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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

**Istanbul, Turkey
10-20 July 2016**

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

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/40COM/documents>

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

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

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

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

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. **Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina / Bolivia (Plurinational State of) / Chile / Colombia / Ecuador / Peru) (C 1459)**

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (Additional time required by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the review of the information)

2. **Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 567rev)**

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

3. **Precolumbian chiefdom settlements with stone spheres of the Diquís (Costa Rica) (C 1453)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 17,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of the inscription of the property in 2014:

- Governance

- Interpretative and visitation facilities (provide visitor interpretation and future accessibility to components not yet open to the public)
- Human resources (guardians and managers)
- Housing (future urban development)
- Water infrastructure (discussion on the construction of a hydropower dam)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2015 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents> and provides information on the progress made in implementing the recommendations adopted during the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List at the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, 2014), as follows:

- Within the framework of the cooperation between Mexico and Costa Rica, a team of Mexican experts was invited to visit the property and worked jointly with the local team to implement a methodology to develop the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Diquís Hydroelectric Dam and the Southern International Airport and to identify the attributes supporting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other values, as well as potential threats deriving from both development projects. An expert in matrix evaluation needs to be hired and will work with the joint Mexican-local team until the end of the evaluation, which is expected to take one year.
- The State Party began the acquisition of 5.6ha of land around the stone sphere in El Silencio site; this land was supposed to enter into State possession before the end of 2015. The rest of the site will be included in the buffer zone.
- The elaboration of the Risk Preparedness and Disaster Management Plans was scheduled by the first quarter of 2016, beginning with a study of the hydrology and drainage system. Completion of a regulatory plan for the property was expected by the end of 2015 by the municipality of Osa. This plan will be accompanied by a Manual of archaeological sites.
- Addressing management resources needs, four people were assigned to Finca 6 site, temporary workers for maintenance needs are hired and a contract for 24-h surveillance of the same site is in place. New positions are planned to be requested to the Ministry of Finance in 2016, when also a new administrative and management structure is expected to come into force.
- Local teams have been involved in educational and promotional projects. Educational leaflets and a booklet on the OUV of the property have been published.
- Monitoring indicators for Finca 6 site have been elaborated.

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

The determined commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property should be noted. All of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2014 have been acted upon and, despite the complexity of the tasks, useful preliminary results have been already achieved, as illustrated in this analysis.

Southern International Airport

The report clarifies the following:

- Different versions of the project, now at its feasibility phase, exist; the current version covers an area of 500ha for an airport able to receive international flights and is quite close to Finca 6 site,
- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted and the final analysis awaits the completion of the HIA and no construction has been initiated. The EIA included archaeological prospections and at least five archaeological sites were detected in areas where the airport would be located,
- The project envisages a runway 2.2km long and 45m wide, two terminal areas (6,000sqm only one), a parking platform for 4 aircrafts (32,000sqm) plus additional facilities (base and fire stations, control tower, etc.) and requires 6,250sqm of paved roads and linear infrastructure.

It appears evident from this preliminary information that if the airport is constructed as planned, it will have negative impacts on the Finca 6 component, its archaeological and landscape setting, so far mainly rural. The creation of a large waterproofed area (asphalted tracks, parking areas and roads) may also significantly increase the vulnerability to floods in a river delta area with potential negative impacts on the archaeological layers and on the operation of the airport.

El Diquis Hydroelectric Dam Project (PHD)

The report informs that this project is at its feasibility stage, implementing EIA. If built, it will become the largest project of this type in Central America. The reservoir will cover 6,815ha with a planned annual production of 3,050GWh. Since the reservoir will flood indigenous land (915ha), a consultation process is required. The Powerhouse (*casa de máquinas*) as well as other service structures and areas to the Hydroelectric infrastructure will be located at less than 1 km from the Batambal component, and one of the recognised values of the site is the landscape view, which will be negatively impacted by the project.

The analysis of the attributes and of the potential impacts highlights many severe threats deriving from both projects to the OUV of the property and suggests the need for their complete reconsideration.

The State Party has acquired 5.6ha of land by expropriation around the stone sphere, differently from what was suggested by the Committee's recommendations.

The Risk Preparedness and Disaster Management Plans are scheduled for the first quarter of 2016 beginning with a study of the hydrology and drainage system, already approved; whilst the regulatory plan for the buffer zones is under preparation under the responsibility of the Osa Municipality, the plan will be accompanied by a Manual of archaeological sites (completion expected by the end of 2015).

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.44**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in responding to the Committee's recommendations;*
4. *Recognizes the engagement of the State Party and the efforts undertaken to develop Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for both the Airport and El Diquís Hydroelectric Dam projects and notes that the preliminary analysis of the impacts highlights severe potential threats to the OUV of the property, suggesting the need for the complete reconsideration of both projects;*
5. *Strongly recommends that these HIAs be completed as soon as possible and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Also strongly recommends that the State Party complete the Regulatory Plan for the buffer zones and that it submits the final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, along with the mentioned Manual of archaeological sites;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide updated information on the progress made in the acquisition of the 5.6ha land at El Silencio site;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to provide updated information with regard to the request for additional staff made to the Ministry of Finance and details with regard to the new administrative structure and management unit being put in place;*

9. *Recommends that the State Party continue with the undertaken actions in response to the Committee's recommendations, namely:*
- a) *preparing and finalizing the Risk Preparedness and Management Disaster Plans,*
 - b) *establishing cooperation mechanisms with local communities and indigenous groups and associations for management purposes,*
 - c) *promoting educational activities and projects to involve local teams for monitoring and documentation tasks and development of monitoring indicators;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

4. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 82,207

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998: Monitoring missions; August 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; 2002: World Heritage Centre mission; December 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (undefined and unregulated buffer zone leading to urban development pressure and inadequate control of land use)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Vulnerability to earthquakes and hurricanes
- Deterioration of historic structures derived from natural and social factors (including environmental pollution and lack of sensitization of local residents);
- Urban development project (Sansouci).

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/> and in which the State Party reaffirms that all

interventions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property require the participation and approval of the National Directorate for Monumental Heritage (DNPM) and the local authorities. This is periodically communicated to all parties intervening in the area, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) currently financing a major tourism development programme at the property. As for the specific recommendations in paragraph 6 of Decision **38 COM 7B.42**, it is reported that:

- The buffer zone on the eastern side of the colonial city was approved by Ordinance 02-15 of the Municipality of Santo Domingo East dated 22 May 2015; however it does not coincide with the one proposed by the DNPM as it establishes Avenida España as the boundary of the buffer zone instead of a parallel line 100m further to the east;
- The revision of the draft Law for the Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage has been postponed until the finalization of the updating of Law 41-00 that creates the State Secretary of Culture;
- The professional capacity of the DNPM has been significantly affected since a number of its staff has sought employment in other institutions and projects intervening in the Colonial City;
- The Steering Committee for coordinating interventions in the Colonial City is unable to function properly since the required quorum and consensual decision-making cannot be achieved due to the non-participation of one of the parties. The Ministry of Culture has drafted a Decree to modify the quorum required to remedy this situation;
- The subway project foresees three stations in the Colonial City. Although studies concluded that the project is technically feasible and does not constitute any risk to the built heritage, the Ministry of Culture has proposed the implementation of only one station (Parque Independencia) and the establishment of a multimodal transport system with the use of minibuses considered as more adapted with the property;
- The Sansouci project is still in the design phase and its promoters have communicated that no constructions are foreseen within the recently established buffer zone.

Furthermore, due to infrastructural works undertaken by the IDB Tourism Development Programme, part of the Hotel Frances, dating from the 16th century, collapsed. An extensive assessment of the causes of the collapse is annexed to the report.

Finally, the report includes information on the proposed construction, in the framework of the IDB Programme, of a conference centre in and next to the ruins of the monastery of San Francisco. It states that the terms of the competition of the project were elaborated without the participation of the DNPM and the consensus of the population, and as a result the winning project was publicly and massively rejected; therefore its implementation has been halted. The report states that this reaction confirms the necessity that all projects need to be formulated, from the beginning, with the management institutions and with the population.

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

The report contains encouraging information on the adoption of a buffer zone to the east of the World Heritage property and regarding the development of the Sansouci project. The State Party should be requested formally to submit the buffer zone to the World Heritage Committee as a minor boundary modification and present the further urban and architectural designs for the Sansouci project for in-depth evaluation by ICOMOS.

While the report provides updated information on the process for the new Law for the Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage, on the strengthening of the national institution responsible for the cultural heritage (National Directorate for Monumental Heritage DNPM) and regarding the proposals for a subway line through the Colonial City, it is noted that no concluding results have been reported yet. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information regarding these issues as soon as they become available.

The statement by the State Party that all actions within the World Heritage property require the participation and approval of the institutions that are responsible for its management and conservation is welcomed. However, the State Party report illustrates particularly that the capacity of the National Directorate for Monumental Heritage to exercise and enforce its legal competencies is limited and that its role and responsibilities are not generally recognized by other parties that are implementing interventions in the area. A case in point is the Steering Committee that was created for coordination and joint decision making but remains to be functional due to the non-participation of one of the

parties. The lack of coordinated action between the national and local institutions and the IDB-financed Tourism Development programme is highly regrettable. This situation may also have been a factor in the collapse of the Hotel Frances.

The State Party information on the project for a convention centre at the site of the ruins of San Francisco is of serious concern. The 2015 ICOMOS technical review of the project affirms that, beyond the justified governmental objective to promote tourism, it is fundamental to prioritize, above all, the conservation and protection of the property and that an updated study of the real capacity of the Colonial City and its monuments to assimilate tourism and the formulation of indicators on the admissible loads should be elaborated, approved by the Heritage authorities and, if possible, submitted to the World Heritage Centre for assessment by ICOMOS.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *While recognizing that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-financed Tourism Development Project constitutes a great opportunity for the preservation of the property under the condition that it is executed according to national legislation and regulations and internationally accepted norms and standards, notes with regret and very serious concern that no adequate mechanisms have been established for the coordination and cooperation among the institutions responsible for the protection of the property (the National Directorate for Monumental Heritage (DNPM) and the Municipality of Santo Domingo) on the one hand, and the Tourism Development Project implemented by the Ministry of Tourism on the other hand;*
4. *Recommends the State Party to address this issue as a matter of urgency and take the necessary measures to ensure that the DNPM has the technical, financial and institutional capacity to fulfill its legal obligations and that other institutions act according to established legal and institutional frameworks;*
5. *Deploring the collapse of part of the XVIth century Hotel Frances, urges the State Party to clearly establish its causes and do the necessary to prevent that infrastructural works affect the heritage values of buildings and structures, and requests the State Party to report on the final results of the investigations and measures taken to prevent similar events in the future;*
6. *Strongly recommends that the State Party review the objectives and parameters of the proposed convention centre in the ruins and gardens of the Convent of San Francisco, to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and establish the carrying capacity of the Colonial City and its components in order to determine the convenience of such a convention centre and other major facilities in the historical centre;*
7. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in the definition of a buffer zone east of the property and also requests it to submit the buffer zone as a minor boundary modification in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines as soon as possible;*
8. *Welcomes that in the buffer zone on the east side of the property no constructions of the Sansouci project are foreseen and further requests that urban and architectural designs be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;*

9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late supplementary information)

6. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haïti) (C 180)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1982-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 246,110

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,780 for the July 2010 Technical Mission partially funded by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO Havana Office Technical Visit; July 2010: Joint Expert Technical mission; March 2011: UNESCO Preparatory mission for Haiti Donor's Conference; January 2012: World Heritage Centre Technical mission; March 2012: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; May 2013: ICOMOS mission; May 2013: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; July 2013: Technical Assistance mission World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS; February 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical Assistance mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems (lack of conservation, management and risk preparedness plans)
- Water damage(issue resolved)
- Vandalism (issue resolved)
- Earthquake vulnerability
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Ground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/>, on the following:

- An important project is under execution, financed by the World Bank, to promote sustainable tourism development in the north of Haiti, *Préservation du Patrimoine et appui au Secteur Touristique* (PAST). One component concerns the preservation of the cultural heritage for which a budget of USD 27 million is allocated. This includes support for planning and management of the Park and concrete interventions for conservation, presentation and visitors facilities;
- In order to strengthen the management, a Director and specialized staff of the Park will be recruited and located at the Park;
- The first phase of the stabilization of the Batterie Coidavid was concluded; the second phase is scheduled for January-March 2016. A conservation plan will be developed in the framework of the PAST project;
- The maximum number of visitors was defined for two circuits at the Citadel (600 per circuit per day) and two at Sans Souci (750 per circuit per day);
- The Plan for tourism circuits and facilities for the Citadel completed and for Sans Souci to be undertaken. A study "Proposal for Tourism Development at the National Historic Park" has been concluded;
- The study on the limits of the buffer zone will start in February 2016;
- A methodology for the management plan and a work plan were defined for completion of first draft in August 2016;
- As for National Highway n°3, and its deviation around the Park, the State Party reports that no progress has been made since 2014 due to political circumstances. However, the responsible agency *Bureau de l'Ordonnateur National* (BON) re-launched the dossier in June 2015 with the European Union. In this context it was decided to address a letter to the UNESCO Representative in Port-au-Prince. In this letter the State Party informs that the part of six-kilometers of the route that passes through the park will be provisionally upgraded but that a consensus about the definitive rehabilitation of the road is still to be reached. A declaration of non-objection from UNESCO is being requested for the provisional upgrading. In March 2016, the State Party submitted a document with the terms of reference of the feasibility study for the deviation of the road around the Park that will connect the parts of the road outside of the Park that have already been completed and/or contracted. The document annexes a Technical Recommendation of the Institute for the Preservation of National Heritage (ISPAN) on the road structure and materials in case the road would continue to cross the Park.

