its 38th session”.

1.4 Justification of the mission (terms of reference, itinerary, programme and composition of mission team should be provided in the Annexes)

The State Party invited a advisory mission to assist in implementing the recommendations of Decision 39COM 7A.48, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), relating to the implementation of the corrective measures required to achieve the DSOCR.

ICOMOS carried out this mission from 12 to 16 October 2015 with the following objectives:

1. Asses the state of conservation of the World Heritage property, with particular attention to concrete progress and actions being undertaken to implement the revised

corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session, as follows:

A. Measures to be implemented within one year:

1. Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts;
2. Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property;
3. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions;
4. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term;
5. Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization.

B. Measures to be implemented within two years:

1. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that a coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property;
 2. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy;
 3. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with;
 4. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,
 5. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding;
 6. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners.
2. Provide recommendations to the State Party to help them with the drafting of a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budget, including the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions, for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a two year period, to be submitted by the State Party, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, no later than 1 December 2015.

2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1 Heritage legislation

The following legislation was outlined in previous Mission Reports and it is currently in force

National Legal Protection

Law for the Protection and Defence of the World Cultural Heritage	Official Gazette, extraordinary issue N° 4.623	03-10-1993
Urban Order Plan for the city of Coro-La Vela	Official Gazette, N° 4.528	05-02-1993
Guidelines for the General Registry of the Cultural Heritage of Venezuela and the Management of its Property.	Administrative Order N° 012/05	30-06-2005

Legal Protection of the State of Falcon

Decree of protected area and special surveillance to the Property area of the City of Coro and its Port La Vela de Coro, its road network and adjacent sites which constitute and identify these cities.	Official Gazette, N° 31.704	21-06-1996
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Legal Protection of the City of Santa Ana de Coro

National Declarations:

Section of Calle Zamora	Official Gazette, N° 26.210	18-03-60
Historical Zone	Official Gazette, N° 31.267	30-06-77
Historical and Artistic Zone (18 National Historical Monuments)	Official Gazette, N° 34.923	16-03-92

Municipal Declarations:

Historic Site of Coro		14-05-68
Protection of Historical Site area		30-03-82

Legal Protection of the City of Vela de Coro

National Declaration:

Historical and Traditional Site (1 National Historical Monument)	Official Gazette, N° 33.024	20-07-84
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As well as the laws and norms already mentioned, it is important to add that the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which was passed in 1999, Article 99, establishes that “the State shall guarantee the protection and preservation, enrichment, conservation and restoration of the cultural heritage, whether tangible or intangible, and the historical memory of the Nation”. The same article also states that “the property constituting the cultural heritage of the Nation is inalienable, imprescriptible and unseizable. The Law shall determine the sanctions for the damages caused to such property.”

The following ordinances – encouraged by the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC, according to its initials in Spanish) have been recently passed:

Modification of the “Ordinance of Zoning, Architecture and Construction for the Historic Centre of the City of Santa Ana de Coro”, with the main aim of valuing and conserving its historic, architectural and urbanistic characteristics (passed on 09 December, 2014).

“Heritage Ordinance for action, intervention, zoning, architecture and construction of the World Heritage area and safeguarding of La Vela” (passed on 20 May, 2015).

2.2 Institutional framework

As it was reported in 2011, the actions aimed at protecting the WH property has continued under the custody of the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC) in collaboration with the government of the Falcón State and the Municipalities of Colina and Miranda.

The Ordinances of Coro and La Vela establish the competence of the Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage in the first case and the competence of the Municipal Institute for Culture, Heritage and Tourism in the second case, both always jointly and with the support of the Institute of Cultural Heritage through its Strategic Projects and Design Office for the Heritage Areas of Coro, La Vela and its Protected Areas (OPEDAP according to its initials in Spanish).

On its part, the Organic Law of the Communal Councils, published in the Official Gazette n° 39.335 on December 28, 2009 grants viability to the manifest participating character of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Venezuelan Republic and as a direct consequence it made possible and guaranteed the active involvement of society through the organization of Communal Councils (*Consejos Comunales* in Spanish).

The instrument foreseen by the legislation of Venezuela to achieve participation of the Communal Councils in planning and decision-making is called “Management Commitment” (*Convenio de Gestión*, in Spanish), a legal entity existing in the Organic Law of the Public Administration. The Management Commitment for Coro and La Vela was signed in 2011 January 27 by the Communal Councils and national, local and regional institutions. The aim of the Management Commitment is to establish strategies for the conservation of the Heritage values of the zones decreed Areas of Historical Value of Coro and its Port of La Vela within which the areas declared World Heritage are located.

2.3 Management structure

Supported by the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela, competence corresponding to IPC and the application of the Management Commitment, the Mixed Commission was constituted with the Institute of Cultural Heritage, the Municipal Offices of the Heritage of Coro and La Vela, representatives of the Communal Councils and of the Earth Building Artisans (*Artisanos del Barro* in Spanish). The Mixed Commission is coordinated by the IPC through the Strategic Projects and Design Office for the Heritage Areas of Coro, La Vela and its protected areas” (OPEDAP).

The “Strategic Projects and Design Office for the Heritage Areas of Coro, La Vela and its protected areas” was created by the Institute of Cultural Heritage pursuant to Administrative Resolution N° 018/12, dated March 13, 2012. Its mission is to generate norms and regulations for the buildings, infrastructure and uses of the areas mentioned, provide counselling and enforce norms aimed at their protection, conservation, restoration and revitalization. To do so, it works jointly with the regional government, municipalities and community organizations. It is within OPEPAD’s scope to manage and grant authorizations to develop works or other interventions in the areas declared World Heritage, and their corresponding protected areas (without being exempted from observing the municipal legislation).

Currently, the Mixed Commission coordinates its actions with the Government of the State of Falcón through its Falcón Corporation of Tourism (CORFALTUR), a government department under its responsibility.

In their management structure, the Heritage Municipal Offices, the OPEDAP and CORFALTUR gather technicians and professionals from various disciplines – architects and engineers among them – but they lack professionals specialized in restoration and conservation.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

3.1 Management effectiveness

Overcoming the crisis caused by the torrential rains in 2010 and the progress made to take the corrective measures established by Decision 38COM of the WH Committee to remove the property from the List in Danger demonstrates a coordinated management among the IPC, the State of Falcón, the municipalities of Miranda and Colina, and the Communal Councils.

The OPEDAP evaluates and approves interventions to heritage buildings and carries out a monitoring programme. It also started legal actions for demolitions or crimes committed against built heritage, which were solved favourably at Court, Public Prosecutor's Office N° 17, Environment. In this case owners were forced to reconstruct the property applying traditional materials and techniques, to pay fines and to contribute to the rehabilitation of the buildings involved. The success of the actions taken sets a precedent which discourages future transgressions.

On its part, in addition to participating on the Mixed Commission, the Communal Councils are in charge of Social Control and permanently accompany the monitoring of the works and the state of conservation of the heritage buildings.

The relationship with the Earth Building Artisans remains current and strengthened. Masters are organised in a socio-productive unit which takes part in the restoration and rehabilitation of the property with traditional techniques of raw earth: *adobe* in the case of Coro and *bahareque* (a system using mud, timber and bamboo) in La Vela.

The Falcón Corporation of Tourism (CORFALTUR) which belongs to the Government of the State of Falcón has received important financial resources from the Venezuelan State for the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings and heritage areas of Coro and La Vela. CORFALTUR acts co-ordinately with the Mixed Commission, under the supervision of IPC-OPEDAP.

3.2 Nature and extent of threats to the property, taking into consideration the cultural values for which the property was inscribed and specific issues outlined by the World Heritage Committee

The State of Conservation Report (SOC) 2015, as well as those of previous years, outline the main factors affecting the property: the deterioration of materials and structures, mainly due to flooding and water damage. Another factor is the deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property, in this case as a consequence of the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms.

The SOC 2015 also points out the absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007. In spite of the absence of this information, this mission could verify that significant development took place in the restoration and conservation of the property as it is outlined in Section 3.3.

Therefore, the main threats to the property are still the lack of a suitable drainage system and of a Management Plan including a Disasters Risk Plan.

Attention to these threats is considered among the corrective measures established by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 and progress done shall be outlined under Section 4.2.

3.3 Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee

Huge progress has been achieved in the state of conservation of the property, particularly with the restoration of the most representative buildings of the historic centres of Coro and La Vela, and of an important number of homes.

The State of Venezuela allocated financial resources to the Government of the State of Falcón for an amount of Bs. 398,000,000.00 (equivalent to USD 64,000,000.00) for the restoration and conservation of buildings located within protected areas. These funds are administered by CORFALTUR and works are assigned by public bid. Contractor companies must hire an Earth Building Master Artisan. Among the works developed in the World Heritage area of Coro the following finished restorations may be mentioned:

- *Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro, Casa del Tesoro, Casa del Sol, Casa del Balcón de los Arcaya, Casa Lugo*, Cloister of Saint Francis (Diocesan Museum), all of them highly significant buildings considering their dimensions, urban insertion and heritage importance.
- The *mudéjar* coffered ceiling of San Francisco Church was also restored. This is an exceptional example of American Colonial architecture. Minor works were performed on the *Casa de las Siervas* (San Clemente Church).

The restoration of the building Santa Ana (old hospital, one of the largest buildings in the Historic Centre) and of the *Casa Gumersindo Torres* are in progress in the same World Heritage area. Minor works are also being done at the San Nicolás de Bari Church and Santa Ana Catholic School.

In the buffer zone of Coro, the *Casa Manzano Campuzano* (currently the Alberto Henríquez Museum) and the old Prison of Coro (currently the Music Conservatory, Stage I completed) were restored. Works on *Casa Capriles* (Museum Complex Lucas Castillo) and on the *Casa del Balcón de los Saher* are in progress.

In the World Heritage area of La Vela, restoration works are complete at *Nuestra Señora del Carmen* Church and *Casa Antillana* (old Customs).

In Coro as well as in La Vela, private homes of a heritage value have also been restored.

On its part, the Institute of Cultural Heritage administers resources of Bs 2,092.687,83 also aimed at the restoration and rehabilitation of 9 properties located in Coro and La Vela. Funds are administered jointly with the Communal Councils, thus allowing the participation of the community in the heritage management. Works are developed by cooperative associations formed by Earth Building Artisans.

The restoration and rehabilitation of 62 homes located in the World Heritage areas and the buffer zones of Coro and La Vela is undergoing the hiring process, in coordination with the Communal Councils.