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

The report submitted by the State Party is welcomed. It provides, together with the report of the technical mission that was undertaken by World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS in February 2015, concise information about the efforts made by the State Party to strengthen the management and conservation of the property, to promote sustainable tourism and improve the living conditions of the population in and nearby the park. The 2015 mission report includes a set of 12 recommendations on the management, as well as observations and six recommendations on the conservation of the property. The State Party should be commended for the follow-up it is providing to these recommendations, also in relation to the World Bank financed project *Projet Préservation du Patrimoine et d'Appui au Secteur Touristique* (PAST) and the European Union funded rehabilitation of National Highway n°3. The recruitment of a Director and two specialists to be located at the Park is considered of utmost importance.

It is noted that stabilization works are being undertaken at the Batterie Coidavid and that the preparation of a conservation plan is foreseen in the framework of the PAST project. The State Party should be recommended to continue stabilization works and prepare the conservation plan on the basis of the recommendations of the 2015 mission.

It is also noted that a series of important studies have been completed regarding tourism management and that the carrying capacities have been defined for the Citadel and Sans Souci.

The inclusion in the PAST project of activities to be conceived and implemented in consultation with UNESCO in order to develop the capacities of ISPAN and to support the Park's management, conservation and presentation is welcome.

However, even though tourism-related studies and projects are advancing well, there are important delays in areas that are essential for the proper management of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the preparation of the management plan that were both addressed in previous Committee decisions. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to complete both actions by the end of 2016 and to submit these documents by 1 February 2017 to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that no progress has been made in the decision-making about the deviation of the National Highway n°3 and the rehabilitation of the “Park Road”. This is of extreme concern, more so in view of the communication of the State Party to the UNESCO Representative in Port-au-Prince concerning the provisional upgrading of the section of Highway n°3 that passes through the Park. In this context, Decision **34 COM 7B.110** (Brasilia, 2010) should be recalled as it requests the State Party: “To halt the construction of Route RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*”. This was reiterated at subsequent sessions of the World Heritage Committee. It should also be recalled that the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical assistance mission of July 2013 recommended that cultural heritage and landscape specialists should be included in the team that undertakes the feasibility studies and impact assessments of the deviation of Highway n°3 and that it drew the attention to the risks connected to delays in its construction and the pressure this would cause on the “Park Road”. A provisional upgrading of this road would certainly increase the pressure on the Park and would constitute a potential threat to it. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party not to undertake any works until the relevant alternatives have been studied and the corresponding Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs) completed with specific assessment on the potential impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.110**, **35 COM 7B.125**, **36 COM 99**, **37 COM 98**, **38 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Also recalling the numerous Reactive Monitoring and Advisory missions reports that all contain comprehensive sets of recommendations to the State Party on the conservation, management and sustainable development of the property,*
4. *Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to provide follow-up to the 2013 and the 2015 missions and particularly welcomes the appointment of a Director and technical staff of the Park, the progress in conservation actions and the advances made in the management of the property and the undertaking of technical studies;*
5. *Expresses its concern however about the serious delays in matters that are essential for the management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the preparation of the Management and Conservation Plans and urges the State Party to complete these actions as a matter of urgency, and to submit these plans along with the study “Proposal for Tourism Development at the National Historic Park” by **1 February 2017** to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Specifically recalling its Decision **34 COM 7B.110** requesting the State Party to “halt the construction of Route RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated, in accordance with Paragraph 172*

of the Operational Guidelines”, expresses its utmost concern that, in spite of its recommendations to the State Party over the past five years, no progress has been made in the decision-making about the deviation of National Highway n°3 and the character and traffic load of the “Park Road”;

7. Also urges the State Party not to initiate any works of rehabilitation of the section of National Highway n°3 within the limits of the Park and requests it to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the technical project for the improvement of the existing road within the Park, including its route, the engineering work for the canalization of the river, the type of asphalt and the width of the route, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any works are undertaken;
8. Reiterates that cultural heritage and landscape expertise should be included in the feasibility studies and that Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs) are indispensable to evaluate the impact of major interventions to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and also requests the State Party to complete such assessments in relation to National Highway n°3 and the “Park Road” in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for World Cultural Heritage, and any other major interventions that may be planned, and to submit these assessments together with the above-mentioned technical project before any works are undertaken;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

7. Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico) (C 416)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

8. Historic Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2000: ICOMOS expert mission; July 2001: expert mission; August 2001: expert mission; April-May 2008: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate demolition of historic buildings
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Planned and ongoing development projects
- Management systems (lack of a Risk Preparedness Plan)
- Lack of management plan (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled urban development

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2015 and 27 January 2016, the State Party submitted annual reports on its actions in 2014 and 2015 respectively. A summary of the 2016 report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>. The State Party's replies to each of the recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

- No consensus has been reached yet regarding the possible extension of the World Heritage property area and the (re)definition of its buffer zone. However, the Decentralized Directorate of Culture (DDC-Arequipa) declared as Cultural Heritage the right bank, the polygon of *Barrio del Vallecito* up to the transversal intersection of *Selva Alegre* and the Traditional Town and Terrace Network of *Carmen Alto* (Directorial Resolutions 094-DDC-ARE-MC, August 2015 and 062-DDC-ARE-MC, June 2015);
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Chilina Bridge Component has been completed while the assessment of the Via Troncal Interconectora Project is under preparation;
- The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out in November 2014 and concluded that, in principle, the Chilina Bridge has no visual impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The implementation of the recommendations of the mission is being coordinated by the DDC-Arequipa with the Provincial Municipality of Arequipa;
- The approval of the Master Plan is subject to the approval of the Metropolitan Development Plan as well as the definition of the new boundaries of the historic centre and the buffer zone. The Risk Prevention Management Plan drafted by the Provincial Municipality of Arequipa, through the Management Office for the Historic Centre and the Monumental Zone, was approved by Municipal Ordinance 932-2015 dated 6 October 2015;
- A private company has made a proposal for the construction of a Monorail-Type Mass Rapid Transit System in Arequipa. The Ministry of Culture has asked the company to submit a Preliminary Design for the Public Investment Project, so that it may be evaluated and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. As of this date, this document has not yet been submitted to the Ministry of Culture.

The 2015 and 2016 reports contain substantive annexes related to the issues above as well as progress reports on the preparation of the management plan and re-definition of the World Heritage property and its buffer zones, the Risk Prevention Management Plan, and the work plan for interventions in the Historic Centre during 2016.

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

The report on the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission provides important recommendations for the implementation of the Committee's decision regarding the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, management, master plan, Risk Prevention Management Plan, metropolitan development plan, Chilina Bridge and the Via Troncal Interconectora and the Monorail project. It is noted with satisfaction that the State Party is taking these recommendations into account in follow-up actions.

As for the extension and/or boundary modifications, it should be reiterated that the 2014 mission and the World Heritage Committee recommended, as a first step, the extension of the buffer zone only as a minor boundary modification. This would avoid entering into a new nomination process and allow the authorities to direct its actions towards urgent conservation and management issues. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge again the State Party to finalize the process of the definition of the extended buffer zone, as a matter of urgency, in order to provide a certain level of protection to the farming terraces and other areas around the property.

It is noted that the construction of the Chilina Bridge was continued in spite of explicit recommendations of the Committee not to continue the works before the completion of an HIA. The 2014 mission expressed the opinion that in principle, the bridge has no visual impact thanks to its lightweight design, horizontality and transparency. However, it also noted that the visual part is only one aspect to be taken into account when assessing potential impacts; there can also be physical, social, cultural and economic aspects, both direct and indirect, cumulative, temporary and permanent, reversible or irreversible. This is confirmed in the HIA submitted by the State Party in February 2015 that states that, as a consequence of the construction of the bridge, the landscape areas are in an accelerated process of transformation with the inclusion of constructions that are out of context. As a positive impact, it is noted that the traffic flow through the Historic Centre has clearly diminished since the construction of the bridge. Corrective and mitigation measures should be developed in response to the results of the HIA.

The cultural HIA on the Via Troncal Interconectora Project should be completed urgently and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Given that the process is currently ongoing, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to include the assessment of the potential impacts of the project on the landscape of Lari Lari, Los Tucos, Cayma and Yanahuara.

It is noted with regret that the approval of the Master Plan for the property remains pending until approval of the Metropolitan Development Plan. In this sense the protection of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, in particular the agricultural areas, remains a matter of concern. It is imperative that the revision process of the Metropolitan Development Plan includes all stakeholders in order to coordinate all efforts to protect the property.

It is also recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for the approval of the Risk Prevention Management Plan and for the preliminary information about a Monorail Mass Rapid Transit System. The potential impact of such a transportation system should be very carefully analyzed and preliminary designs are indeed required for an in-depth analysis by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The State Party should be urged very strongly not to proceed with the further development of the project before the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are in the position to provide appropriate advice on the project.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Takes note of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission that took place in 2014 and requests the State Party to implement its recommendations;*
4. *Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to submit, as a matter of urgency, according to Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, the final proposal for the buffer zone as a minor boundary modification, to enhance the protection of the visually sensitive areas around the property;*
5. *Also takes note of the information provided on the Chilina Bridge and the Via Troncal Interconectora Project and notes with regret that these infrastructural works have been*

completed in spite of its recommendations over the past years not to initiate the works as long as a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) had not been completed, and also requests the State Party to complete it as a matter of urgency, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also notes that the HIA for the Chilina Bridge concludes that as a consequence of the construction of the bridge, the surrounding landscape areas are in an accelerated process of transformation;
7. Urges the State Party to develop a mitigation plan to control the undesirable urbanisation and constructions that are already taking place as a consequence of the works;
8. Welcomes the completion of the Risk Prevention Management Plan;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to complete the process of reviewing of the Metropolitan Development Plan in order to rationalize inconsistencies with the Master Plan of the property and to confirm whether or not this plan is to be regarded as the management plan for the property, requested by the World Heritage Committee to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
10. Invites the State Party to submit as soon as possible more detailed information on the proposal to construct a Monorail Transportation System in the city of Arequipa, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and also urges the State Party not to proceed with the further development of the project pending consultations, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

9. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework
- Management systems

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/> and which addresses the following issues:

- Progress on the implementation of the 2014 Emergency Plan that consisted of short-term measures regarding the management, conservation, public awareness, legal framework, traffic/parking and urban planning of the old city centre of Paramaribo. A lot remains to be done and the city faces great challenges especially regarding its management and conservation. Lack of funding is a major obstacle for the preservation and regular maintenance of the many government-owned monumental buildings. A number of privately owned monuments were restored ;
- The parameters of the revision of the Monuments Act 2002 remain to be defined. A new Building Committee for the city has been appointed on November 2015 and is operational with the participation of the Site Management Authority. It is reported that the Minister received several requests for demolishing a monument within the property but that no permit has been granted;
- A proposal for the extension of the boundaries of the World Heritage area has been made by the Management Authority including a 50-meter strip of the river along the Waterfront, and an extension of the buffer zone. However, the Site Management Authority was informed that the Government is not an advocate of the expansion of the buffer zone and therefore no further progress could be made;
- Regarding the project proposal for the redevelopment of part of the Waterfront with hotel, parking and shopping mall, although an area was licensed for this purpose and design ideas can be found on the internet, no building permit has been granted;
- As for the commemorative monument along the Waterfront, documentation was sent to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by ICOMOS, which could not be completed due to the lack of specific details requested from the State Party. The construction started in 2013, but stopped several times;
- The State Party and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have initiated the formulation of the 'Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program'. The components will seek to: (i) consolidate the current institutional framework for the management of the historic inner city; (ii) rehabilitate key buildings and landscapes in the area of protection and (iii) improve key infrastructure and services within the historic inner city and in connection with the rest of the city. An Aide Memoire to this effect was signed in June 2014 but no further progress has been made;
- Finally, as for the reconstruction of the old parliament building, the design process has been launched and it has been decided to house all operational services, documentation and information in the reconstructed historical building, while the actual parliament meeting room will be located in the new building.

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

The progress made on the implementation of the 2014 Emergency Action Plan is welcomed. However, it is noted that there is still a great number of actions that have not yet been implemented or concluded, particularly those referring to the strengthening of the management structure, enhanced regulation and legislation and funding for the implementation of the Management Plan and conservation actions. It is regrettable that there continues to be a chronic lack of funding for the restoration and conservation of historic government buildings and for the full implementation of the Action Plan.