It can be pointed out that the magnitude of this Action Plan is very significant and implies an enormous financial and coordination effort, which was possible thanks to the synergy among the several decision-making levels and the participation of the community. Therefore, it is very regrettable to point out two very controversial interventions:

- At the *Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*, the painted ceiling in one of the main rooms was eliminated. That ceiling, resembling a starry sky, was a significant element of the house, as it was well expressed by the historian Carlos González Batista in his history of the building.

- Indoors, at the same manor house, a modern building was constructed to be the venue of Café Venezuela. The insertion of a new construction within the context of a high heritage value is possible, but it requires a special sensitivity to interpret the spirit of the place from the contemporaneity. Unluckily, the building constructed does not generate such empathy and it also incorporates dissonant materials, especially stone coverings which are absolutely alien to the history and significance of the property.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

4.1 Review whether the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity and authenticity are being maintained

According to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the attributes supporting its value are mainly the group of buildings of Coro and its Port, a unique example along the Caribbean Coast as regards to applying traditional earth techniques which are still in use. Coro, on its part, is an outstanding example of the historic centre which maintains its layout and early urban landscape to a remarkable degree.

In 2005, Coro and its Port was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger taking into account the serious damage caused by torrential rains on materials and structures; the urban and architectural deterioration compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property and the lack of efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements. The torrential rains which occurred in 2010 increased the damages and affected the restoration works which had been developed.

Since 2011, the situation has been noticeably reversed thanks to a considerable financial effort and the commitment showed by the highest authorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Government of the State of Falcón and the Municipalities of Miranda and Colina, efficiently coordinated by the Institute of Cultural Heritage and its office in Coro (OPEDAP), in addition to the active participation of the Communal Councils.

The integrity of the property has been maintained thanks to the several restorations made to the most representative buildings of the World Heritage areas of Coro and La Vela (*Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro, Casa del Sol, Casa del Tesoro, Balcón de los Arcaya, Casa Lugo, N.S. del Carmen Church and Casa Antillana*) as well as many traditional homes belonging to private owners, in addition to the restoration and rehabilitation of significant buildings in the Buffer Area of Coro.

The authenticity of the property, mainly sustained by the use of the traditional earth building techniques has been favoured by the key role played by the master artisans in all the restoration works.

4.2 Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

Decision 38 COM 7A.23 adopted a series of corrective measures to remove Coro and its Port from the List in Danger (repeated by Decision 39 COM 7A.48), the compliance of which - whether total or partial - has been informed to the WHC by the State Party in its reports on the state of conservation.

The ICOMOS advisory mission held between 12 to 16 October 2015 had the aim of evaluating the state of conservation, with particular attention to concrete progress and actions being undertaken to implement the following corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee:

Measures to be implemented within one year:

1. Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts:

The State Party informed in its Report of State of Conservation that measurement was done and completed in the Buffer Zone of Coro and La Vela.

During the mission other actions of a singular importance taken by the State Party were detected. Such actions contributing to complying with the measure are the following:

- Templates of each building of a heritage value with photographs, identification of the owners, dominion status as to deeds, Land Registry references, construction-typology data, historical review, conservation state and necessary interventions, plot location plans and plans of the buildings located there.
- Plans of the World Heritage areas of Coro and La Vela, indicating plots and the building typology surveyed.
- Plans of the World Heritage areas of Coro and La Vela, indicating plots and state of conservation surveyed as regards its buildings.
- Facades surveyed along some stretches of the streets (with drawings and photographs).

Some examples of plans, templates and profiles were provided by IPC-OPEDAP and are included in Annex 5.

During the mission, technicians from IPC-OPEDAP reported that this survey was the matter of analysis and interpretation, and that data obtained was useful to support the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela and are used for decision-making.

2. Full development of the management plan for the property:

The State Party informed in its report submitted to the WH Centre in June 2015 that it is in the process of reviewing a "Master Plan for the Management, Use and Conservation of the Structures and Historic Centres of the State of Falcón". According to such report, the Master Plan is aimed at unifying (legal, technical, political and organization) criteria to define the strategic line for the administration of the sites of Coro and la Vela.

During the mission the Master Plan could not be known but based on what was informed personally by the authorities of the OPEDAP-IPC, a Management Plan would also be in progress, to become part of the Master Plan. A draft of the latter was included in the same report dated June 2015 under the general title of "Timetable for the Conservation and Management of the Property of Coro and its Port".

Next there is a review of the progress made in some of the components that, as requested by Decision 38 COM 7A.23, must be formally included in the Management Plan.

2.a Including a definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas,

The update and amendment of the Ordinance of Zoning, Architecture and Construction for the Historic Centre of the city of Santa Ana de Coro was passed on 9 December 2014 and the Heritage Ordinance for the Action, Intervention, Zoning, Architecture and Construction of the World Heritage area and Safeguarding of La Vela, passed on 20 May 2015, respond satisfactorily to this corrective measure requested by Decision 38 COM 7A.23.

In the case of Coro, compliance with the Ordinance corresponds to the Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage of the Municipality of Miranda with the collaboration and counselling of the Institute of Cultural Heritage. The Ordinance rules the interventions at the Historic Centre of Coro (Art. 2) and with the purpose of regulation and control it establishes two zones: A Zone of Historic and Artistic Value within which the World Heritage area is located, and a

Controlled Architecture Zone (Art. 3). Interventions and uses permitted in the buildings of a major significance, all of them declared National Historic Monuments, must be submitted for the consideration of the Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and of the Institute of Cultural Heritage (Arts. 12 and 14). The remaining protected buildings must be classified determining a category and the degree of protection, and any work or intervention is subject to the consideration of the Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and the Institute of Cultural Heritage (Art. 18). The Ordinance rules the type of interventions and uses permitted on the Totally Protected Buildings; it bans the division into plots and the subdivision of buildings, it rules as to alignment and continuity of facades, it protects the original facades, the use of tiles for roofs and other issues. The Ordinance also regulates the interventions to Buildings under Partial Protection and among other aspects, the permitted height in the case it is on a neighbouring location or near National Historic Monuments and/or Protected Buildings. Art. 63 of the Ordinance states that it is the power of the Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage with the support of the Institute of Cultural Heritage to decide on the use according to urban variables and development conditions of the different interventions to be done at the Historic Centre of Coro, whether in the World Heritage area, or in and Artistic Value, and of Controlled Architecture.

In the case of La Vela, compliance with the Ordinance is the responsibility of the Municipal Institute for Culture, Heritage and Tourism of the Municipality of Colina (Art. 10). The Municipal Institute and the Institute of Cultural Heritage must jointly support the restoration of traditional buildings located in the World Heritage area, and the techniques and materials used must be of the traditional type (Art. 15). New works on grounds free of buildings within the World Heritage area, must be jointly supported by the Municipal Institute and the Institute of Cultural Heritage, and have to observe the physical and spatial characteristics of the area (height, type of building and facade alignment); and traditional earth building techniques should be used, preferably (Art. 16). Those existing buildings constructed applying contemporary techniques (concrete, reinforced concrete, blocks and/or bricks) within the World Heritage area, shall be in harmony with the urban landscape in which they are inserted (Art. 18). Another important norm included in this Ordinance establishes that all intervention in buildings of a heritage value shall be based on historic research supported by written documents, graphs, photographs and archaeological surveys validated by government and academic organisations.

2.b ... a sustainable development strategy for the property,

As pointed out in the Report by the State Party dated June 2015, the possibility of opening meeting spaces which generate economic resources and cultural activities such as cafés, candy shops, art shops and craft shops has been considered as a strategy for the sustainability of certain buildings. For example, at the *Casa del Sol*, a bookstore and a café were set up, and *Café Venezuela* opened at the *Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*.

2.c ...a public use plan,

In response to this requirement, the State Party mentions in its Report the schedule for cultural activities to contribute to the dynamics of the several spaces.

A policy of accessibility to the main heritage buildings owned by the State, the University and other public institutions may also be considered part of a Plan of Public Use not stated formally. The expropriation of the *Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro* constitutes a very significant event which expresses this policy in a very positive manner.

2.d ... and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,

The Report issued by the State Party dated June 2015 informs on a “Study of identification, evaluation, analysis and classification of risks” which evidences heterogeneity and does not respond to this corrective measure. In addition, it is of concern that this study based on the degree of probability places the most serious threat – rain and floods – at third place, after

the wrong treatment and theft of personal property and does not take into account the seriousness of the damage caused by water, which led the WH Committee to inscribe Coro and its Port on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, the Report also includes a “Study of Vulnerability and Risks” and a “System of Key Risk Factors” which contributes an important input for devising a Disaster Risk Management Plan.

3. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including:

3.a A prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys.

An intensive programme of interventions to buildings of a high heritage value, encompassing those buildings located in the World Heritage areas of Coro and La Vela and buffer zones has been developed.

3.b ... and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions.

During the mission, the OPEDAP-IPC technicians reported that every intervention must be preceded by a restoration project according to the outline given by that Office.

CORFALTUR’s officials reported that the urgency and number of interventions done to restore buildings damaged by the rain in 2010 stopped them from fulfilling that duty. However, all the restoration process was documented and photographed. Such information can be found in the files belonging to each property at the IPC.

Unfortunately, the lack of professionals specialized in conservation and restoration hinders decision-making regarding the criteria to be applied to each intervention.

During the mission, it was recommended that at the urban level (microzones) as well as at each of the building units, a study must be developed in order to assess and determine value degrees: maximum, medium and minimum protection, so as to set the criteria to be applied according to the case. However, this recommendation is not urgent, but must be part of the agenda once corrective actions are taken

4. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term.

Coro and La Vela are examples of recovery, encouragement and inclusion of craftsmanship into earthen architecture as a strategy for the conservation of authenticity and integrity of the property.

Among the progress made could be pointed out the creation of the Social Property Enterprise (*Empresa de Propiedad Social*, EPS) formed by the Earth Building Artisans. This enterprise is organized in teams that guarantee the transference of know-how by the role of master artisans, professionals and apprentices. This official organization is also nurtured by workshops on traditional building techniques.

The State Party, in its Report dated June 2015, also points out that awareness and training workshops are organized featuring different social agents (artisans, Communal Councils, students and the community at large). Learning earthen architecture has been included in programmes for the rehabilitation of youngsters at risk.

Also, the Manual on Good Practices on Earth Building Techniques by Master Craftman Jesús Morillo was edited and published.

Another important progress comes to the institutional link with the Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV), by means of a Degree Program in Architecture, to generate processes of education and exchange of knowledge. In addition, links have been created with the National

University Francisco de Miranda (UNFM), particularly with the School of Conservation and Restoration of Personal Property.