It is of concern that no significant progress has been made in the updating and harmonization of the legislative and regulatory frameworks. The Monuments Act of 2002 remains to be revised and there are still no legal provisions that establish the role and position of the Site Management Authority.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the formal adoption of the Paramaribo World Heritage Management Plan 2011-2015 by the Council of Ministers in January 2014.

However, the State Party should be urged to integrate the Management Plan in local and national development plans and to foresee budget provisions for its implementation. An updating of the Management Plan for the period 2016-2020 should be considered.

Equally, it is recommended that the State Party be urged to proceed with the development of a zoning plan and urban regulations as was foreseen in the Emergency Action Plan.

The appointment of a new Building Committee in November 2015 and the inclusion of the Management Authority is noted.

The revision and extension of the buffer zones and the minor boundary modification for the World Heritage area to include a zone of 50 meters of the river as a means to protect the cityscape from the river are considered of utmost importance. This is particularly urgent in view of potential building projects in that area that would seriously affect the integrity and authenticity of the property. There is very serious concern that a piece of land at the Waterfront was licensed to a private company for development as a shopping mall, hotel and parking garage. The State Party should be strongly recommended to proceed with the boundary extension, withdraw the license it had given to a private company and review the appropriate regulations.

It is noted that no permit for the demolition of monumental structures within the World Heritage area has been given during the reporting period and it is strongly advised that this policy be continued.

As for the "Monument for Victims" at the Waterfront, it is recommended that the Committee regret that no further documentation was submitted, as requested, and that ICOMOS was therefore not able to complete the technical review of the design and location of the monument. In case of confirmation that the monument is in the process of being completed, an assessment will be required to evaluate whether it affects the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its attributes.

The formulation of a Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank is considered a positive development. The Management Authority of the property should be intimately involved in the further design and implementation of the project and, if needed, advice should be sought from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.47, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the adoption of the Paramaribo World Heritage Management Plan 2011-2015 and the Emergency Action Plan 2014;*
4. *Urges the State Party to take the necessary measures for their implementation, also taking into account the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission, with particular attention to the strengthening of the Management Authority and the provision of funding for its operation as well as for urgently needed conservation and restoration works at government-owned monumental buildings;*
5. *Expresses its very serious concern about the potential real-estate development at the Waterfront and strongly urges the State Party to withdraw the licence granted to a private company and to take the necessary measures for the proper conservation of the Waterfront area and proceed with the proposed extension of the World Heritage property to include a strip of the river of at least 50 meters;*
6. *Invites the State Party to submit the above mentioned extension as a minor boundary modification according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*

7. Regrets that the technical review of the “Monument for Victims” at the Waterfront could not be completed by the Advisory Bodies due to the incomplete documentation provided by the State Party and requests the State Party to urgently provide information about the construction of this monument;
8. Welcomes the initiative of the State Party to develop a major Urban Rehabilitation Programme with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank in which the Management Authority of the property should be intimately involved and also invites the State Party to seek the advice of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in its further design and implementation;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

AFRICA

10. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1996-1996)

Total amount approved: USD 2,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 5.07 million by the Italian Funds-in-Trust for the “Aksum Archaeological Site Improvement Project: Preparatory studies for the reinstallation of the Obelisk and capacity building for archaeological conservation - Phase 1”, “Reinstallation of the Obelisk - Phase 2” and “Consolidation of Stele III”.

Previous monitoring missions

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009: missions of the World Heritage Centre and experts for the implementation of the Obelisk project; 2010 and 2013: Joint Reactive Monitoring Missions World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS; 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of this serial property
- Lack of conservation and management plans
- Lack of appropriate urban planning and building regulations
- Urban encroachment and inappropriate new developments
- Rising water level / seepage
- Structural instability of Stele III
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents/>, outlining progress made in relation to the requests of the Committee:

- The State Party has reiterated its commitment to finance the Consolidation Project for Stele III, and to review the technical and financial feasibility of the project (including seeking expert advice about the rising water table inside the Tomb of the Brick Arches) before proceeding with works in 2016;

- Work has ceased on the construction of the Church Museum, but further agreement has been reached with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church authorities to improve the façade design based on the recommendations of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2013;
- The Management Plan for Aksum World Heritage property will be presented to relevant stakeholders for validation in 2016;
- The Thematic Master Plan which has been prepared for Aksum has been endorsed by the regional government and submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- The boundary delineation of the property has been finalized and the draft map of the boundary has been included in the law that protects the site and had been approved by the Council of Ministers in August 2015. The State Party has advised that since all the important attributes and features of the property have been included in the official boundary of the property, a request for a minor boundary modification is no longer required;
- The Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Development Project (ESTDP) has been working closely with the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCCH) during planning and implementation of site management and conservation until the project concluded in December 2015. ESTDP programmes included “destination development”, “capacity building”, “small scale restoration” and “community engagement”.

An ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place in February 2016 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents>).

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

The progress made by the State Party is acknowledged. The 2015 ICOMOS mission report has provided additional observations and analysis regarding a number of the matters that affect the state of conservation of the property.

The unfinished state of the Church Museum continues to have a temporary, but highly negative, impact on the setting and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The Church collections are in a perilous state of conservation. Details of the façade modification should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and the Church Museum project should be completed as soon as possible. Investigation is required regarding archaeological features that were reported as being discovered during the Church Museum building works.

The boundaries of the property and buffer zone have been formalized through the gazetting of Regulation 246/2015. Detailed maps are required with the physical boundaries of the property and its buffer zone clearly defined. These boundaries do not respond to critical view lines and the continued built fabric as well as the intangible features of the Church in the property.

The gazetting of the Aksum World Heritage Reserve Area Designation, Regulation 346/2015, will contribute to the conservation and management of the property but should be implemented rapidly. This Regulation has addressed in principle the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission regarding the protection of critical viewpoints. However, development guidelines, which include restoration and adaptive reuse, are urgently needed for the property and buffer zone as new construction is affecting the setting and OUV of the property.

The completion of the Management Plan for the property remains a matter of great priority and urgency. Once finalized, the draft Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for review in conjunction with the Thematic Master Plan.

The Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Development Project (ESTDP) was broadly in line with the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme. The designs of the ESTDP interventions should not be applied to other areas of the property such as the Church Compound as they are unsuited to these contexts.

Little progress has been made in either planning the consolidation of Stela III or the investigation of the water problems in the Tomb of the Brick Arches. The 2015 ICOMOS mission identified further problems with rainwater ingress and structural weakness at the Mausoleum, which further compounds the problems faced at the main Stela Field. Any proposal that requires excavation in or around the Tomb of the Brick Arches should not be undertaken and more cautious options should be pursued, following expert advice.

A number of inappropriate developments are underway in the property and the buffer zone and there are a number of proposals, such as landscaping the Church Compound, demolishing the building at the entrance of the Stelae Field and constructing a new entrance building. The State Party should submit details of all such prospective projects to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Lastly, upon completion of the Management Plan, it is also recommended that the State Party envisage training for relevant personnel on the requirements of the *World Heritage Convention*, of the *Operational Guidelines* and of the Management Plan for Aksum itself.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Congratulates the State Party on the progress made in protecting, conserving and managing the property in accordance with the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Acknowledges the achievements of the Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Development Project (ESTDP), broadly in line with the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme, but notes that the designs of the ESTDP interventions should not be applied to other areas of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit details of the façade modification for the Church Museum to the World Heritage Centre for review; to expedite the completion of the Church Museum project, including the conservation of the collections, as soon as possible, and to investigate the archaeological features that were reported as being discovered during the Church Museum building works, and advise the World Heritage Centre accordingly;
6. Also requests the State Party to finalize and submit the draft Management Plan for Aksum to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review in conjunction with the Thematic Master Plan;
7. Commends the State Party for gazetting the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and further requests the State Party to submit the detailed maps of the physical boundaries of the property and its buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies updated on the consolidation project for the reinforcement of the foundation of Stela III and the investigation of the causes of the rising water level in the Tomb of the Brick Arches, to continue to seek expert specialist advice, to avoid any proposal that requires excavation in or around the Tomb of the Brick Arches, and to pursue more cautious options;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre details of all current and potential developments within the property and the buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

10. Encourages the State Party to instigate training for relevant personnel on the requirements of the Convention, the Operational Guidelines and the Management Plan for Aksum, once finalized;
11. Also encourages the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and to implement the additional recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii) (iv) (vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 31,776

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

March 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission; February 2005: World Heritage Centre Advisory mission on water and sanitation assessments; May 2010 and February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management and conservation plan
- Clarification of boundaries and buffer zone
- Pressure from urban development
- Marine transport infrastructure
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Housing/ Deterioration of dwellings

- Solid waste

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

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents> and, in response to specific requests of the Committee, reports the following:

- No works on the Lamu-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor project have been undertaken near the World Heritage property and no works related to the infrastructure of the port have been started. To date, the only works to be completed are the port headquarters building, a four-storey office block of 1,500 square meters and a police station;
- The upgrading of the Manda Airport, which the State Party indicates is part of the Kenyan Government initiative to upgrade transport infrastructure rather than directly linked to LAPSSET, has been completed with a new Ksh 160,000,000 terminal building, a 2 kilometer runway, a fire station, and water supply infrastructure;
- The State Party is committed to submitting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for individual components of the LAPSSET once projects have been prepared. The State Party also commits to undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the overall LAPSSET project (although no time frame, or Terms of Reference for the study are included);
- The National Museums of Kenya is working with the County Government of Lamu and other partners on strengthening administration, management, legislation, and capacity building for conservation in Lamu. It is foreseen to ensure that the management plan is more strongly aligned with the three main planning instruments at the county level;
- In regard to the buffer zone of the property, the State Party is satisfied with the buffer zone that has already been presented previously to the World Heritage Centre and has no plans to propose any extension of the buffer zone including the Manda mangrove skyline's buffer zone.

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

While it is acknowledged that the first two buildings constructed on the mainland as part of the LAPSSET project do not have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, these two buildings are just part of a first phase of a much larger project which overall has a strong potential to impact on the OUV of the property in the future.

The 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission requested a series of actions to be undertaken which would form the basis for an evaluation of the overall impact of the LAPSSET project on the property. These included the provision of documentation on the revised LAPSSET project as a whole, including plans for the extension of the airport on Manda Island, documentation on work already undertaken, the provision of a SEA for the LAPSSET project as a whole (building on the existing HIA for the port), for review and, on the basis of that review, the development of strengthened building regulations within the property, and a revised management plan to take into account the pressures that would result from the LAPSSET development.

The State Party has not supplied any updated information on the overall scope of the LAPSSET project and no plans or impact studies were submitted prior to the work being carried out on the upgrading of the Manda Airport, where it is reported a new terminal building has been completed along with an extension of the runway. From the pictures which accompany the report, it seems that the development is substantial and it is unknown what impacts might result from this new airport infrastructure on the island adjacent to the property.

The State Party reports that future port developments on the Lamu Mainland will incorporate a sufficient buffer for Lamu Island and the property, but without giving any details as to how the impacts identified within the 2014 HIA on the first phase of the LAPSSET project would be mitigated, nor how it intends to implement the recommendations from the HIA.

Furthermore, no details have been given as to how or when the requested SEA for the entire LAPSSET project will be carried out. This impact assessment is considered crucial to understanding the overall potential impacts on the OUV of the property. Without such an assessment, it is not

possible to define mitigation measures or necessary changes to strengthen the protection, development control and management of the property and its setting.

In regard to the buffer zone of the property, the World Heritage Committee, over many years, has requested that it be extended to deal with issues such as water catchment and visual impacts. With the onset of the LAPSSET project, the extension of the buffer zone becomes more crucial as a means to control the potential negative impacts of the project on the OUV of the property and its setting that includes Lamu and Manda islands, and beyond. While the LAPSSET project itself may not build any infrastructure projects within the Lamu archipelago, the development pressures that result from LAPSSET will most likely have a strong impact on the archipelago as evidenced already by the extension of the Manda Airport.

The State Party has indicated that it does not intend to extend the buffer zone beyond what was proposed to the 2015 mission, which the mission considered inadequate. It should be noted, however, that even this buffer zone proposed to the 2015 mission has not been formally submitted to the World Heritage Centre as a request for minor boundary modification. The best approach now would be to wait until the SEA has been carried out. At that time, it will be possible to better understand what the proper boundaries of the buffer zone should be, as well as the necessary protection and planning controls for the buffer zone and other parts of the setting of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee express its concern that infrastructure and other projects associated with the LAPSSET project are being progressed in advance of a SEA being undertaken and without any additional formal constraints being put in place to protect the property and its setting from the associated development of the port project.