5. Development and implementation of a strategy

5. a ...to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture.

The Ordinance of Coro states that in case of partial or total destruction due to dolus, no support shall be granted for the construction on the corresponding plot, except to construct what had been destroyed, and the plot loses the allowed constructive aptitude (Art. 109). The Ordinance understands that dolus is not only demolition but also ruin caused by negligence.

Based on that article, the IPC has successfully brought the situation to Court, as in the cases referred to above, before Public Prosecutor's Office n° 17 of Environment, who applied the Environmental Penal Law and forced the owners to reconstruct what had been destroyed using traditional building techniques.

5.b ... and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization.

During the mission, a clear policy oriented to repopulating the historic centres and avoiding the phenomenon of *gentrification* was observed.

In that sense, reutilization tends to recover the traditional combined use of residence and commerce, and it aims at revitalizing urban spaces and contributing so that owners may obtain financial resources to maintain their real estate.

As to buildings of a high heritage value, a policy of reutilization by privileging public use is also applied. A representative case is the transformation of the old prison, located in the Buffer Zone of Coro, into the Music Conservatory.

Measures to be implemented within two years:

1. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property:

From the Constitution of the Republic up to Municipal Ordinances, a consistent harmonisation of principles is perceived, even with transverse significant contributions - as that from the Environmental Penal Law. The State of Falcón is working on the amendment of its Heritage Law. It would be desirable that, like Ordinances of Coro and La Vela, it included a clear reference to the key role of the IPC as the institution which orients and coordinates the management of Coro and its Port.

2. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy:

The Management Unit is a Mixed Commission constituted by IPC/OPEDAP, Municipalities and the Communal Councils of Coro and La Vela. Such Mixed Commission also works in collaboration with the Falcón Corporation of Tourism (COFALTUR), belonging to the Government of the State of Falcón.

The participation of the Communal Councils is supported by the Organic Law of the Communal Councils (2009).

The efficiency of this management method was successfully put to the test during the emergencies of 2010 and 2011, and today it is consolidated as a management practice. Dialogue Tables are held every two months or when required by circumstances.

3. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with.

In its report to the World Heritage Centre, the State Party points out that the Management Plan is linked with the Territorial Development Plan of the State of Falcón. During the mission not much information was obtained in this regard.

4. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,

Thanks to actions taken by OPEDAD and the Municipality of Miranda, on 9 December 2014 the decision to close the streets of the World Heritage area was made.

The closure and restriction of the streets of the World Heritage area in La Vela is ruled by the Heritage Ordinance of La Vela, as stated in Articles 39, 40 and 41. The application of such bans and regulations is pending until the collection of fines established in Article 64 is implemented.

5. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding,

Studies and projects to define a comprehensive system of drainage is under the responsibility of the Foundation for Environmental Consultancy of the State of Falcón (Fundacoambi), within the Secretary for Environment and Territory Planning of the Government.

To solve the problem of drainage in Coro as well as in La Vela (World Heritage areas and Buffer Zones) the survey of the coordinates and the topographic study of the zones which are vulnerable to flooding due to rains has been completed. The different levels of streets were identified and defined so as to generate alternatives to provide a final solution to the drainage problem.

The project foresees the reutilization of water for the irrigation system of the State of Falcón, as a means to mitigate the effects of seasonal draughts.

As to the solution, the study provides several alternatives which are now being analysed and evaluated. It is estimated that once the system is defined, the execution of the first phase may take three years, amounting to over 500 million Bolívares.

6. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners.

The Materials Storage Centre is one of the strategies adopted by the IPC to facilitate conservation and maintenance tasks. It is aimed at guaranteeing the supply of traditional raw material and facilitating its acquisition on the part of owners, with subsidised costs. The Storage Centre has been in operation since August 2015. Currently work is done with other State offices to order and continue with the productive chain.

The IPC is making efforts to develop another strategy, focused on that the national bank modifies its current credit policy and allows for granting loans to owners, aimed at rehabilitating traditionally built homes.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the parameter set by the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted in 2014 by Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the mission states the following conclusions:

- a) The number and quality of interventions in restoration, conservation and maintenance performed on traditional civil, religious and domestic examples of architecture is remarkable. All of them contributed to sustaining the authenticity and integrity of the property. An intensive working plan was developed. It prioritized the most significant examples of the World Heritage areas, but it also included buildings of a high heritage value located in the buffer zone of Coro. Other works developed on minor examples of domestic architecture contribute to sustaining repopulation policies of the Historic Centres of Coro and La Vela and to avoiding *gentrification*.
- Despite the satisfactory results of the interventions, some specific cases evidencing difficulties in the application of restoration criteria have been detected (elimination of a painted ceiling at the *Casa de los Ventanas de Hierro*) as well as inappropriate insertions of contemporary works in heritage contexts (Café Venezuela, at the same house).
- The active participation of Master Artisans in the restoration, conservation and maintenance works has contributed to sustaining the authenticity of the property
- b) The participatory management arrangements have been successfully applied. The OPEDAD-IPC suitably and efficiently coordinates the different actors involved in managing the property: municipal institutes of Heritage, government and Communal Councils. An adequate level of cooperation of institutions at the three levels of government was observed, and participation of the community through the representatives of its councils is an example of good practice in the management of heritage. However, the main financial resources contributed by the national state were channelled through the State of Falcón, not thorough the IPC. Even though it is worth highlighting the sensitivity and concern about the property of Coro and La Vela expressed by Mrs Governor of the State of Falcón, it would be desirable that in the future resources were allocated directly to the IPC.
- There is a visible need for the IPC-OPEDAP to incorporate professionals who are experts in the restoration and conservation of heritage. In this sense, it is also recommended to develop bonds with universities which offer specializations in restoration and conservation to generate training and specialization programmes for the IPC-OPEDAP technicians and the various institutes having the historic centres of Coro and La Vela within their scope.
- Regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones have been adopted. However, a Management Plan providing a clear guide to manage the property in all aspects is not available yet.
- c) The disaster risk preparedness plan is still in the preparation stage. Likewise, a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability is at the project phase, studies are advanced, the possible alternatives have been defined and the financial resources have been assured for execution.
- d) Finally, the legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development. Approval of the Ordinance of La Vela and the amendment of that of Coro contribute suitable regulatory measures for the World Heritage areas and buffer zones of Coro and La Vela. The enforcement of the Environmental Penal Law (passed in 2012) enabled the establishment exemplary sanctions for those who trespass heritage protection ordinances.

The State Party has made remarkable progress as to complying with the eleven corrective measures.

Substantial progress has been made in response to the measures set out in Decision 39COM 7A.48, but this progress was not comprehensively communicated to the World Heritage Centre. During the mission it was established that many actions have been fulfilled or are at an advanced stage of completion.

5.2 Recommendations

Taking as a guide the corrective measures adopted by Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 it is recommended:

Regarding the measures to be implemented **within one year**:

- i. Information from all relevant documents issued by the Institute of Cultural Heritage should be included in the February 2016 report: Identification templates of each property, plans corresponding to the building typology surveyed and of the state of conservation, facade profiles of some street stretches, and all documents produced which relate to the development of spatial analysis of the property as well as their interpretation.
- ii. The Management Plan should be based on the Master Plan which is in progress, and a separate Management Plan should not be generated. The site of Coro and La Vela must have a single document serving as a basis for its handling and management. Defining a desirable state of conservation for the property as an orientation element of the strategic lines of the Plan, and establishing an agreement between strategic lines and action programmes (which in turn may split in several projects) is suggested. The Plan must also properly define the enforcement authority or the management unit in charge of enforcing it. Regarding the fulfilment of programmes and projects, timeframes must be set for the short, medium and long term, taking into account the parameters corresponding to the local management and the national circumstances. Indicators allowing for the review of the efficiency of the management must be defined (the State Party proposed some in its already-mentioned Report dated June 2015). It is also necessary for the Management Plan to include guidelines for the interventions of conservation, restoration and maintenance according to the different degrees of heritage value.

As stated in the Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the Management Plan must include the definition of regulatory measures for buffer zones and heritage areas (in agreement with the approved ordinances for Coro and La Vela), a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property.

For the writing of the disaster risk preparedness plan: the Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage Resource Manual (UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS/UICN, 2014) should be a key reference. The records of preceding disasters which occurred in 2010 and the response given to cope with the emergency may also contribute valuable precedent to be taken into account in the elaboration of a Managing Disaster Risks Plan.

- iii. The development of an action plan is at a very advanced stage, and many interventions are complete. However, this corrective measure must be fulfilled by submitting to the World Heritage Centre information on the plan, planned works, prioritization, resources allocated, type of intervention and extent of progress. The

guidelines set for the restoration, conservation and maintenance tasks must also be explicitly stated.

- iv. The plan to formally integrate traditional know-how into conservation strategies has been continuously and efficiently developed and constitutes one of the strengths of the property which now must only be properly informed on in the reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre; including information on the creation of the Social Property Enterprise (EPS) constituted by the Earth Building Artisans and the ways adopted to guarantee the incorporation of Artisans in restoration, conservation and maintenance works.

Information should also include reference to the type of articulation with the Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV) and the Experimental National University Experimental Francisco de Miranda (UNFM).

- v. The State Party has made progress as to implementing in implementing corrective measures relating to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture. Information on compliance must include reference to the municipal ordinances which establishes the obligatory maintenance of real estate, and penalties foreseen to solve issues related to ownership and abandonment.

The State Party has been working on proposals to encourage the incorporation of uses compatible with residential use, thus recovering the traditional relationship existing between residence and commercial stores. Data on such proposals should be included in the information submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Measures to be implemented **within two years**:

- i. The current legal tools which ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed should be clearly stated. To that purpose, it is suggested that an evaluation should be made of whether it is necessary to generate additional instruments that, on one part, make the so called Mixed Commission formal, and on the other, establish the connection of the Mixed Commission with the government of the State of Falcón.
- ii. The management structure and the type of articulation among the different levels of government and community councils in decision-making are included must be clearly stated in the Management Plan and in the report submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
- iii. The articulation of the Management Plan which is in the elaboration process, with local and regional planning tools must be clearly expressed in the reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as well as their coordination with the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela. It is also important to point out its articulation within the current legal framework of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, such as that provided by the Bolivarian Constitution, the *Plan de la Patria* and other legislation such as the new Environmental Penalty Law.
- iv. The closure to vehicular traffic at a sector of a World Heritage area of Coro (already in place) should be formally endorsed and carefully monitored. In the case of La Vela, the Ordinance for restriction and regulation of the access of vehicles to areas of a heritage value should be applied.
- v. The project for a comprehensive drainage system, should be fully defined, including staging and financial resources for its implementation. .