It is also recommended that the Committee consider urging the State Party to undertake, as a matter of priority, the SEA of the overall LAPSSET project so that its review can begin to identify ways to strengthen the protection of the property and its setting zone, to ensure that the port project and its associated infrastructure and development do not have a major negative impact on the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.46**, **35 COM 7B.39**, **36 COM 7B.43**, **37 COM 7B.40**, **38 COM 7B.49**, and **39 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the assurance of the State Party that the Lamu-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor project will exclude the Lamu archipelago; but notes that the project will cause strong related development pressures for the entire region including the archipelago;*
4. *Expresses its concern that ongoing work on the LAPSSET project, including the completion of the first two buildings on the Lamu mainland, along with the construction of Manda airport, are progressing, without the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as requested by the Committee,*
5. *Urges the State Party to undertake, as a matter of priority, the already requested SEA of the overall LAPSSET project, as a basis for identifying ways to strengthen the protection, development control and management of the property, including a reconsideration of the buffer zone, and to ensure that the Port project and its associated infrastructure and development do not have a major negative impact on the property and its setting; and requests the submission of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, by **1 February 2017**;*

6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible in advance of the SEA being undertaken, and by **1 October 2016**, for review by the Advisory Bodies, full details of the overall scope of the LAPSSET project, including the Lamu resort city, and clarification of fishing plans, mangrove planting, and surveys of coastal morphology;*
7. *Regrets that details of the project for Manda airport, including the construction of a new terminal building and the lengthening of the runway, was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), as requested, before the project was approved, and also requests the State Party to provide details of this project to the World Heritage Centre;*
8. *Also regrets that no progress has been reported on the revision of the management plan to include a new chapter covering the LAPSSET development project on how the impacts identified within the 2014 HIA on the first phase would be mitigated, how recommendations from the HIA will be implemented, and how the wider setting of the property will be protected, whether by an enlarged buffer zone or other means;*
9. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to take into account the recommendations of both the 2014 HIA and the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission as it continues to develop the LAPSSET project and to strengthen the integration of the LAPSSET project with the Lamu City Council and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), including, in particular, by appointing an NMK representative on the LAPSSET Board, and to widen and strengthen community engagement;*
10. *Considers that in the absence of adequate detailed information and impact assessments on the overall major LAPSSET project, and any detailed understanding as to how the already identified negative impacts from the first phase will be mitigated, that the property is under potential danger from the acknowledged development pressures associated with the port project;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

14. Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius) (C 1259bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

15. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1994-2009)

Total amount approved: USD 209,880

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: For the rehabilitation of the Saint Sebastian Fortress: USD 1,108,078 by Japan Funds in Trust; USD 526,015 by UCCLA; USD 397,122 by Portugal/IPAD; USD 270,000 by Flanders Funds in Trust; USD 729,729 by the Netherlands Funds in Trust. For other conservation and management projects: USD 50,000 by World Heritage Cities Programme (Netherlands); USD 89,000 by IPAD; USD 23,175 by Africa 2009; USD 13,450 by AWHF.

Previous monitoring missions

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2007: ICOMOS mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2010: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Plan not yet finalized
- Growing number of collapsed or seriously dilapidated buildings
- Threats to authenticity through inappropriate repairs
- Lack of development control
- Lack of adequate sewage and water systems
- Lack of adequate financial and human resources

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents>. Progress in a number of issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Restoration and rehabilitation work continues, mostly for private buildings, and is creating a more positive environment. As a result, the island is attracting more permanent residents and more tourism. A particular problem concerns traditional makuti (palm frond) roofing being replaced with corrugated zinc. In response, a "HOMESTAY" awareness initiative has been started, with 12 makuti houses currently being rehabilitated under this programme;
- An awareness campaign has also been initiated to stop the use of open-pit latrines. Public toilets have been constructed and the system for solid waste is being improved by the municipal council;
- The planned Documentation Centre (CEDIM), which was to be located at San Sebastian Fortress, has been moved to a room at the municipal library. Rehabilitation work was still ongoing when the State Party prepared its report, but is expected to be completed sometime in 2016;
- The project for the redevelopment of the Mozambique Island Hospital and the São Lourenço Fortress as a cultural centre and tourism facility is currently being developed. Little information has been provided in the report, which stated that, following recommendations from the Ministry

of Culture and Tourism, the project would be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

- A project to renew the Management and Conservation Plan (2010-2014) has started. Terms of reference have been developed, and funding will be allocated by the Government in 2016. Funds are also being sought from the UNESCO Maputo Office. The main scope of this work will be to add an element on Risk Preparedness and an Action Plan. Other management activities include the development of a new legal instrument to regulate interventions to the built heritage, which, together with the Regulation for the Protection of Immovable Heritage, awaits approval by the Cabinet in 2016;
- A revised buffer zone was developed in 2011, but the State Party wishes to engage an expert to examine the proposed buffer zone and to take into account any underwater archaeological heritage before submitting it to the World Heritage Centre.

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

The State Party continues to make progress on the conservation and rehabilitation of buildings within the World Heritage property, although there is concern about the overall state of conservation of the building stock, which is understood to still be poor. The development of awareness programmes (on the use of Makuti and on the issue of solid waste) is also a positive step from the State Party, as is the ongoing effort to update the legislative protection of the property.

There is also concern about the pace of progress in updating the Management and Conservation Plan, as only the Terms of Reference for this project have been finalized. The updating process should begin as soon as funding is available. It will indeed be important to add the element on Risk Preparedness to the management framework, as stated in the report; however, the framework should also address the other challenges laid out in the report, including the population increase on the island, continued strengthening of the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island (GACIM), the coordination between various institutional stakeholders, and the need to promote more interaction with partners for technical assistance and fundraising.

The report makes only a brief mention of the rehabilitation project at the Mozambique Island Hospital and the São Lourenço Fortress, for which information was requested by the Committee at its 38th session. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies will be ready to review the details of the proposal as soon as they are forwarded by the State Party. In conformity with Paragraph 110 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for this proposed intervention is also required. The State Party is encouraged to refer to the ICOMOS *Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (2011).

While recognizing the State Party's desire to incorporate the underwater archaeological heritage within the buffer zone, it would be more efficient at this point to submit the revised buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre as it was drawn up in 2011, in order to immediately gain the benefits of the protection it would afford. Once work on the underwater archaeology is completed, a newly revised buffer zone that takes into account the underwater aspect could again be submitted.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, including inside the recently renovated San Sebastian Fortress.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.51, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Takes note of the ongoing progress on the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings within the World Heritage property;*

4. *Also notes that, to date, only the Terms of Reference have been finalized for the revision of the Management and Conservation Plan for Mozambique Island (2010 – 2014), and reiterates its request that the revised Plan be duly evaluated and updated with the close participation of all stakeholders, including local communities, and that it include issues related to disaster preparedness, population increase on the island, continued strengthening of the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island (GACIM), coordination between various institutional stakeholders, and the need to promote more interaction with partners for technical assistance and fundraising;*
5. *Further notes that the State Party demarcated a revised buffer zone in 2011 but has not yet submitted it to the World Heritage Centre pending a study of the existing underwater archaeology, and urges the State Party to finalize and adopt a revised buffer zone, in conformity with Paragraph 107 of the Operational Guidelines, at the earliest opportunity;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to approve the updated legislation for the protection and conservation of heritage;*
7. *Requests the State Party to forward details of the project for the rehabilitation of the Mozambique Island Hospital and the São Lourenço Fortress, along with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project in conformity with Paragraph 110 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, about any future projects that may potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity or integrity, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of the overall building stock of the property;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

16. Historic Centre of Agadez (Niger) (C 1268)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

17. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria) (C 938)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (further consultation needed with the State Party)

19. Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (South Africa) (C 1099bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010 and January 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a proper buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Lack of a management plan (issue resolved)
- Mining activities
- Development pressure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1099/documents/>, and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Within the new buffer zone, which includes the eastward extension adopted by the Committee in 2014 (Decision **38 COM 8B.48**), the Department of Mineral Resources has published a Letter of Intention to tightly control the processing of existing mining rights and prohibiting further prospecting licenses (annexed to the report);
- The Biodiversity Offset Agreement for Vele Colliery between the management authority and the mining company has entered into force (annexed to the report);
- The approved Integrated Management Plan (IMP) was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 7 May 2013. Sufficient human resources have been secured at the management authority and key parts of the plan are being implemented: archaeological database and monitoring schedule of archaeological sites have been established, and a Collections Management policy has been developed relating to the archaeological collections dispersed from the property;
- Significant conservation work has been carried out at K2 (an archaeological site of Leopard's Kopje culture), including removal of dead trees, stabilization of the slopes of the excavation pit, work to reduce erosion on the excavation mounds, and reassessments of the site;

- The Venetia Diamond Mine, which is now outside of the buffer zone of the property, is converting from an open pit mine to an underground operation within the existing mining footprint of the mine. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposals have been provided. These indicate that the proposed changes should reduce its environmental footprint. The project will require some additional infrastructure to be constructed but these will be within the current mine boundaries;
- The current water infrastructure in the north of the property that serves the mine by pumping water from the Limpopo River will be maintained, but visual impacts have been reduced through a rehabilitation project (annexed to the State Party report) as recommended by the HIA;
- Detailed field and desk studies have been undertaken on archaeological sites in and around the Venetia mine area, and show that the sites probably date back to Iron Age but have low value. Some of these sites may require excavating in advance of development work and this has been planned for. Monitoring and mitigation reports of the archaeological sites are annexed to the State Party report;
- An Environmental Management Framework has been developed for the site in 2014, and was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 April 2016.

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

Considering the information provided by the State Party, it is recommended that the Committee commend it on issuing a notice that tightly controls the processing of existing mining rights and prohibits further prospecting licenses in the buffer zone. These restrictions as well as the Environmental Management Framework provide a comprehensive mechanism to manage the buffer zone.

While acknowledging the implementation of some key parts of the IMP, it is important to note the concerns raised on the draft Management Plan in the 2013 state of conservation report (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/1889>). These include the need for clarity on the development mentioned in the Plan, on the borders of the park, of a projected power station and a coal/gas field north of the Soutpansberg that is said to “change the character of the landscape in and around the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (MCL).”

The conservation work carried out at K2 is noted, but the State Party report provides no details on the condition surveys, how the work was carried out, who carried it out, or how it was documented. Further details are needed on the implementation of the work, including the overall rehabilitation programme of the State Party at the site in order to assess progress to respond to the Committee’s Decision **36 COM 7B.48**, which urged the State Party to protect, conserve and consolidate the archaeological evidence on the property and particularly at the K2 site, which the 2012 mission reported to be seriously deteriorated.

The proposed extension of the Venetia Diamond mine from open pit to underground operation is noted. Although it will require additional infrastructure, this will be within the footprint of the existing mine. Impact assessments have indicated that this would provide benefits relating to reduced waste, water demand, noise levels, dust pollution, and surface land disturbance.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.48, 37 COM 7B.43 and 38 COM 8B.48, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively;*
3. *Commends the State Party for the development of the Environmental Management Framework and measures adopted to control the processing of existing mining rights and to prohibit further prospecting licenses in the new buffer zone;*

4. Notes that the proposed extension of the Venetia Diamond mine from open pit to underground operation will require additional infrastructure within the footprint of the existing mine, that impact assessments have indicated that the change of process should reduce the environmental impacts of the mine, and that the water infrastructure arrangements within the property will be mitigated, and requests the State Party to continue regular monitoring of the mine activities;
5. Acknowledges that key parts of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) are being implemented, and also requests the State Party to clarify the concerns already raised in the 2013 state of conservation report related to a projected power station and a coal/gas field north of the Soutpansberg;
6. Also notes that some work has been undertaken at the K2 archaeological site, and urges the State Party to provide details of condition surveys, a rehabilitation programme, and a timescale for its implementation to the World Heritage Centre, to address the serious deterioration reported by the 2012 mission, in line with Decision **36 COM 7B.48**;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

20. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2004-2014

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1983-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 72,240

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 201,390 from the Norwegian Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO rehabilitation project.

Previous monitoring missions

February 2004: ICOMOS mission; June 2008, March 2009, and December 2013: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of approved boundaries for the property and buffer zones linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection
- Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric
- Sea wave erosion

- Theft of stone from ruins for use as building material
- Lack of functioning local consultative committee
- Lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/> and provides the following progress:

- The Land Use Plan for Songo Mnara is now in place and was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in April 2016 together with the Integrated Management Plan;
- The Land Use Plan for Kilwa Kisiwani has not been prepared owing to a change of status from village to a suburb. However, the State Party proposes to prepare either a general management plan or interim Land Use Plan and has indicated that the site is not vulnerable to destruction because of the absence of the Land Use Plan;
- The updated Management Plan is not yet finalized, but is nearing completion;
- A further five years will be required by the State Party to complete physical works to the remaining 30% of ruins, particularly Husuni Ndogo, and to control sea wave erosion. This work will require substantial international support;
- There are no plans for major works at the property other than ongoing construction of amenities at the German Rest House in Kilwa Kisiwani;

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

In view of the substantial progress made towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted in 2008 (Decision **32 COM 7A.14**), the property was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision **38 COM 7A.27**) in 2014.

Although the target benchmark of 70% of monuments being conserved has been achieved, protective works and physical conservation are continuing. In April 2016 the State Party submitted a report on works to strengthen the coastal Sea Wall on the Gereza Fort in Kilwa Kisiwani, and to protect the structure from destructive wave action. This work was supported by funding from UNESCO in response to an International Assistance Request.