- vi. The strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation as well as continued use, by owners should be completed. Among the strategies that the State Party has been implementing or managing, it would be desirable: a) to complete the continuity of the productive chain for the supply of materials to the Storage Centre, coordinating management with other sectors of the state, such as the Ministry of Environment; b) to reach a favourable resolution so that the Bank grants loans to owners of heritage property built with traditional techniques who are interested in investing in their conservation and maintenance; c) other strategies that the State Party may keep under study to solve that measure.

Finally, so as to comply with what was requested by Decision 39 COM 7A.48, the State Party should submit to the World Heritage Centre before 1 December 2015 information on the strategy adopted, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation.

Regarding the updated report that the State Party must submit by **1 February 2016**, it is recommended that every action taken to comply with the corrective measures should be included, and that information should be ordered based on such measures. This report should also include a specific response to each of the items listed in the DSOCR. All documents deemed necessary to account for the commitment and responsibility with which works are developed to remove Coro and its Port from the List of Heritage in Danger must be attached.

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

ICOMOS Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]
From 12th to 16th October 2015

Within the framework of **Decision 39 COM 7A.48** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the specific purposes of the ICOMOS technical mission will be:

1. Undertake a field mission to Coro and its Port in order to assess the state of conservation of the World Heritage property, with particular attention to **concrete progress and actions** being undertaken to implement the revised **corrective measures** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session, as follows:

Measures to be implemented within one year:

A. Measures to be implemented within one year:

1. Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts,
2. Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,
3. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions,
4. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term,
5. Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization,

B. Measures to be implemented within two years:

1. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that a coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property,
2. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy,
3. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with,
4. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,
5. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding,
6. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners;

2. Following discussions with representatives from the State Party and the Property Manager, provide recommendations to the State Party to help them with the drafting of a **strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budget**, including the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions, for the full implementation of the corrective measures

within a two year period, to be submitted by the State Party, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, no later than **1 December 2015**.

- 2.** Prepare a **mission report** in English. The report should follow the attached format and should be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in hard copy and an electronic version for review one month after the mission.

Annex 2: Composition of Mission Team

ICOMOS Advisory Mission to CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]

From 12th to 16th October 2015

Luis María Calvo

Architect. Doctor in Architectural History in Ibero-America (Pablo de Olavide University, Seville, Spain), Member of the ICOMOS-Argentine Committee. Specialized on architectural and urban conservation and preservation (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán-Argentina and Centro di Studi per il Restauro, Florence-Italy) and conservation and management of Earthen architectural and archeological heritage (ICCROM, CRATerre and Getty Conservation Institute, Trujillo, Perú). Author of books and numerous articles on architectural and urban history and on cultural heritage conservation.

Advisor for the Comisión Nacional de Museos, Monumentos y Lugares Históricos (Museum, Monuments and Sites National Commission) of the Argentine Republic from 2002 to 2011. Professor and researcher at the Faculty of Architecture (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina), and at the Magister in Environmental Law and Cultural Heritage (Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina).

Annex 3: Programme

ICOMOS Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]
From 12th to 16th October 2015

DIA 1: Lunes 12 de octubre

16:00 p.m.	Caracas: encuentro con las autoridades nacionales
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DIA 2: Martes 13 de octubre

13:00-15:00 p.m.	Almuerzo con la Gobernadora del Estado Falcón
15:00-15:30 p.m.	Presentación de la Misión Técnica de ICOMOS antes los principales representantes locales de Gobierno y representantes de la sociedad civil
15:30-16:00 p.m.	Break
16:00-18:00 p.m.	Presentación de la ciudad de Coro <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Presentación de la trayectoria como ciudad Patrimonio de la Humanidad</i>
18:00-19:00 p.m.	Presentación de la Decisión 39COM 7A.48 y medidas correctivas Arq. Luis María Calvo Cena

DIA 3: Miércoles 14 de octubre

09:00-12:30 a.m.	Trabajo de campo en la Ciudad de Coro, visita al Centro histórico.
12:30-14:00 p.m.	Almuerzo
14:00-15:00 p.m.	Discusión: Componentes urbanas del Casco Histórico de Coro. Estado actual y uso futuros. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Plan de Ordenamiento Urbano Territorial, Regional, Comarcal</i>
15:00-16:00 p.m.	Discusión: Plan de manejo integral del Sitio. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Plan de Prevención de Riesgos</i>
16:00-16:30 p.m.	Break
16:30-17:30 p.m.	Discusión: Plan de Acción. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Criterios de Restauración Adoptados y Plan de Manutención</i>
17:30-18:30 p.m.	Discusión: Programa de Capacitación. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>El patrimonio como recurso laboral</i>
18:30-19:00 p.m.	Break
19:00-20:00 p.m.	Discusión: La repoblación del casco antiguo. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Los fenómenos de gentrificación urbana: medidas sostenibles</i> Cena

DIA 4: Jueves 15 de octubre

09:00-12:30 a.m.	Trabajo de campo en la Ciudad de Coro, visita al Centro histórico.
12:30-14:00 p.m.	Almuerzo
14:00-15:00 p.m.	Discusión: La legislación patrimonial. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Coro: la leyes de 9 diciembre de 2014 y 20 de Mayo de 2015</i>
15:00-16:00 p.m.	Discusión: Coordinación entre niveles institucionales para la protección del patrimonio. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>La planificación participada: una nueva perspectiva para Coro</i>
16:00-17:00 p.m.	Break
17:00-18:00 p.m.	Discusión: El problema del tráfico vehicular en entornos patrimoniales. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Las islas peatonales en Coro</i>
18:00-19:30 p.m.	Discusión y taller: El proyecto de drenaje en Coro. Medidas de prevención y salvaguarda para la arquitectura de tierra.
	Cena con el Alcalde de La Vela

DIA 5: Viernes 16 de octubre

09:00-12:30 a.m.	Trabajo de campo en Puerto de la Vela, visita y toma de datos.
12:30-14:00 p.m.	Almuerzo
14:00-16:00 p.m.	Discusión: El estado de Conservación del Puerto de Coro. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Las potencialidades turísticas de las zonas portuarias: experiencias de turismo sostenible</i>
16:00-16:30 p.m.	Break
16:30-17:30 p.m.	Discusión: El futuro del Puerto de la Vela. <i>Taller de trabajo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>La implementación de las medidas correctivas en La Vela.</i>
17:30-19:00 p.m.	Síntesis de las actividades desarrolladas y conclusiones
	Cena

Annex 4: List of contacts

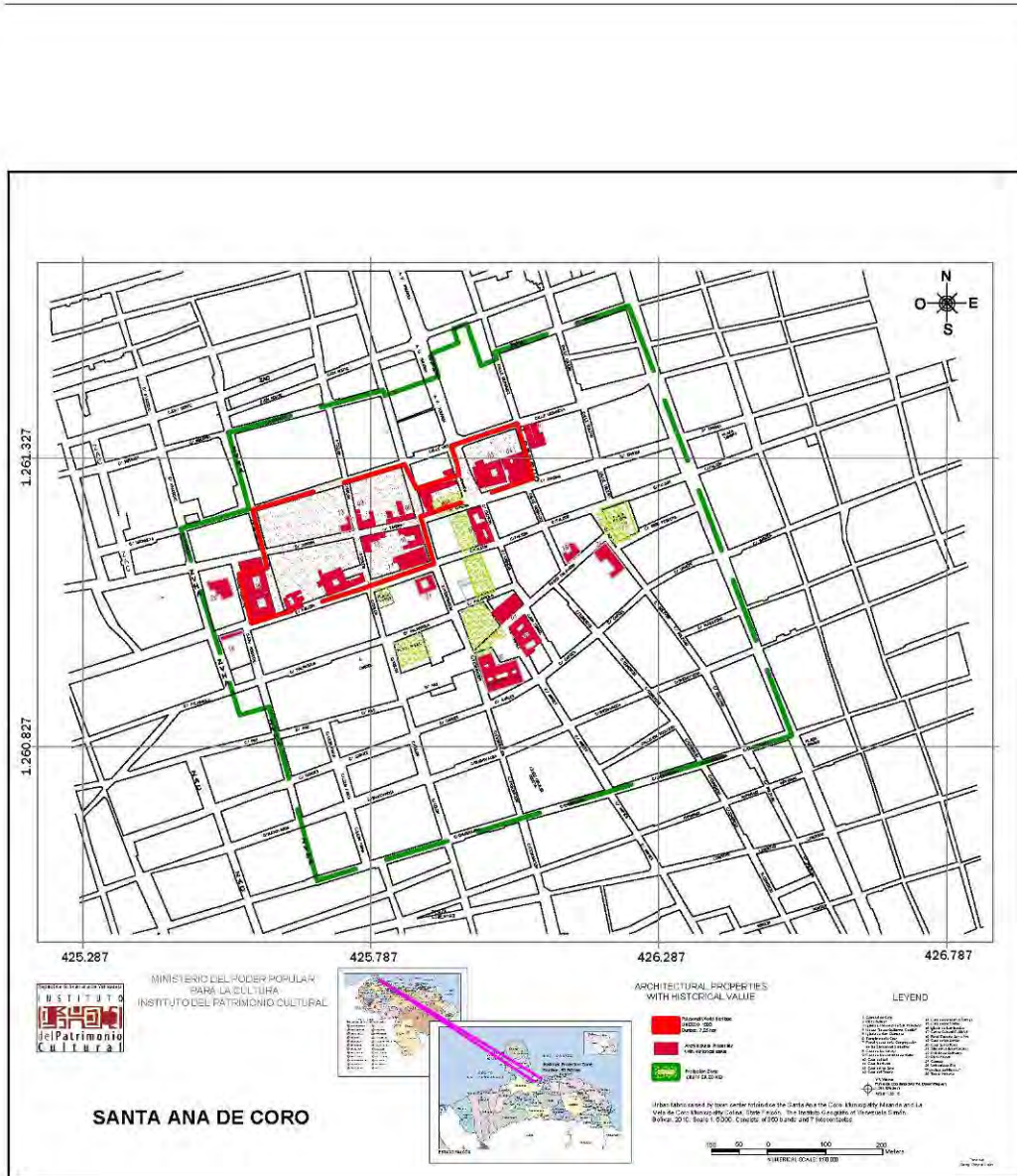
ICOMOS Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]

From 12th to 16th October 2015

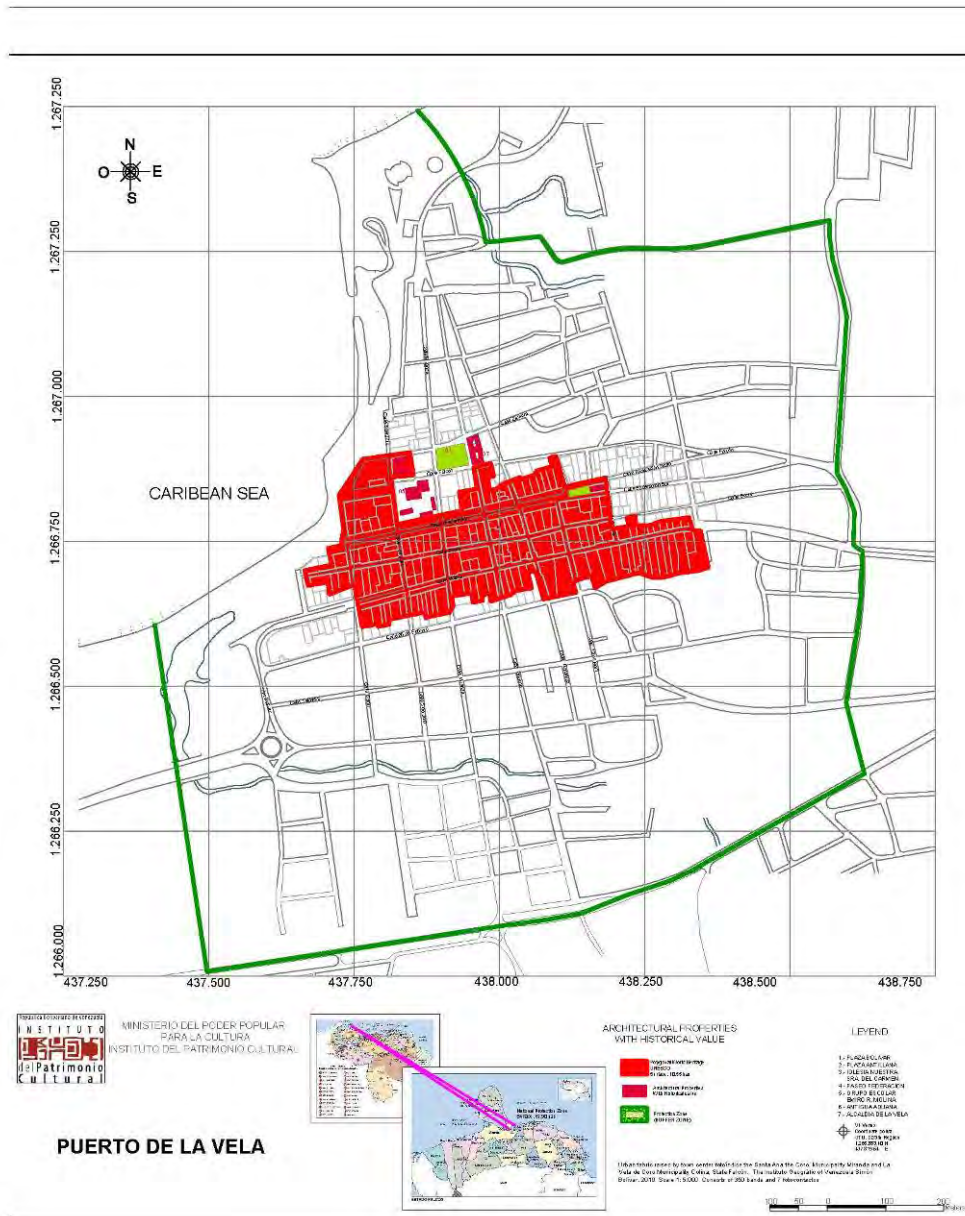
Omar Vielma	Presidente	Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural (IPC)	omarvielmaosuna@gmail.com
Merlín Gutiérrez	Directora	IPC-OPEDAP	ellyllon62@gmail.com
José Luis Naranjo	Presidente	CORFALTUR Corporación Falconiana de Turismo-Gobernación del estado Falcón	
Américo Barra	Asesor	Gobernación del Estado Falcón	
Concepción Morales		IPC-OPEDAP	0414-68544 96 conchamorales@yahoo.com
Andrés Lovera		Instituto Municipal de Cultura, Patrimonio y Turismo de La Vela	0416-6680447
Adriana Calderón	Programa Conservación	Universidad Experimental Francisco de Miranda	0412-7642779 avemarazul@gmail.com
Narkis Hidalgo	Arquitectura	Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela	0426-7014535 narhidal@hotmail.com
Oberto Robert		Proyecto Drenajes	0414 6899093
Klaus Serny		Centro Unesco La Vela	0412-4268823

Annex 5: Maps and other graphic documents

ICOMOS Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]
 From 12th to 16th October 2015



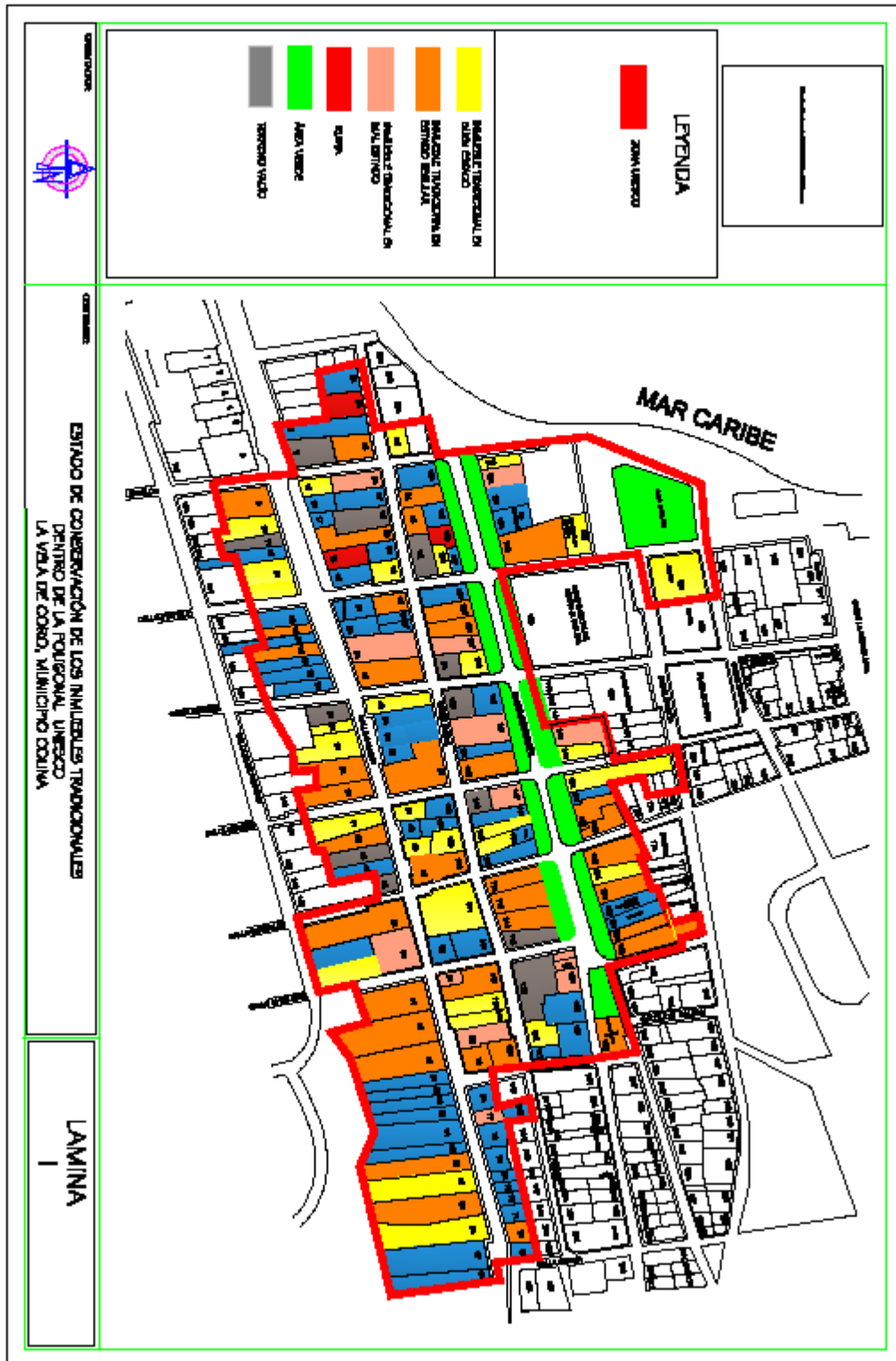
Santa Ana de Coro – World Heritage Area and Buffer Zone