However, a number of actions and programmes identified in the report of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission which occurred in December 2013 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/>) are still required to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is preserved. These include:

- definition of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones;
- finalization and completion of the updated Management Plan;
- formulation of a draft Sustainable Tourism Development Plan;
- finalization of the Land Use Plan for Kilwa Kisiwani.

In addition, the current management structure of the property should continue to be maintained and supported and additional resources are required to ensure the sustainability of conservation and maintenance interventions. It is important that the momentum and achievements over the last decade be continued, so that the OUV of the property is conserved.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*

2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7A.22** and **38 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in responding to the previous recommendations of the Committee and in meeting the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), following such removal in 2014;*
4. *Congratulates the State Party on the continuing programme of protective and physical conservation works at the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to finalize the process for establishing the boundaries of the property, its buffer zones and their regulatory measures and submit, by **1 December 2017**, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance to Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to finalize and submit, by **1 December 2017**, the updated Management Plan and completed Land Use Plan for Kilwa Kisiwani, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,*
7. *Further requests the State Party to implement the full set of recommendations of the December 2013 mission;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

ARAB STATES

22. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1991-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 81,450

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for the Sphinx of Giza,
Special Account for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Egypt: USD 2,203,304 dollars for the development of the management plans for the World Heritage sites of Historic Cairo, Memphis and Luxor

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001, November 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, July 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Growing number of visitors (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled development of the nearby village (issue resolved)
- Deterioration of the stones (issue resolved)
- Road construction project (issue resolved)
- Tunnel construction project (issue resolved)
- Urban encroachment
- Infrastructure and tourism developments
- Development and Urban Infrastructure projects (Ring Road project)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents/>, as a response to the World Heritage Committee's Decision **31 COM 7B.61**.

The report provides information about conservation and development projects for the archaeological sites on the Giza Plateau and in the Saqarra and Mit Rahina areas, including a list of the national institutions and international organizations involved.

Due to the unrest of 2011 and financial constraints, the implementation of projects has been delayed and conservation activities and excavation works have stopped, giving priority to the protection of archeological sites and related storages.

Conservation was resumed slowly in 2012-2013, and the Ministry of Antiquities had to face the issue of illegal constructions that emerged during the period of unrest. As the situation stabilized in 2014, development projects for the enhancement and protection of the property resumed and committees have been established for their implementation.

Finally, the report indicates that the management plan for the entire site should be sent to the World Heritage Centre in 2016.

Due to longstanding and evolving major urban growth issues in the Cairo Megalopolis, the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission between 27 and 30 July 2015, to address the protection of the property in the face of development pressures, the growing traffic around the property, and to examine alternative solutions. The report of the Advisory mission is accessible at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents>.

Some of the issues considered by the mission date back to the beginning of the 1990s, when urban encroachment had taken place and construction works had been begun to connect the Cairo Ring Road to the south of the Giza Plateau with a road across the World Heritage property. In 1995, the project was halted as a result of local pressure and in response to the recommendation **19 BUR VI.22** of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (Berlin, 1995). In 1998, an Agreement signed between UNESCO and the Egyptian Government, reaffirmed the importance of preventing any encroachment upon the property, including from highways, roads, water supply pipes and buildings. In 2001, a World Heritage Centre mission reported that uncontrolled urban encroachment and the potential resumption of the Ring Road were threatening the integrity of the site.

This issue has been subject to reporting at several Committee sessions in 1998, 1999, 2002 and 2005. At the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007), the State Party announced the reactivation of the Ring Road project to cross the Pyramid Plateau in the property; the World Heritage Committee reiterated "its previous decisions requesting the abandonment of the Ring Road project, tunnel or trench, crossing the Pyramid Plateau of Giza" and requested "the State Party to officially confirm this cancellation" (Decision **31 COM 7B.61**).

In addition, on 12 April, the State Party submitted a document entitled Ring road (Mansouria Axis, - Cairo Fayoum) that provides the General layout of an open tunnel. On 29 March 2016, it submitted a technical report on the impact on the air quality of the Plateau Area for the proposed construction across the property of a 6 kilometre, eight lane, road cutting (referred to as an open tunnel) called the Mansouria Axis – Cairo Fayoum Ring road. It concluded that although current air pollution is below limits established by law, the construction of the proposed road cutting would further decrease concentration of air pollutants.

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

The delays in the implementation of conservation projects and the preparation of a Management Plan for the property have hindered the efficacy of measures for holistic conservation of the property and its setting.

The mission examined in detail the urban encroachment and traffic growth in the Cairo Megalopolis and the related future prospects. It noted that the alternative routes to the Ring Road, which were recommended by the World Heritage Committee in 1995 (namely through the Maryoutiyah and Mansouriyah canals), as well as an alternative motorway bypass to the north of the Giza Plateau, linking the existing Ring Road, the 6th of October City and the road to Alexandria, have been implemented by the State Party. However, they are no longer sufficient to address the fast-growing traffic volume.

The State Party informed the mission about urban development plans, the potential evolution of traffic in the larger area surrounding the property, and several urban and traffic projects such as the metro. The State Party requested the mission to reconsider the former Ring Road project in view of the growing development pressures in the Cairo Megalopolis; moreover, it informed the mission that the Ring Road would allow access to the Great Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), currently under construction.

After discussion with the Egyptian authorities, the mission produced the following recommendations which were discussed with the State Party on site:

- Clearly establish a buffer zone and define the wider setting of the property, based on planning studies of the adjacent area, and establish acute urban controls to define the limits of

development around the entirety of the World Heritage property and allow for the Pyramids to remain as the predominant element of the landscape, as well as ensure the long-term protection around the entire perimeter of the World Heritage property.

- Establish clear property boundaries, with masonry walls or other forms, to define the limits of the World Heritage property and deter further encroachment.
- Address the removal of buildings, including the existing large military compound, and informal settlement encroachment within the property boundaries adjacent to the Giza Pyramids and at the east Ring Road entry zone.
- Urgently finalize the preparation and adoption of a detailed, well-integrated Management Plan that includes, in addition to conservation and maintenance measures, regulations for the buffer zone and wider setting, visitor management including the planned Great Egyptian Museum, and provisions to revisit traffic projections to manage vehicular access routes as well as other urban issues. Proposals for future development should take into account the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape.
- Remove contaminated fill materials, brought in along the proposed crossing route, from the property.
- If no other available road options exists outside the property, and, if necessary, any crossing of the World Heritage property by the Cairo Ring Road should be done by means of an underground tunnel, which is the only acceptable solution that would allow for the preservation of the integrity of the World Heritage property and its cultural landscape, and would prevent further illegal and informal urban encroachments. Any other mode of crossing should be rejected. If the underground tunnel option is explored, its width, within the context of the current and projected traffic and the extension of the metro, and the entry points should be studied again. Plans should also be made for the removal of large power transmission line from the Giza Plateau currently entering near the proposed west tunnel terminus to explore the placement of the transmission lines underground as a component of tunnel.

It is acknowledged that the State Party is seeking a viable solution that protects the property, while addressing the uncontrolled growing development pressure in the Cairo Megalopolis. However, an informed World Heritage Committee decision on the issue of traffic management and urban growth of the area can only be taken if the State Party provides the following documents, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before any works are approved:

- Detailed traffic management study and plan,
- Detailed preliminary design development plans for any proposed underground tunnel projects inside the property or road projects in its vicinity, as well as related Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and results from remote sensing and physical investigations of potential archaeological remains in the area concerned by the tunnel or roads.

The air quality report for the proposed 6 km, eight lane, road cutting (referred to as an open tunnel) called the Mansouris Axis – Cairo Fayoum Ring road was submitted without any further details of the project across the property to which it referred. It is understood that the State Party intends to provide further details in the near future. The World Heritage Committee might like to acknowledge that the proposals for an open road cutting across the property are not in line with the recommendations of the mission which were discussed with the State Party on site.

Moreover, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, it is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed urban and architectural developments surrounding the Giza Plateau that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,

1. *Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.50**, **29 COM 7B.45** and **31 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,*
2. *Notes the delays in the implementation of conservation projects at the property, and the State Party's intention to submit shortly a Management Plan for the property; and urges the State Party to submit a detailed, integrated Management Plan taking into account the July 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission recommendations;*
3. *Also urges the State Party to complete the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
4. *Further urges the State Party to define the buffer zone for the property and submit a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, in accordance to Paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, and define the immediate and wider setting to further protect the integrity of the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to remove the fill materials from the World Heritage property and refrain from further use of the property for solid waste purposes;*
6. *Takes notes with great concern of the rapid and intense urban growth of the Cairo Megalopolis and its related urban encroachment and traffic pressure that affect the property;*
7. *Also takes note that the alternative routes to the Ring Road to the North of the Giza Plateau and through the Maryoutiyah and Mansouriyah canals, developed by the State Party as recommended by the World Heritage Committee at its 19th session (Berlin, 1995), are no longer sufficient to address the traffic needs of the area surrounding the property, and that the State Party is seeking a viable traffic solution protecting the property while addressing the growing development pressures in the Cairo Megalopolis;*
8. *Further takes note of the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission, that an underground tunnel is the only acceptable solution for a road crossing the property, and requests the State Party, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and before any irreversible decisions on road projects are made, the following documents:*
 - a) *a detailed traffic management study and plan of the area,*
 - b) *any projects for an underground tunnel inside the property or other road projects in its vicinity,*
 - c) *a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for all of the above, including remote sensing and physical investigations of potential archaeological remains;*
9. *Notes the document on the proposed road cutting (referred to as an open tunnel) called the Mansouris Axis – Cairo Fayoum Ring road, and the related air quality report, submitted by the State Party, and acknowledges that proposals for an open road cutting across the property are not in line with the recommendations of the mission, as discussed with the State Party on site, and could have a major, irreversible adverse impact on the OUV of the property;*

10. *Also requests the State Party to provide information of urban or architectural developments that could potentially affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, 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 41st session in 2017.*

23. Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C 1437)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted in the framework of the Kurdistan Regional Government Funds-In-Trust:

- The Revitalization of the Citadel of Erbil Phase I project: USD 1,510,444
- The Revitalization of the Citadel of Erbil Phase II project: USD 12,837,347
- Management of the Buffer Area of Erbil Citadel project: USD 338,208

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Lack of survey, documentation and mapping of surviving surface buried archaeological remains of all types
- Slopes of the archaeological mound non stabilized
- Location and/or architectural design of the Kurdistan National Museum not appropriate
- Existing legal framework needs to be improved
- Insufficient involvement of former inhabitants and of Erbil's civil society in the revitalization of the Citadel

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/documents/> and provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations adopted at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. The State Party noted the following:

- Survey, documentation and mapping of buried archaeological remains have been carried out by using integrated investigation methods, including non-invasive prospections and test archaeological excavations. The results confirm the depth and antiquity of the subsurface vestiges. Three phases were found – a more recent phase, dating back to 1000 AD, an earlier

one, dating back to the 9th - 7th centuries BC, and an intermediate destruction layer, dating to the 2nd century AD and presumably coinciding with a Roman campaign against Erbil;

- A preliminary study for the stabilisation of the Erbil Citadel slope and perimeter façades has been elaborated. The aggravation of the situation in Iraq prevented the beginning of the stabilisation programme, however emergency works have been carried out where needed (twelve houses along the slope's perimeter have undergone extensive conservation interventions through actions implemented by the UNESCO Office for Iraq and emergency repair and stabilisation interventions implemented by the High Commission for the Erbil Citadel Revitalization - HCECR);
- The implementation of the Kurdistan Museum project is currently halted;
- Efforts undertaken to attract private investors have been delayed due to the increased instability in the region and subsequent financial crisis. A strategy is being elaborated with the assistance of the UNESCO Office for Iraq to facilitate public/private partnership when the situation will be favourable;
- The improvement of the legal framework for attracting private investors was initiated within the framework of the development of the Management Plan and system that was established with the assistance of the UNESCO Office for Iraq;
- Improving the involvement and participation of the local community in the Citadel revitalisation process has been pursued by allocating several houses to local NGOs active in multicultural activities. The Erbil Citadel Friendship Association, aiming at raising awareness and sustaining public participation, is being established, the Citadel Cultural Centre has been inaugurated and a joint committee established, involving the HCECR and civil society to manage the Centre's activities.

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

The resolved commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property should be noted. All of the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription in 2014 (surveying, documenting and mapping surviving surface and buried archaeological remains; proceeding with the stabilization of the mound slope; reconsidering the location of the Kurdistan Museum; elaborating a strategy to attract private investors and favoring public/private partnership; undertaking juridical studies so as to improve the existing legal framework for private investment and strengthening the involvement and participation of local community to the Citadel revitalization in spite of the unstable situation) have been acted upon and in most cases, with significant achievements, despite the increasingly unstable situation in the region and the consequent financial crisis. The State Party has made progress in all areas to the extent feasible in relation to the current situation, strategizing and modulating its action on the grounds of the viable options and with a view to a future improved situation.