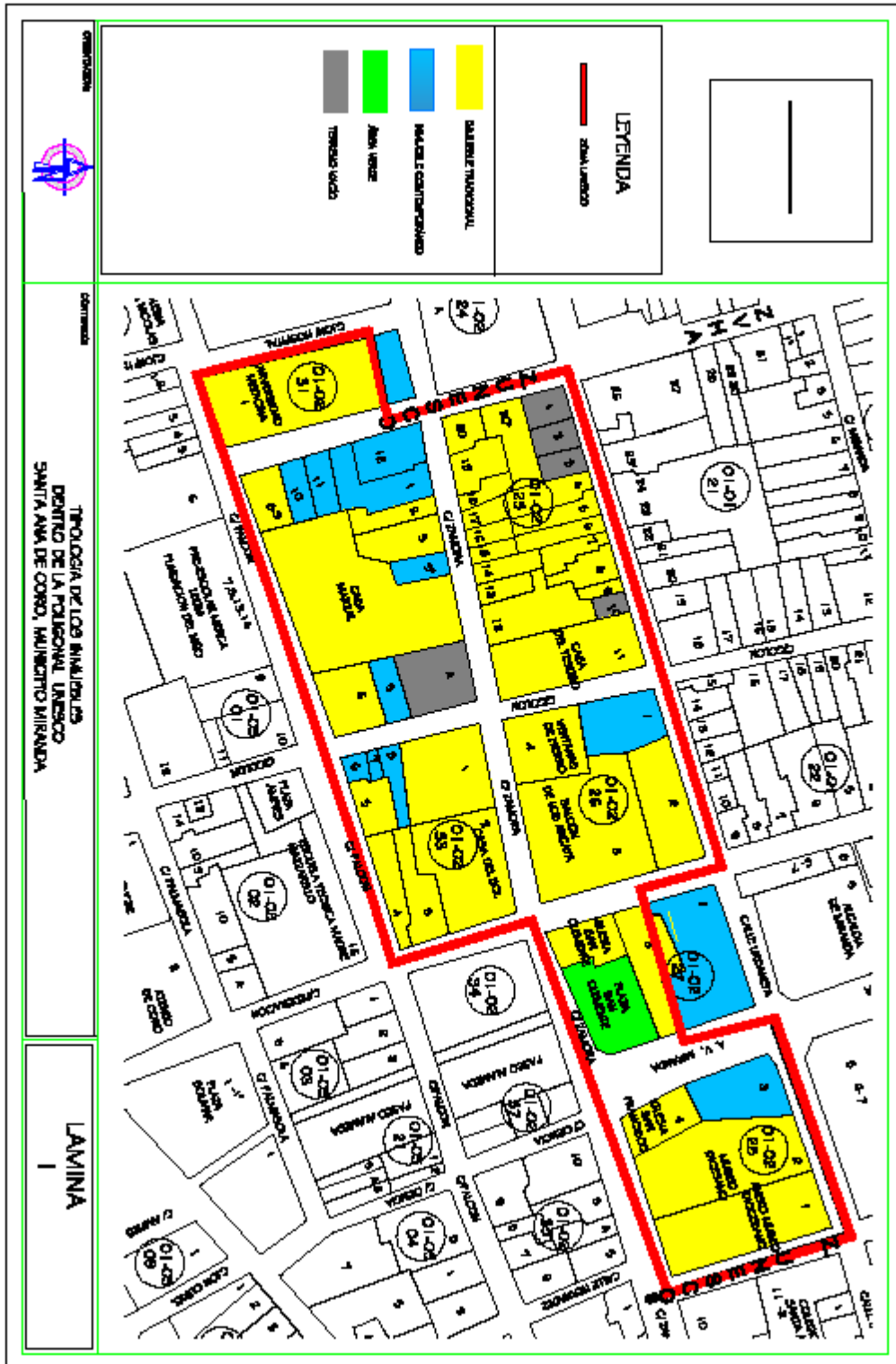
La Vela – World Heritage Area and Buffer Zone



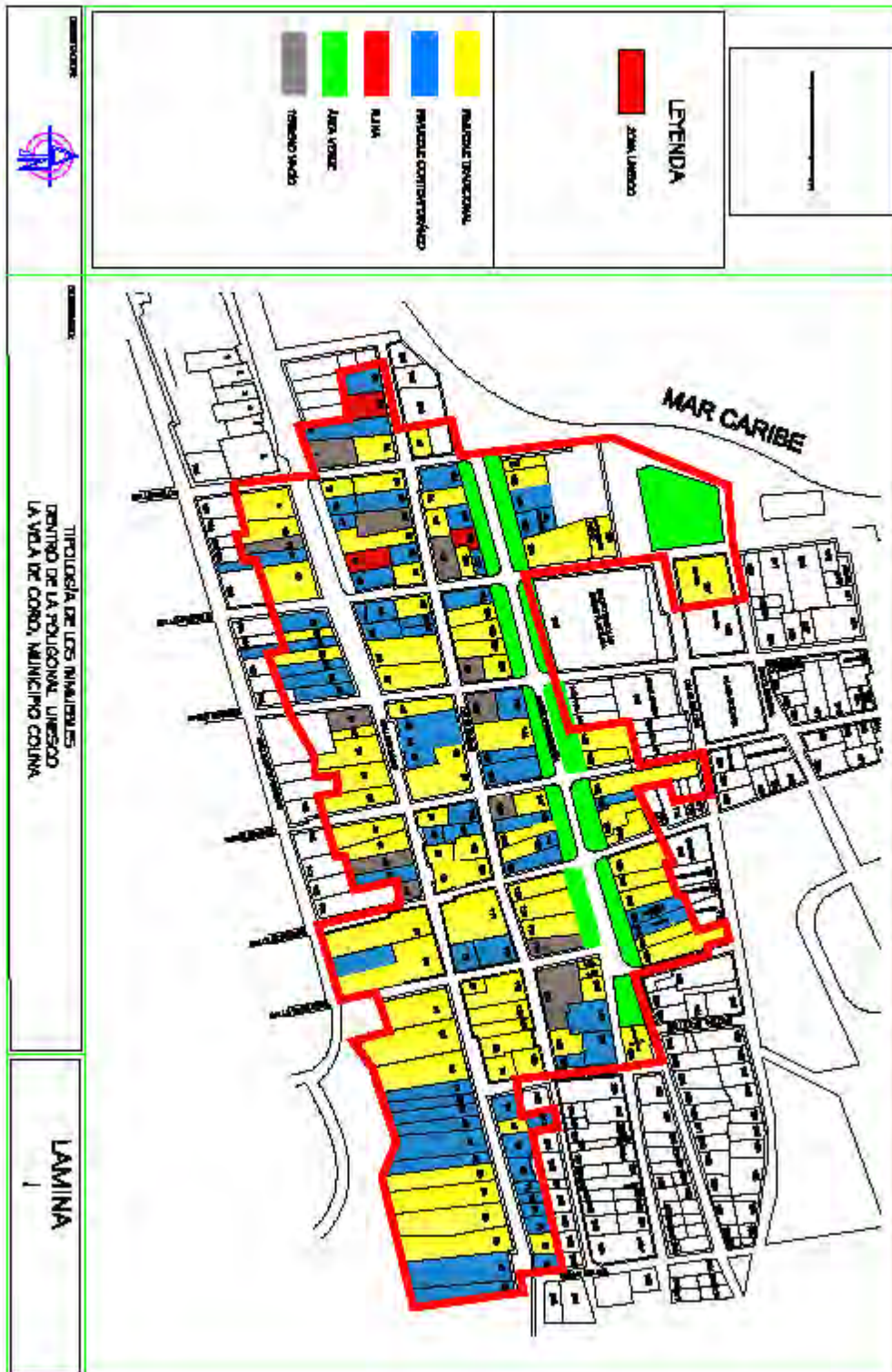
Santa Ana de Coro – World Heritage Area
State of conservation



La Vela – World Heritage Area
State of conservation



Santa Ana de Coro – World Heritage Area
Building Typologies



La Vela – World Heritage Area
Building Typologies

01

**PLANILLA DE INMUEBLE PARA SU RESTAURACIÓN Y REHABILITACIÓN
EN LA ZONA UNESCO DE SANTA ANA DE CORO. MUNICIPIO MIRANDA**

FOTO DEL INMUEBLE


Propietario o denominación: Sucesión González

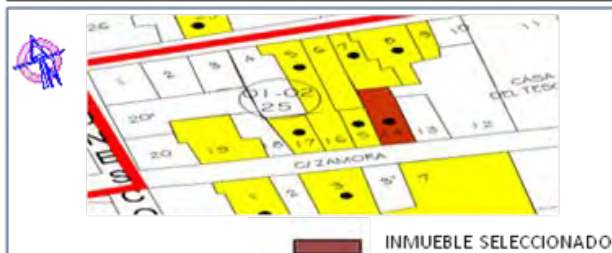
Condición Legal de la Propiedad: Propio.

Ocupantes: 07 ; 01 Niño, 04 Adultos , 02 Adultos mayor

Dirección: Calle Zamora entre calles Hospital y Colón. Zona UNESCO

Uso Actual: Doméstica

INMUEBLE: Según Registro Catastral N° 01-02-25. P-14

CROQUIS DE UBICACIÓN


DATOS TIPOLÓGICOS - CONSTRUCTIVO: Techo de torta, cañizo o cardón seco, teja criolla y estructura de madera (solera, latas, cumbre y otros). Muros de adobes y fachada con moldura, zócalo y cornisa. Puertas, dinteles y ventanas de madera tallada. Piso de concreto acabado requemado. Inmueble conformado por tres crujiás en forma de "U", zaguán en lado derecho y en lado izquierdo distribuido 05 habitaciones con corredores con columnas de ladrillo. Patio central acondicionado a sala y patio posterior con un anexo, 02 baños, cocina, comedor de construcción contemporánea, posee servicios básicos, red de aguas de lluvias.

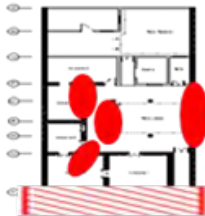
ESTADO DE CONSERVACIÓN:

Se visualiza 70% en buen estado. Daños en algunas áreas de la cubierta producto de corrimiento de tejas, grietas y fisuras en frisos, deterioro evidente en fachada principal, piso con grietas y parches. Presencia de agentes xilófagos. Red de aguas de lluvias conectada a las aguas servidas.

RESEÑA HISTÓRICA: William González Villegas es el actual residente de esta casa que es propiedad de sus padres, Don Dalmiro González y su esposa, Imelda Villegas de González. Dalmiro adquirió la vivienda hace unos 22 años según recuerda su hijo. Recuerda que la casa fue construida por Noel Lugo probablemente en la década de los treinta o principios de los cuarenta a solicitud de Monseñor Iturriza, siendo una de las cuatro o cinco casas que se construyeron una al lado de la otra por solicitud del sacerdote. En la casa vivieron varias familias antes que William: Lino Colman y su familia, la familia Villa y finalmente la señora Mercedes Leal, a quien se le compró la casa a principio de los años noventa.

INTERVENCIÓN A EJECUTAR: De manera preventiva desmontaje de tejas en toda el área del inmueble, sustitución de torta y cañizo en áreas puntuales, colocación de mortero y reposición de manto asfáltico. Intervención de fachada principal: remoción y reposición de frisos, reparación de molduras, zócalos, cornisa, reparación de grietas en muros. Demolición y reposición de piso. Se sugiere la desconexión del desalojo de las aguas de lluvias de la red de aguas servidas. Fumigación general. Pintura exterior e interior.

PLANTA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN

PLANTA DE ÁREAS A INTERVENIR

REGISTRO FOTOGRÁFICO ACTUAL


Grietas en fachadas



Grietas en pavimento



Deterioro en techo, filtraciones desde pendiente de revestimiento interior

01

**PLANILLA DE INMUEBLE PARA SU RESTAURACIÓN Y REHEABILITACIÓN
EN LA ZONA UNESCO DE LA VELA. MUNICIPIO COLINA.**

FOTO DEL INMUEBLE


Propietario o denominación: Aura de Cabrera.
Condición Legal de la Propiedad: Alquilado.
Ocupante: 6 Adulto
Dirección: Boulevard Federación esq. calle 19 de abril.
Uso Actual: Residencial.

INMUEBLE N°1 SEGÚN PLANO OPEDAP

CROQUIS DE UBICACIÓN


INMUEBLE SELECCIONADO

DATOS TIPOLOGICOS-CONSTRUCTIVOS:

El inmueble es de construcción tradicional, techo de malla zen-zen. Muros de bahareque. Algunas áreas han sido modificadas sustituyendo los materiales tradicionales por materiales contemporáneos (paredes de bloque y techo de asbesto).

ESTADO DE CONSERVACIÓN:

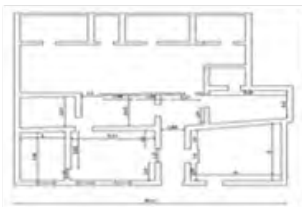
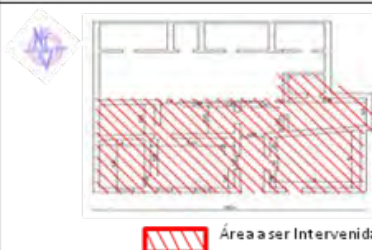
Presenta deterioro en techo y muros, desprendimiento del revestimiento interior y exterior de los mismos. Ausencia del revestimiento interior en techo.

RESEÑA HISTÓRICA:

Construida en el siglo XIX, fue la casa de Don José Rosas. Al fallecer éste, sus herederos la venden a mediados del siglo XX al señor Wistruck. De las manos de este señor, pasa por varios dueños más hasta que recientemente fue comprada por Aura Aguirreche de Cabrera.

INTERVENCIÓN A EJECUTAR:

Se plantea reforzar estructuralmente la edificación, sustituir el asbesto del techo por materiales tradicionales, consolidación de fachada sustituyendo las puertas y ventanas metálicas por otras de madera, dar continuidad a la cornisa para retomar características originales. Pintura interna y externa.

PLANO DE DISTRIBUCIÓN

UBICACIÓN EN PLANTA DEL AREA A INTERVENIR

REGISTRO FOTOGRAFICO ACTUAL


Annex 6: Photographs

ICOMOS Technical Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]
From 12th to 16th October 2015



Photograph 01. Zamora Street (from the House Balcón de los Arcaya)



Photograph 02. Zamora Street



Photograph 03. Zamora Street

State of conservation of Coro



Photograph 04-05. The Treasre House (*Casa del Tesoro*)



Treasure House (*Casa del Tesoro*)

State of conservation of Coro



Photograph 06. Actual state of conservation of the Iron Windows House (*Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*)



Photograph 07. The same House in 2011 with temporary plastic roof covers



Photograph 08. Actual state of conservation of one of the rooms the Iron Windows House (*Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*)



Photograph 09. The same room in 2011.

State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 10-11. Café Venezuela in the *solar* of the Iron Windows House (*Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*)

State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 12-13. Balcón de los Arcaya House



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 14-15. Casa del Sol (The Sun House)



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 16-17. School of the Earth Building Artisans (“Artesanos del Barro”).



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 18-19. Actual works of restoration in Old Gumersindo Torres House



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 20-21. Actual works of restauration in the Old Hospital using traditional techniques



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 22-25. The Old Prison, restaured and converted in a Conservatory of Music (Buffer Zone)..





Photographs 26-27. Works of restoration in the Saher's House using traditional techniques (Buffer Zone)



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 28-29. Restauration of a private house in the Buffer Zone of Coro



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 30-31. Bolívar Street (Buffer Zone of Coro)



State of conservation of Coro



Photographs 32-33. Customs House of La Vela



State of conservation of La Vela



Photographs 34-35. Church of La Vela recently restored.



State of conservation of La Vela



Photographs 36-37. Works of restoration in a private house in La Vela



State of conservation of La Vela



Photographs 38-39. House and street in La Vela



State of conservation of La Vela

Annex 6: Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

ICOMOS Technical Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]

From 12th to 16th October 2015

2015 Decision 39 COM 7A.48

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Takes note of the submission of the clarification of boundaries for the property and the proposal of extension of the buffer zone and requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Appreciates the progress in the implementation of concrete actions that contribute to the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), such as an important number of conservation interventions in public and privately owned buildings, traffic management, transfer of know-how, improvement of drainage systems and progress in inter-institutional coordination through strategic alliances and the establishment of a Mixed Commission;
5. Recalling, however, that the timely implementation of the revised corrective measures defined in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** is an essential requirement for achieving the DSOCR, regrets that on the basis of the report of the State Party, it is not possible to assess the real and concrete progress in the implementation of the revised corrective measures and make additional recommendations as could be required;
6. Also requests the State Party to urgently draw up a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a two year period and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation, and to submit these documents as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2015**, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. 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;
8. Decides to retain **Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2014 Decision 38 COM 8C.2

Update of the List of World Heritage in Danger (retained sites)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-14/38.COM/7A and WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add),
2. Decides to **retain** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - ...
 - Venezuela, Coro and its Port (Decision **38 COM 23**)

• ...

2014 Decision 38 COM 7A.23

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.39** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in addressing the state of conservation of the property and progress on implementation of recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee and the monitoring missions to the property;
4. Takes note of the submission of the revised cartography for the component parts of the property and proposed buffer zone and requests that it be finalized within the framework of the retrospective inventory process;
5. Adopts the revised Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as follows:
 - a. Traditional civil, religious and domestic architecture has been conserved in accordance to clear conservation principles that ensure that conditions of authenticity and integrity continue to be met. Conservation interventions are based on a prioritised and comprehensive strategy and plan that ensures continued actions,
 - b. The participatory management arrangements for the property are sustained through adequate resource allocation and staffing and guided by the adopted Management Plan, which includes provisions and regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones,
 - c. The disaster risk preparedness plan is fully operational and a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been implemented,
 - d. The legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development;
6. Also adopts the revised corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as follows:
 - a. Measures to be implemented within one year:
 - i. Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts,
 - ii. Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,
 - iii. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions,
 - iv. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term,
 - v. Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization,
 - b. Measures to be implemented within two years:
 - i. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that a coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property,
 - ii. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy,
 - iii. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with,
 - iv. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,

- v. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding,
 - vi. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners;
7. Also 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 progress on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
 8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2013 Decision 37 COM 7A.39

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.35** , adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party in addressing conservation concerns at the property and encourages it to continue such efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Urges the State Party to develop and approve the Management Plan for the property, including a conservation programme with short, medium and long term priorities, provisions for risk management and provisions for public use, and requests it to submit three printed and electronic copies of the draft Management Plan by **1 February 2014** for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, the technical specifications and details of the projects for large scale drainage at the property and regulation of vehicular traffic at Zamora Street prior to implementation;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to update, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Desired State of Conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a revised timeframe, and to submit a proposal to the World Heritage Centre by **30 November 2013** for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in view to submit the final proposal to World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014 for approval;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, 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 38th session in 2014;
8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2013 Decision 37 COM 8E

Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-13/37.COM/8E and WHC-13/37.COM/8E.Add,
2. Congratulates States Parties for the excellent work accomplished in the elaboration of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in their territories;
3. Adopts the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC-13/37.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage properties:

- ...

- Venezuela : Coro and its Port; Ciudad Universitaria de Caracas;
4. Decides that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in Danger will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies in priority;
 5. Further decides that, considering the high number of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to be examined, the order in which they will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies will follow the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, namely:
 - World Heritage properties in the Arab States;
 - World Heritage properties in Africa;
 - World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific;
 - World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - World Heritage properties in Europe and North America;
 6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to harmonise all sub-headings in the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value where appropriate and when resources and staff time allow to carry out this work;
 7. Also requests the State Parties, Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre to ensure the use of gender-neutral language in the Statements proposed for adoption to the World Heritage Committee;
 8. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to keep the adopted Statements in line with subsequent decisions by the World Heritage Committee concerning name changes of World Heritage properties, and to reflect them throughout the text of the Statements, in consultation with States Parties and Advisory Bodies;
 9. Finally requests the States Parties to provide support to the World Heritage Centre for translation of the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value into English or French respectively, and finally requests the Centre to upload these onto its web-pages.

2012 Decision 36 COM 7A.35

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.34**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Recognizes the efforts being made by the State Party for the conservation of the property, and encourages it to continue such efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Also encourages the State Party to continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 reactive monitoring mission, to ensure the protection of the property, with a special focus on:
 - a) The development of a conservation programme with short, medium and long term priorities, and a plan of action for emergency situations,
 - b) The finalization of a database to include historical and archaeological information, plans, a detailed photographic record, as well as a detailed description and state of conservation of all buildings and priority actions for each, and a linked inventory to previous records,
 - c) An alternative proposal for the drainage system of Coro,
 - d) The regulation of traffic in Coro, with particular emphasis on Zamora Street;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies by **1 February 2013**, a copy of the Management Plan for the property, and its approval by the Management Commitment;
6. Urges the State Party to finalize the delimitation of the property and its buffer zone, to include new components that will contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory by **1 February 2013**;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to update, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Desired state of conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a revised timeframe, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2013** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
8. Invites the State Party to consider submitting a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for technical support;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
10. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2011 Decision 35 COM 7A.34

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),
3. Recognizes the efforts being made by the State Party for the conservation of the property and encourages it to continue such efforts in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Notes the results of the February 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to:
 - a) Finalize the approval process for the creation of the Office of the Management Commitment and provide adequate resources for its full operation,
 - b) Develop the Management Plan for the property, including programmes for conservation, public use and risk management,
 - c) Finalize the delimitation of the property and the buffer zone for the inscribed components, including the corresponding regulatory measures and submit them to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory and of the Periodic Reporting exercise;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;
6. Further requests the State Party to update, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Desired state of conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;
7. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2010 Decision 34 COM 7A.31

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the required state of conservation report for the second consecutive year in spite of the requests made by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Takes note of the letter sent to the World Heritage Centre on 20 July 2010 informing of the decision to set up a new management structure, in full coherence with the National Constitution and the Organic Law of Public Administration in force;
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Committee of the official approval of the new management tool by the relevant authorities, and subsequently submit the new management plan and the related measures to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures aimed at achieving the Desired State of Conservation, and to collaborate with the State Party in finalizing the property's Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2009 Decision 33 COM 7A.30

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-09/33.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the progress made on the implementation of the corrective measures, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Also regrets that the State Party did not submit a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and reiterates its request to develop it in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008);
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
7. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2008 Decision 32 COM 7A.30

Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with appreciation the important efforts made by the State Party to mitigate decay factors at the property and the actions implemented to date;
4. Also notes that the State Party has initiated participatory workshops to improve the awareness of earthen traditional techniques, and welcomes the assistance of the States Parties of Peru and Spain to develop capacity building for artisans and professional staff;

5. Urges the State Party to officially approve the PLINCODE (Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela) at the presidential level so as to fully complete the Plan and its implementation, and further recognizes that a commitment has been made to sign it by the end of July 2008 ;

6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

7. Endorses the recommendations made by the Reactive Monitoring mission of May 2008 and encourages the State Party to implement them, by following the prioritized corrective measures identified to meet the Desired state of conservation and timeline for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made on the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

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

2007 Decision 31 COM 7A.31

Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM.7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.92** and **30 COM 7A.33** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,

3. Requests the State Party to verify whether the materials used for restoration works are compatible with accepted intervention techniques;

4. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property, and accordingly define the corrective measures and the desired state of conservation that will enable the Committee to define a timeframe for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, that could include:

a) Presidential signature of the PLINCODE (Integral Plan for the Conservation and Development of Coro, La Vela and its areas of influence), submitted to the authorities on August 2006;

b) Effective functioning of the management structure and institutional arrangements foreseen in the PLINCODE, with sufficient allocated resources;

c) Comprehensive drainage systems completed as well as underground networks, public spaces, sidewalks and streets in the historical area rehabilitated;

d) Prioritized implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan;

5. Encourages the State Party to continue implementing the following corrective measures:

a) Obtain the official approval of the PLINCODE;

b) Reinforce the Framework Agreement for Emergency Intervention in the area of Coro and La Vela that the IPC signed with the mayors of the municipalities of Miranda and the regional government on 14 February 2006;

c) Create a Council to assist the Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, formulate and revise intervention projects on infrastructure, buildings and public spaces in the property;

d) Formulate and prioritize a comprehensive conservation plan to complement the existing PLINCODE, by defining a precise course of action with intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms to assess its effective and adequate implementation;

- e) Strengthen capacity building for conservation and restoration through the existing available opportunities in workshops with the schools of conservation in La Vela and in Coro;
- f) Create awareness in the local community through exhibitions and community involvement;
6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity for examination Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit a progress report by **1 February 2008** for review by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008 that should include the time-bound plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2002, 2005 and 2006 missions and the progress made in their implementation;
8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2006 Decision 30 COM 8C.2

Update of the World Heritage List in Danger (Retained Properties)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (*WHC-06/30.COM/7A* and *WHC-06/30.COM/7A.Add.Rev*),
2. Maintains the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - ...
 - Venezuela, Coro and its Port (Decision **30 COM 7A.33**)
 - ...

2006 Decision 30 COM 7A.33

State of Conservation (Coro and its Port)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **27 COM 7B.102**, **28 COM 15B.106** and **29 COM 7B.92** adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions,
3. Recalls article 11.4 of the *Convention* and paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines* with regard to ascertained danger (including serious deterioration of materials, structures and town-planning coherence) and potential danger (lack of conservation policy);
4. Expresses its grave concern about the state of conservation of the property and the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;
5. Urges the State Party to continue implementation of the recommendations issued by the UNESCO/ICOMOS missions of 2002 and 2005;
6. Requests the State Party to develop a time-bound plan for the implementation of the following benchmarks, which constitute the conditions for removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) Adoption and implementation of:
 - (i) an emergency plan;
 - (ii) an integrated management plan;
 - (iii) an effective management structure;
 - b) A considerable improvement of the state of conservation of the property;

7. Requests the State Party, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to define further the benchmark 6 a)(iii) for improvement to the state of conservation, to facilitate future discussions and decision making on this property;
8. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, a **progress report on implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007**;
9. Decides to retain **Coro and its Port (Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

2005 Decision 29 COM 7B.92

Coro and its Port (Venezuela)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-05/29 COM/7B.Rev*,
2. Recalling its Decisions **27 COM 7B.102** and **28 COM 15B.106**,
3. Takes note of the report of the second joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission;
4. Commends the State Party of Venezuela for having committed itself at the highest level to address the issues of concern expressed in the 2002 mission report and in the subsequent decisions of the Committee, particularly through the creation of a Presidential Commission for the Protection of Coro, the Port of La Vela and their Areas of Influence;
5. Notes with satisfaction the inter-institutional nature of the Presidential Commission and its integrated vision on conservation and development;
6. Notes, however, that most actions are in the planning phase and that the results, scope and impact of the work of the Presidential Commission on the state of conservation of the World Heritage property can only be assessed at a later stage and that in the meantime, the property is not managed as one integrated whole and that there is no conservation plan;
7. Also notes that the gradual and considerable deterioration in the state of conservation, authenticity and integrity of the property was considerably aggravated by heavy rains that occurred between November 2004 and February 2005;
8. Expresses its deep concern about the state of conservation of the property and the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;
9. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations issued of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS missions of 2002 and 2005 and requests the State Party to develop a time-bound plan for their implementation;
10. Recalls Article 11.4 of the *Convention* and paragraph 179 of its *Operational Guidelines* with regard to ascertained danger (including serious deterioration of materials, structures and town-planning coherence) and potential danger (lack of conservation policy);
11. **Decides to inscribe Coro and its Port on the List of World Heritage in Danger**;
12. Adopts the following benchmarks for the future assessment of the effectiveness of measures to be taken by the State Party:
 - a) adoption and effective implementation of an Emergency Action Plan;
 - b) adoption and implementation of a comprehensive integrated management plan for the World Heritage property;
 - c) adoption and implementation of an effective management structure; and
 - d) marked improvement of the state of conservation of the property, both in terms of individual structures and the urban ensembles of Coro and La Vela.
13. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006** a progress report including a time-bound plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the joint 2002

and 2005 UNESCO/ICOMOS missions and information on the progress made in their implementation, for review by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

2004 Decision 28 COM 15B.106

The World Heritage Committee, 1. Taking note of the progress report transmitted by the State Party (Decision 27 COM 7B.102), 2. Expressing its serious concerns about the state of conservation of the property and lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms, 3. Urges the State Party, once again, to consider and implement the recommendations of the 2002 World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission and to submit a request for International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to this end; 4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to develop, in close consultation with ICOMOS and the Venezuelan authorities, a programme of action, including assistance in changing the current political scope into a more technical one, in creating awareness of the cultural-historic importance of the property, in establishing a community-based participatory conservation process, and in seeking additional funding for conservation activities, and to undertake, in cooperation with the State Party, a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the site to assess whether the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger; 5. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress made in the implementation of recommendations, which together with the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring report will be considered by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

2003 Decision 27 COM 7B.102

Coro and its Port (Venezuela)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission;
2. Expresses its serious concerns about the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms for the property;
3. Urges the State Party to consider and implement the recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission and requests the State Party to submit a progress report on this matter by 15 October 2003;
4. Authorizes the Chairperson of the Committee to consider the State Party's progress report and to approve, if deemed necessary, a second UNESCO/ICOMOS mission that should prepare a report by 1 February 2004 on the implementation of the mission's recommendations as well as an assessment as to whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Decides to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session in 2004.

1993 Decision 17 COM XI – Inscription of the property- CONF 002 XI

Inscription: Coro and its Port (Venezuela)

Coro and its Port

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Venezuela

C(iv)(v)

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criteria (iv) and (v). The Delegate of Germany pointed out that a comparative study on colonial towns in Latin America would be appropriate to obtain a better insight in this matter.

Annex 8: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Coro and its Port
(adopted by Decision 37 COM 8E of the World Heritage Committee)

ICOMOS Technical Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT [República Bolivariana de Venezuela]
From 12th to 16th October 2015

Brief Synthesis

Dating from the earliest years of Spanish colonisation of the Caribbean coast of South America, Coro and its Port with buildings of earthen construction in a rich fusion of local traditions and Spanish *Mudéjar* and Dutch architectural techniques, have maintained their original layout and urban landscape to a remarkable degree. Located in the coast of Falcón state, west Venezuela, between the mountain range of *Sierra de San Luis* and the *Parque Nacional de los Médanos de Coro* (Coro Dunes National Park), the two urban areas cover 18.40 ha; 7.85 ha in Coro, and 10.55 ha in the Port of La Vela. . Established from 1527 the town's domestic, monumental religious and civil buildings all employed earthen building techniques that are still in use today. Coro was the first Capital of the Captaincy General of Venezuela and the first Bishopric of Continental America established in 1531. Its Port of La Vela was the first South American town to achieve independence from Spain.

Criterion (iv)

Unlike other cities on the Caribbean Coast, the buildings of Coro and its Port are constructed with earthen architecture and domestic buildings show unique examples of traditional mud building techniques including *bahareque* (a system using mud, timber and bamboo), adobe and *tapia* (rammed earth). These are building techniques that are still in use today that have been modified and adapted to social, climatic and environmental conditions as well as to local materials, resulting in a unique example of earthen architecture.

Criterion (v)

Coro is an outstanding example of a historic town, dating from the earliest years of Spanish colonization on the Caribbean coast of South America, which has conserved its original layout and early urban landscape to a remarkable degree.

The urban value of Coro is represented by a building style derived from a colonising process where strong Spanish and Mudéjar building and architectural character and an indigenous building tradition converged. Afterwards, from the second half of the 17th century, this style was influenced by a Dutch architectural pattern introduced through the neighbouring islands of Curaçao and Aruba.

Integrity

The original layout and early urban landscape of Coro and its Port continue to be maintained and much of its earthen architecture remains intact despite the difficult challenges the property has faced as a consequence of its material fragility and drastic environmental changes. Not all the attributes of the

Outstanding Universal Value of the property such as the Cathedral, the *Plaza Bolívar*, *San Nicolas* and *San Gabriel* churches and the Jewish Cemetery are included within its boundaries, which require extension. The property is vulnerable to the impact of inappropriate development within it due to the lack of urban controls and around it due to the lack of a regulated buffer zone.

Authenticity

Coro has experienced many vicissitudes since its foundation. Much of what has survived dates from the 17th century. Hence, a lot of conscious efforts have been made since then to maintain intact the urban checkerboard layout of the city and its uniqueness derived from the conservation of the extensive use of its earthen building system.^[1]

Coro and its Port fully preserve its urban layout with irregular blocks characterized by its Spanish influence, which was organized based on its proximity to the indigenous irrigation channel. Its buildings maintain completely their spatial, structural and constructive conformation. Besides, earthen building techniques employed to erect all its buildings remain in use by a large number of active craftsmen. That is why the qualities of the site reflect the spirit and the sensitivity of its historical evolution.