Archaeological prospections and investigations have been carried out with rewarding results which confirm the antiquity and multilayered nature of the archaeological structures buried in the mound: they are planned to be published in 2016.

The instability in the region and the subsequent economic crisis have prevented the execution out of the elaborated comprehensive stabilization study for the Citadel slope and the perimeter façades that was carried out through the assistance of the UNESCO Office for Iraq. The study and related plan of action was supposed to address the stabilisation of the slope in a holistic manner and according to a prioritized plan. Nevertheless, several interventions have been carried out at buildings along the slope that are in urgent need of stabilization. Some of these were conducted with a complete conservation intervention of the whole building, such as through actions carried out by the UNESCO Office for Iraq on 12 buildings. Others have dealt with emergency maintenance and consolidation of façades carried out by the HCECR. The implementation of these interventions continues. The structural conditions of the several buildings along the Citadel slope remain therefore vulnerable and in need of intervention. Continuing prioritization for stabilization works is essential so as to undertake the indispensable actions when and where needed or urgent.

An array of activities have been initiated to guarantee that local community involvement and participation is reinforced and to bring back social life in the Citadel. Mutual cooperation among the NGOs, associations and Citadel Cultural Centre committee will be essential to rebuild the necessary

synergies. Favouring permanent residence in the Citadel can also contribute to recreating its social fabric.

In light of the progress made by the State Party, it is considered that the main concerns of the World Heritage Committee at the time of the property's inscription are currently being satisfactorily addressed. However, taking into consideration the increasing instability in the region, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue with the implementation of all relevant measures and plans, where feasible, in order to prevent and to limit the threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.20**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the actions undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of the property's inscription;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to continue with the implementation of the measures and activities already undertaken, so as to prevent and to limit the threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

25. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) (C 287)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

26. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1988-2004

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1988-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 66,772

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 25,000 (private funding)

Previous monitoring missions

2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003: World Heritage Centre expert missions; December 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Use of inappropriate conservation techniques
- Urban pressure
- Lack of a management plan and appropriate legislation
- Housing
- Legal framework
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Deterioration of the earthen structures of the Fort

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/433/documents/>. Of the three elements requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **38 COM 7B.4**, only information on the results of the monitoring of the aging characteristics of the different brick types used at the property has been provided. Neither the finalized version of the Management Plan nor a request for a minor boundary modification aiming at enlarging the buffer zone has been submitted.

Nevertheless, the report contains information on a number of actions undertaken in relation to the conservation and management of the property:

- An expert has been commissioned to prepare the legal tool that will support implementation of the Management Plan;
- Four studies have been conducted: one on the development of the Al Auqr, Al Hawiyah and Al Ghuzaily settlements; two (one anthropological and the other archaeological) on the market (souk); and one on the restoration of the Wall of Bahla (Sur);
- A comprehensive Conservation Master Plan for the property has been developed;
- Conservation and restoration works have been undertaken for the Bahla Market – Souk, Sabah Salem Gate, Mausoleum of Shaikh Bin Baraka and Alkhair mosque;
- Cultural and scientific activities have been implemented for promotion and awareness-raising.

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

Although the State Party has not yet submitted the requested finalized version of the Management Plan nor a request for a minor boundary modification, important efforts seem to have been made to improve the management and conservation of the property. The four studies carried out are important sources of knowledge from the archaeological and historical points of view, while the conservation and restoration works appear to be based on rigorous scientific grounds and respond to urgent conservation needs. However, the rationale of the initiative to develop a Conservation Master Plan is not clear, nor is the latter's link to the requested finalized Management Plan. The objectives of this initiative should be explained and its potential impact on the overall conservation and management of the property evaluated. Furthermore, the articulation between the conservation, management and research initiatives undertaken by the State Party is not specified, hence there are some difficulties in understanding how these have been planned and prioritized. Finally, the fact that the request for a minor boundary modification to enlarge the buffer zone has still not been submitted raises some concern.

As regards the actions reported by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM are of the view that:

- The study for the development of the Al Auqr, Al Hawiyah and Al Ghuzaily settlements is an interesting initiative in terms of the local communities' involvement and tourism development. More information on this initiative, as well as on its impact on the property is nevertheless required, notably to indicate it on a map showing the property's boundaries and buffer zone. Furthermore, it would be useful to understand whether the "Heritage Management Plan of the al-Aqar settlement" project (mentioned in the State Party's January 2014 report) was changed in order to integrate the two settlements of Al Hawiyah and Al Ghuzaily;
- The anthropological study for the Market (Souk), focusing on the intangible values of the property, is also a positive initiative, but its link to other actions is not clear. This link needs to be addressed;
- The link between the archeological study of the Bahla Market (Souk) and the project entitled "Rehabilitating and Refurbishing the Old Souq at Bahla: From Study to Reinstatement" should be clarified;
- Concerning the study for the restoration of the Wall of Bahla (Sur), which has a full diagnosis of the actual physical state of the wall and an examination of the current problems, it is essential to define the endangered parts so that the restoration works can commence in a timely manner. However, it is necessary for the State Party to submit the proposed restoration scheme to the World Heritage Centre before addressing the issues raised by the diagnosis;
- The pilot restoration project for the Bahla Market (Souk), which has been partly implemented with several components already accomplished (including major interventions on roofs, paving, etc.), needs to be evaluated, notably concerning the question of authenticity;
- The restoration of the Sabah Salem Gate represents good progress in the conservation of the property, but more details on the works and choices made in terms of restoration principles need to be provided in order to allow a better assessment of the result;
- Additional information should be provided on the restoration of the Mausoleum of Shaikh Bin Baraka and the Alkhair mosque, particularly as regards the announced reconstruction of the walls and dome of the mausoleum.

Concerning the results already obtained about monitoring the aging characteristics of different brick types, additional information about the monitoring mechanism used would help to understand these results and to assess the further application of this mechanism.

In conclusion, while acknowledging the important efforts made by the State Party to ensure the adequate conservation of the property, it is essential to have a global picture of recent and future interventions at the property. Because of the potential impact these development projects may have on the authenticity of the property, it is recommended that the Committee request a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be organized at the State Party's earliest convenience.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the State Party for the important actions undertaken to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of the property;
4. Regrets that neither the finalized version of the Management Plan nor a request for a minor boundary modification to enlarge the buffer zone have been submitted;
5. Urges the State Party to submit the finalized version of the Management Plan, including the legal framework that will support its implementation, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and based on Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a document summarizing the conservation and management actions already undertaken and planned at the property, and showing the articulation between them and with the finalized version of the Management Plan;
7. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property as soon as possible;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2017**, a request for a minor boundary modification in view of enlarging the buffer zone, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

27. Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia) (C 1361)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management system not in place
- Projects and development work with the potential to impact the authenticity of the property
- High rate of decay of the historic houses

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 November 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents>. It provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations adopted by the Committee at the time of the property's inscription on the World Heritage List, which included the following: establish the proposed management system, ensure effective presentation of the property, pay attention to material authenticity in ongoing conservation projects, reinforce the monitoring system for buildings, continue with community engagement, develop a database of all attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and elaborate a comprehensive conservation strategy. The State Party reported on the following:

- Approval of the new Saudi Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law in July 2014, immediately after inscription and reformation of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and national Heritage (SCTH);
- Preparation, approval and enforcement since 2015 of new Historic Jeddah Building Regulation and Bylaws, which is the official tool for management, restoration and construction within the property and its buffer zone, and new regulations for shop fronts;
- Reinforced coordination and monitoring mechanisms between the activities of SCTH and Historic Jeddah Municipality have been established;
- Complete reorganisation of the structure of Historic Jeddah Municipality;
- Completion of the inventory of all historic buildings within the property and of their condition;
- Launch of several projects: large-scale street repaving, renovation of the central souqs, rehabilitation and restoration of buildings and mosques within the property and the buffer zone;
- Community and grassroots initiatives progressively expanded under the coordination of the *Umdah* and thus contributing to the locals' sensitisation and to improving perceptions towards Historic Jeddah;
- Development of a training programme for traditional Saudi handicrafts and construction skills.

The State Party concludes that, although much still needs to be done, the property's inscription on the World Heritage List highly contributed to a change of approach at a political and social level, placing the urban and built heritage of Jeddah at the centre of urban policies.

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

The strong commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property should be noted, as well as the fact that work has been undertaken on most of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2014

It should be noted that the State Party has successfully made progress in various areas: namely the reinforcement of the legal and regulatory framework through the approval of the new Saudi Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law and of the Historic Jeddah Building Regulation and Bylaws; the strengthening of the management system with the involvement of international conservation experts within the SCTH staff and the reorganisation of the Historic Jeddah Municipality with the creation of 8 sub-zones for management purposes; the improvement of bidding regulations, now based on the most

economically advantageous bid instead of the cheapest price; the setting up of clear intervention priorities, and cultural initiatives to stimulate public participation and to improve the attractiveness of Historic Jeddah.

The completion of the inventory of the historic buildings within the property and the buffer zone has allowed the identification of 608 historic buildings, of which 156 were not counted in the 1980s inventory. This work has also highlighted the advanced state of decay of several buildings (52 in bad condition and 38 collapsing) and revealed that 115 have collapsed since the first survey in the 1980s. What has so far not been undertaken is a detailed database of the attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, such as the tower houses, other urban houses, the *wikalas*, mosques and *Zawiyas* (and not just the protected historic buildings) and the spatial patterns of urban forms and defined urban quarters.

The State Party has already undertaken important steps in order to address the most urgent cases, to ensure the retention of surviving structures and to change the perception towards the historic built heritage of Jeddah. Several renovation, rehabilitation and restoration projects have been or are being completed and many others are scheduled or envisaged, some of which to be carried out by the private sector.

However the seriousness of the situation requires additional efforts to develop a detailed conservation strategy, encompassing legal, financial, planning and technical measures to prevent further losses, to stabilise the buildings in precarious condition and eventually to reverse the trend.

Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) carried out in accordance with the ICOMOS *Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties* for the projects mentioned in the report would assist the State Party in achieving the primary goal of sustaining the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the authenticity of its attributes, while enhancing its overall integrity and revitalising its social fabric.

The measures undertaken demonstrate the commitment of the State Party in ensuring the conservation and revitalisation of Historic Jeddah. Further measures are needed to strengthen this work, such as the development of detailed attributes of OUV and a conservation strategy with a timeline for reaching a position that has reversed the downward conservation trend. Furthermore, the integration of an urban approach into this processes to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of the property, especially the creation of the eight sub-zones, would ensure that the urban spaces which link the different buildings to each other be managed from a heritage perspective and in an integrated manner. This approach would contribute to the reinforcement of the protection of the attributes which carry the OUV.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.21**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the significant achievements in many key areas for the effective protection, conservation and management of the property in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations of 2014;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to set out a detailed database of the attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, such as the tower houses, other urban houses, the *wikalas*, mosques and *Zawiyas* (and not just the protected historic buildings) as well as the spatial patterns of urban forms and defined urban quarters;*
5. *Recommends that the State Party continue its efforts through the elaboration of a comprehensive conservation strategy based on legal, financial, planning and technical measures that aims to achieve a position where the downward conservation trend has*

been reversed; and also encourages the involvement of owners, residents and the private sector in its implementation; and to submit this document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also recommends that the urban and spatial dimension of the property be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted to ensure the conservation of the latter; using if necessary the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011);
7. Further recommends that the State Party incorporate a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) approach into the regulatory and management framework and to carry out specific HIAs for all projects that may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017** 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 42nd session in 2018.

28. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

29. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia) (C 37)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(ii)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2014: Joint World Heritage Center/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Project to raise up the Yuzhen Palace at the property
- Requirement for a living heritage management approach
- Tourism development has begun to reach a critical mass

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

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/documents/>, presenting progress on a number of areas addressed by the Committee in its 38th session:

- There are a number of design issues for the new earthwork platform at the Yuzhen Palace. In regard to the final shape of the platform, two proposals are put forward: to fill the narrow water channels surrounding the “peninsula” with aquatic plants or to infill these narrow channels with earth to form a more natural shoreline;
- In regard to the archaeological remains that were temporarily removed during the construction of the platform, three options were initially provided: the creation of an underground museum space, the placement of the remains at the surface with individual shelters, and the consolidation and conservation of the remains, adding material where necessary to ensure conservation. The third option has been adopted;
- A draft Protection and Management Plan for the property has been prepared and was discussed at a meeting in October 2015 where recommendations were made for improvements in regard to stakeholder involvement, tourism management, reform of the management framework, and monitoring. The draft plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- Some measures are being taken to protect the property using a cultural landscape approach. The entire Wudang Mountains is designated a National Scenic Area, National Geopark, and National Forest Park, with various restrictions and protection requirements related to different

agencies concerned. Work has also been undertaken for reforestation and some structures with negative impacts have been demolished. The promotion of living heritage is also occurring;

- In regard to the definition of the property itself (in particular the number of component parts) and the buffer zones, the State Party maintains that there are 49 component parts to the property, while the approved Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) indicates 62. Furthermore, it indicates that the buffer zone is constituted by small zones around each component part, rather than by the entire Wudang Mountains Scenic Area;
- In regard to tourism management, a number of steps have been taken to ensure that the number of tourists do not exceed the carrying capacity of the property, including limiting vehicular traffic, limiting the number of tourists at the Golden Hall, and encouraging tourism at the lesser known parts of the serial property.

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

The remaining work at the Yuzhen Palace must wait for the appropriate water levels to be reached in the reservoir. In the meantime, there are a number of design decisions that must be taken in accordance with the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission.

The most appropriate solution for the final shape of the platform will be to adopt the second proposal to infill the narrow channels to form a more natural shoreline. The 2014 mission did not find an ideal solution for the repositioning of the archaeological remains, but recommended, with reservation, that they be reinstalled at the new grade level. The solution currently being proposed by the State Party is in line with the recommendation for the second proposal. It will be important, however, that interpretation and presentation for visitors explains that these remains are an archaeological display of the ruins rather than the authentic position of the remains. In fact, the presentation of Yuzhen Palace in its entirety should be done in a way that visitors understand the changes that the property has undergone as part of the uplift project.

It is acknowledged that a draft of the Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains has been completed and is currently being improved, based on the comments of Chinese experts. The Advisory Bodies will provide comments separately to help the State Party as the management plan moves towards completion. It will be very important, however, that the management of the property, as a cultural landscape, and the promotion of living heritage remain important aspects of the final management system. This will require close collaboration with the other management authorities responsible for the National Scenic Area, National Geopark, and National Forest Park, as well as local authorities, to ensure that the property is treated consistently across all applicable planning and decision-making processes.

Tourism management will also remain a challenge for the State Party, given the large number of tourists at certain times of the year, and the limited carrying capacity. The steps taken by the State Party are acknowledged, but a strong, long-term programme of monitoring of visitor numbers and their impact should be undertaken to ensure that the property does not suffer negative impacts from the large numbers of visitors over time.

Finally, there remains a serious issue in regard to a common understanding of the number of components of the property and its buffer zone. In regard to the buffer zone, it is emphasized that the ICOMOS Evaluation report states that “*The nomination dossier was unclear as to exactly what was being proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List. This was, however, clarified by a map supplied by the Chinese authorities, showing the individual monuments identified to constitute the proposed World Heritage property, the buffer zone being the protected area of the Park (Scenic Area)*”. The report of the 18th session of the Committee (Phuket, 1994) notes no discussion or change to the ICOMOS report at the time of inscription. On 11 December 2013, the World Heritage Centre had sent a letter to the State Party (Ref CLT/WHC/PSM/13/CM/440), asking it to revise the serial nomination table as well as the clarification map, due to missing information on the buffer zone. No response has been received yet at the time of writing this report. Both issues of the buffer zone and the exact components of the property should be addressed between representatives of the State Party, the World Heritage Centre, and the Advisory Bodies at the earliest convenience. A final agreement on both issues should be then presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Takes note of the ongoing work and remaining design issues for the Yuzhen Palace uplift project, as well as the ongoing work on the management plan and other management issues;
4. Requests the State Party to adopt the second proposal for the final shape of the platform, infilling the small channels to form a more natural shoreline;
5. Endorses the proposal to reinstall the archaeological remains at the new grade level as outlined in the State Party report, but also requests the State Party to ensure that interpretation and presentation of these remains and the entire Yezhen Palace complex should occur in a way that allows visitors to understand the changes that the property has undergone as part of the uplift project;
6. Notes that the State Party has submitted a draft of the Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains, and further requests the State Party to finalize this plan, with a focus on promotion of living heritage, and a strengthened cultural landscape approach, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to institute a strong, long-term programme of monitoring of visitor management, including not only the number of visitors, but also any impacts that visitors may be having, particularly on the more sensitive areas of the property;
8. Regretting that the State Party has not yet responded to the December 2013 letter of the World Heritage Centre seeking clarification on the components of the property and its buffer zone, urges the State Party to address this matter with representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in order to reach a final agreement which, if necessary, should be presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

31. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994, extension in 2000, 2001

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/assistance>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; April 2003: UNESCO/ICOMOS expert mission; May 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Uncontrolled urban development and expansion of tourism-related facilities in and adjacent to the boundary of the property
- Negative impact of the rehabilitation projects on the protection of the traditional urban tissue of the historic centre

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out in April 2015 (the mission report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents>). On 25 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report; a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents>.

Progress made in addressing the concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee is mentioned as follows in both of these reports:

- Measures have been implemented to mitigate the impact of the Shenli Mall on the visual qualities of the corridor between Jokhang Temple and the Potala Palace, including the dismantling of the whole glasshouse on top of the mall and the renovation of the façade in traditional Tibetan architectural style;
- Conservation and restoration projects are continuously being implemented and Cultural Heritage Conservation Plans (CHCP) are in the process of finalisation for the three component parts of the property. These are scheduled to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by mid-June 2016;
- Management capacities have been strengthened through the creation of specialised units at the local level and through the allocation of required resources;
- To address pressures arising from the increase in population, the demands for social development and the improvement of living conditions, as well as the increase in tourism, the State Party has listed other significant heritage areas and developed a series of regulatory measures to protect the inscribed component parts of the property, their buffer zones and their historic environment. These include the promulgation, in November 2015, of the Regulations of the Tibet Autonomous Region on the Protection on the Potala Palace Cultural Heritage and the

Development of the Urban Comprehensive Plan of Lhasa. No timeframe for the completion of the Urban Plan has been provided;

- Coordinated measures have been implemented for visitor management and to accommodate both tourism and religious practices.

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

Overall, the property is in a good state of conservation and restoration projects are continuously being implemented to address the vulnerability of the fabric of the component parts. Prevention measures against fires, a high disaster risk, are in place, along with additional monitoring of the soil erosion and bedrock conditions of the main Palace; measures are in place to anticipate potential structural stability issues. The finalisation and approval of the CHCP will be crucial to have a precise roadmap to address long-term challenges, but also to identify an overarching conservation philosophy for the three component parts of the property.

The efforts made to protect traditional building techniques and ensure the involvement of artists and craftsmen from the region are particularly noteworthy and showcase the importance of promoting traditional knowledge systems to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The conservation plans should make provisions to ensure that these practices are continued and fully integrated into the management arrangements.

Regulatory measures and implemented projects such as the Old Town Protection Project are essential to improve the current condition in the buffer zones of both the component parts and their wider setting. Furthermore, strong enforcement of the regulatory measures is needed, given the rate and extent of development currently being experienced at Lhasa. Clear provisions are needed regarding acceptable heights, visual qualities, façades, and roofs, among other aspects. As recommended by the 2015 reactive monitoring mission, the Urban Master Plan should take these aspects into account and promote the spatial linkages and visual corridors between the component parts, the historical context and the wider setting that give Lhasa its unique character. Additionally, care should be exercised in maintaining the traditional urban structure and layout in the buffer zone. The Urban Plan can also be complemented with a Cultural Environment Management Plan to provide complementary measures. Development proposals should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and attention should be paid to historically important archaeological sites. A coordinated development permit system should be in place to ensure the adequate enforcement of existing regulations; these aspects need to be further defined in the Urban Plan for the property, which will be developed and adopted by all stakeholders and management entities to avoid situations such as the telegraph tower which impacts the visual characteristics and predominance of this Palace on the landscape.

Furthermore, the sacred context of Lhasa, which is still a significant pilgrimage area, needs to be thoroughly articulated within the management arrangements for the property. This may potentially entail compromises with the increased tourism demands, but this essential attribute of the property warrants particular attention.

Finally, in accordance with Decision **33 COM 8B.47** (Seville, 2009), the State Party was requested to resubmit a boundary modification proposal for the delineation of buffer zones for the three components of the property, in order to align them with the boundaries defined at the time of inscription. The State Party was also requested to provide scaled maps and details of height restrictions for the three buffer zones, taking into account the protected perspectives. On 28 March 2014, the State Party confirmed that they would define the three buffer zone boundaries as inscribed in 1994, 2000 and 2001 respectively. Scaled maps need to be provided through the formal boundary clarification process, together with details of regulations for height restrictions.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,

2. *Recalling Decisions **33 COM 8B.47**, **35 COM 7B.65** and **38 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the measures taken to mitigate the impact of the Shenli Mall on the visual qualities of the corridor between Jokhang Temple and the Potala Palace, including the dismantling of whole glasshouse on top of the mall and the renovation of the façade in traditional Tibetan architectural style;*
4. *Noting the conservation actions currently being implemented at the property, commends the State Party for the efforts made to integrate traditional knowledge systems and craftsmanship in conservation works and encourages the formal integration of this approach in conservation and management arrangements for the property;*
5. *Also notes that Cultural Heritage Conservation Plans (CHCP) for the three component parts of the property and the Urban Master Plan for Lhasa are being developed and reiterates its request that copies of these documents, with a synthesis in English, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to their finalization and approval, for review by the Advisory Bodies ;*
6. *Takes note of the outcomes of the April 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and urges the State Party to take into account and implement the following recommendations:*
 - a) *Include provisions in the CHCP for the Potala Palace to continue the monitoring of soil erosion and bedrock conditions and to identify any measures required to anticipate potential structural stability issues,*
 - b) *Include provisions in the Urban Master Plan to maintain the spatial linkages and visual corridors between the component parts of the property, their historical context and wider setting, and to promote and maintain the traditional urban structure and layout of the buffer zones. This should include, but should not be limited to, regulations regarding acceptable heights, visual qualities, façades and roofs,*
 - c) *Include mechanisms in the Urban Master Plan for the approval of development projects, including requirements for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), archaeological excavations (where relevant) and the creation of a coordinated permit system,*
 - d) *Ensure that the sacred character and pilgrimage use of Lhasa is fully articulated with the management arrangements for the property,*
 - e) *If necessary, develop a Cultural Environment Management Plan to provide complementary measures for the Urban Master Plan,*
 - f) *Explore alternative locations for the telegraph tower that currently impacts the visual qualities and predominance of the Potala Palace in the landscape;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide, following the procedure for boundary clarifications outlined in the Operational Guidelines, scaled maps of the buffer zones for the three component parts of the property, in line with the boundaries approved at the time of inscription, along with details of height restrictions within the buffer zones, as requested by Decision **33 COM 8B.47**;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2014: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (issue resolved)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Redevelopment of traditional housing
- Housing

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

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/704/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- No construction has been carried out following demolition of the buffer zone's Ancient Panchi Pond area in 2013, which was undertaken to improve the living conditions of its residents. The suspension of the reconstruction project has had a negative impact on the public credibility of the local government;
- A State Party evaluation made before demolition indicated that most of the 13.34ha area's 588 households were built after the 1970s, and one-third were in a dilapidated condition. Five buildings were identified as having historical value and were saved from demolition;
- The *Conservation Planning* document was approved on 24 November 2014 and has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as Annex III of the current State Party report;
- The *Detailed Planning and Building Scheme* for this area, revised in July 2015 to ensure its compliance with the *Conservation Planning* document, has been approved by the departments of cultural heritage of Shandong province, and has been submitted to China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage for examination, as well as to the World Heritage Centre as Annex I of the current State Party report;
- A third-party Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (August 2015), appended to the current State Party report as Annex II, concludes that the reconstruction of the Ancient Panchi Pond area,

located about 500 m from the Temple of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion components of the property, will have no negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

In addition, the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission that visited the property from 9-12 December 2014 observed, *inter alia*, the lack of a specific management plan for the property and its buffer zone that is focused on the protection of OUV and its attributes. The mission also noted an opportunity to create an overall plan for the pond area that optimizes its links to the World Heritage property and sheds light on development around the pond. The State Party maintains that there is "no connectivity between the Ancient Panchi Pond and the historical buildings and the World Heritage property."

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

As requested by the Committee, the State Party has provided information about the full scope of the Ancient Panchi Pond area project, including the *Detailed Planning and Building Scheme for Construction Project of the Ancient Panchi Pond in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage in Qufu* (July 2015), the *Conservation Planning for Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu* document, and a HIA (August 2015). These documents will help significantly in ensuring that the attributes that support the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, are appropriately protected and managed.

The State Party expresses its regret that the correct procedures for this project (planning for which began in early 2009) were not properly followed with regard to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and indicates that it has put in place measures to avoid any future misunderstandings about the process. It is imperative that the State Party continues to fully inform the Committee about all future projects that may potentially affect the OUV of this property, including its authenticity or integrity, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

Concerning the few historical buildings that remain within the area in question, the HIA's recommendation to follow the principles of "minimum intervention" and "in-situ conservation" is appropriate. As for the proposed new construction, according to the *Detailed Planning and Building Scheme* for this area, as revised in July 2015, the new buildings will largely imitate local residences of the Ming and Qing dynasties, their volume and height will not exceed that of Dacheng Hall in the Cemetery of Confucius, and the streets and lanes will remain as in the original layout. It is recommended that the State Party pay particular attention to the objective of making the features and styles of the newly constructed area compatible with that of the Temple of Confucius, the Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion. In particular, the stated intent to largely imitate local residences of the Ming and Qing dynasties should be carefully assessed in order to avoid the potential of falsifying history. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to carry out HIAs, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, as a part of all future plans for major restorations or new construction projects.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.11, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Takes note of the full scope of information provided by the State Party regarding the comprehensive redevelopment of the Ancient Panchi Pond area that is underway within the buffer zone of the property;*
4. *Also takes note with satisfaction of the submission by the State Party of the Detailed Planning and Building Scheme for Construction Project of the Ancient Panchi Pond in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage in Qufu (July 2015), the Conservation Planning for Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu document, and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (August 2015), as requested;*

5. *Urges the State Party to carry out HIAs, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as a part of all future plans for major restorations or new construction projects, and to continue to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, about any future projects that may potentially affect the OUV of the property, including its authenticity or integrity, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

33. The Grand Canal (China) (C 1443)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1443/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1443/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Need to revise the system of buffer zones and to consider the definition of priority visibility corridors in order to protect them from the potential impact of new constructions,
- Finalise the creation of the Monitoring and Archive Centre and improve the historical and archaeological knowledge of the property,
- Need to strengthen the quality of the tourism development and visitor reception plans
- Need to improve water quality

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1443/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 18 November 2015, and a summary is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1443/documents>.

The State Party recalls that the very large size of the property (31 different sites, more than 1,000 km in length of the inscribed canal), its complex history, (more than 2,000 years of hydraulic, archaeological, architectural and urban history) its living character, (transport of extremely heavy tonnage) its function as a waterway transport system from central-eastern China to the north, high tourist traffic in some areas), and its present environment, (all types of environment: rural, natural,

urban, suburban and industrial) make it a very complex property to manage and conserve. The organizational and methodological efforts carried out to improve the protection and conservation of the Grand Canal and its surroundings must be considered in this overall perspective and take into account the different levels of intervention (local, regional, national).

The management of the conservation of the Grand Canal is experiencing a series of issues which the State Party is responding to:

- ensure the hydraulic management of a heritage canal compatible with intensive use by heavy tonnage ships and the massive use of water for major populations;
- conserve a satisfactory level of water quality while attempting to improve it in various sectors;
- ensuring manageable and sustainable tourism development of the Grand Canal compatible with the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and notably its authenticity;
- improve the historical and archaeological knowledge of the Grand Canal;
- facilitate a clear identification of the major attributes of the property and their historical comprehension from both the technical and the social aspect;
- improve coordination of the management system between the different regional and local partners, to better control and preserve the approaches to the Grand Canal and to satisfactorily manage its environmental conservation;
- maintain control of the landscape aspects of the Grand Canal in its multiple environments to define and delimit them and provide effective protection.

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

In respect of the management system in place at the time of inscription of the property, and taking into account the recommendations contained in Decision **38 COM 8B.23** (Doha, 2014), it must be noted that the State Party has specifically oriented its action as follows:

- Improvement of cooperation with the regional authorities and municipalities, in particular through the Alliance for the Protection and Management of the Grand Canal, which has enabled the redefining of the buffer zones in six of the 31 components of the serial property. Moreover, this action has been the subject of a request for a minor modification of the property's boundaries, which must be examined during the present session of the World Heritage Committee (see Document WHC/16/40.COM/8B);
- The integrated monitoring system and the documentation of the property has been fully established, at both the national level as well as at the 31 components, thanks to cooperation between the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) of the State Party and the Alliance; the monitoring indicator table has been completed and controlled, to particularly take into account the environmental aspects of the property; the annual reports of the sites, as well as the statistical data concerning the monitoring of the property, which are available since 2015 and established following a unified format (see the central database: www.grand-canal.org.cn/en);
- An improved identification of the historical and archaeological signification of the constituent elements of the property is underway and is one of the work objectives of the different teams at the sites. The excavations to improve the knowledge of the Grand Canal continue and reveal new elements which have, for example, led to the extension of one of the buffer zones;
- *A Guide for the Protection and Coordination of the Landscapes of the Grand Canal* has been prepared and published to standardize and reinforce the conservation of the approaches and landscapes of the Grand Canal. It especially defines the notion of a vision corridor along the canal and proposes standard regulations for the historical constructions in urban areas;
- The preparation of a compilation of local and regional tourism reception plans will enable an improved coordination of tourist development activities and the promotion of conservation actions and the role of traditional villages and urban zones with a historical character along the Grand Canal;
- The development of a plan to improve water quality to enable a better control of pollution sources, improve the environmental conditions of the local populations through the

reinforcement of the waste water collection and treatment system, and more extensively to strengthen the control of urban pollution along the Grand Canal;

- Financial support provided by the State Party for the conservation of the property, the development of a plan to improve water quality and to the establishment of permanent and systematic monitoring of the Grand Canal have been significantly strengthened;
- The strengthening of training programmes for the Grand Canal and its attributes will enable an improved comprehension of its OUV and the capacities required for the management and monitoring staff;
- A programme of international seminars and exchanges based on research, conservation and valorization of the Grand Canal and other similar properties worldwide is ongoing.

The important efforts made by the State Party correspond closely to the recommendations contained in Decision **38 COM 8B.23** and have resulted in the improvement of the management of the property, its environment and monitoring. Therefore, it is recommended that the State Party be encouraged to continue its efforts and strengthen them in some sensitive areas such as landscape conservation in general and in urban areas in particular, water quality and the coordination of tourism development.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.23** adopted by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, and requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Continue its reflection and work for the protection of the surroundings of the Grand Canal to guarantee the sustainable maintenance of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and specifically:*
 - (i) *study whether an adjustment will be required to the buffer zones in the sectors of the property which are not affected by the request for a minor boundary modification under examination at the present session,*
 - (ii) *confirm that the regulatory standards in force for constructions apply to all the buffer zones and are effectively taken into consideration by the municipal development plans,*
 - (iii) *further develop the concept of a “visual corridor”, for example by defining priority cones of vision and protecting them, if necessary, from the negative impact of new buildings,*
 - b) *Continue the identification work concerning the historical and archaeological signification of constitutive elements of the property,*
 - c) *Inform the Committee of the effective functioning and results of the different components of the property, in particular:*
 - (i) *the monitoring system for the Grand Canal that has recently been established,*
 - (ii) *the maintenance and improvement policy for water quality in the different sectors of the property,*
 - (iii) *conservation and policy programmes for the traditional villages and urban zones of a historic character alongside the Grand Canal,*

- (iv) *tourism development and coordination programmes,*
- (v) *training programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of staff concerned with the conservation, valorisation and promotion of the property;*

4. ***Requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

34. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China / Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

35. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) (C 247rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2013

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Vulnerabilities of certain individual structures within the forts requiring short-term conservation actions (Jaisalmer, Chittorgarh and Kumbhalgarh Forts)
- Interpretation strategy for the overall ensembles of palaces, temples and fortifications
- Urban development and industrial mining activities in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents>, and provides information on the actions undertaken to implement the decisions adopted by the Committee at its 39th session:

- *Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort:* The draft recommendations of the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort are currently being circulated among the stakeholders. A one-day workshop in February/March 2016 to be held at Jaipur shall provide the necessary input from all stakeholders in order to complete this process by early to mid 2016. Until then the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains Act 1958 (amended 2010) and the Rajasthan Municipal Corporation Act 2008 form the basis of all conservation and monitoring activities.
- *Jaisalmer Fort:* The infrastructure development project, initiated in 2013, foresees the laying of underground pipe-lines for water supply and removal of waste, as well as providing electricity and conduits for cables. It has reached near completion. Unauthorized/illegal constructions within the Fort have been halted and violations are being legally pursued. Local residents are being made aware of the importance of the property through a dialogue initiated by the team preparing the Management Plan.
- *Chittorgarh Fort:* The control of mining around Chittorgarh is currently being examined by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The interim Order passed in July 2013 foresees no mining within 1km zone and permits only manual limestone and shale quarrying within the 2km zone. Heavy mining machinery is only permitted beyond the 2km zone, while blasting is strictly prohibited. No further information is available until the final verdict has been passed.
- *Kumbhalgarh Fort:* The stabilization and restoration of structures at Kumbhalgarh Fort was detailed in the nomination dossier and has been an ongoing endeavor. The State Party assures that the Fort is in a good state of conservation.

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

While the State Party's commitment to completing the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort is noted, only slow progress has been made. No further details about the content of the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort, along with sub-plans for visitor management, risk preparedness and livelihood generation for the local population, have been provided. Jaisalmer Fort is facing particular pressure as a living heritage and although assurances have been provided that unauthorized and illegal constructions are being actively prohibited and pursued, the lack of a Management Plan and guidelines for residents remains a threat to the property. The initiative by the Management Plan drafting team to commence a dialogue with residents on issues pertaining to conservation and repair is noteworthy and merits being further developed. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the importance attached to the completion of the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort and its sub-plans and request the State Party expedite its completion and to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption. Further noted is the information on the near completion of the major infrastructure works at Jaisalmer.

As for mining activities in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort, from the information provided by the State Party, it is not possible to conclude whether the mining activity has been subject to an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the technical report on the impact of mining, which was reportedly provided to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2015, has to date not been provided to the World Heritage Centre. However, should the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India decide to permit further mining, this could have an adverse impact on the setting of the property. Therefore, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide all available studies to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Finally, it is regrettable that the State Party has not provided up-to-date information, other than the reference to the documents provided with the nomination dossier, on stabilization and restoration of structures at Kumbhalgarh Fort.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.65, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. Noting with concern that, despite reassurances provided by the State Party, the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort is still in a drafting phase, requests the State Party to expedite the completion of the Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort and to submit the final draft, along with sub-plans for visitor management, risk preparedness and livelihood generation for the local population, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption;
4. Also requests the State Party to provide all available studies on the mining in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in order to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the consolidation measures undertaken and foreseen for the Kumbhalgarh Fort, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

36. Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia) (C 593)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 40,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO expert mission; January-February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Establishment of a new Management Board
- Finalization of appropriate land-use regulations facing of development pressure
- Involvement of the residents as stakeholders in property management
- Control over sand mining

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/593/documents> and provides update information on the following:

- *Legislation and regulations*: In order to further strengthen the legislations adopted since 2010, additional regulations such as the Decree on Integrated Geographical Area of Sangiran as National Level Cultural Heritage Area have been adopted. Increased cooperation among governmental, regional and local actors has been ensured through cooperation agreements signed in 2015, which includes an agreement on improved services for visitor management and conservation. The provisions for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are addressed through spatial planning regulations in both regencies of Sragen and Karanganyar.
- *Integrated Management Bureau (IMB)*: The IMB, foreseen to manage the property, is in a preparatory stage while its establishment is planned for 2016. The process for the development of an integrated management system and comprehensive management plan for Sangiran will be completed within 2016-17, resulting in a revised Master Plan for the comprehensive management of the property. The IMB will ensure active collaboration and involvement of all stakeholders and local communities in the management and conservation of the property, as well as in tourism related activities.
- *Comprehensive conservation and tourism management plans*: Through a series of workshops, factors affecting the property have been identified and form part of the management of the property. Strategies and time-bound actions to manage tourism have been identified in the tourism management plan.
- *Recommendations of missions*: Progress is reported with regard to capacity building and training of staff. The capacity building workshops have assisted in the development of the integrated management system and the development of a log-frame for management, conservation and monitoring. Increased awareness and involvement of local communities has been addressed through training activities. Further work is nevertheless required to ensure full participation of residents in site management, as well as improving regulations to control infrastructural and physical developments.
- *Illegal sand mining*: Restrictions on sand mining are ensured through regular monitoring and coordination with the local government and legally supported through the 2015 adopted Decree designating Sangiran Early Man site as National Cultural Heritage Area and the 2014 Decree designating Sangiran site as Central Java Protected Cultural Heritage Area.
- *Interpretation*: Measures have been taken to improve the interpretation of the property through Cluster Museums, providing visitors with better understanding of the values of the property and ensuring local participation in the conservation process.

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

The State Party has invested considerable efforts to strengthen and increase participation of local communities in management and monitoring of the site. While progress with strengthening legislation and protection measures has been reported, the IMB has yet to be established. The cooperation agreements signed between the different stakeholders is another important step towards greater coordination and decision-making. It is recommended that the Committee encourage however the State Party to establish, as soon as possible, the IMB to ensure coordinated management, conservation and monitoring of the property.

The State Party should complete the integrated management plan, together with the comprehensive conservation and tourism management plans and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. It should continue to further the active participation of residents in management, as well as improving regulations to control infrastructural and physical developments at the property.

Restrictions on sand mining activities have been strengthened through additional decrees and it remains important to ensure that monitoring and coordination is carried out in close collaboration with the local government and trained staff.

The establishment of cluster museums will certainly contribute to greater understanding and enhance site interpretation. According to the information provided, the involvement of local residents in the site interpretation and conservation is facilitated and supported through these museums. However, caution should be exercised in terms of interpretation programmes, relating to the traditional performances.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Noting the progress made with the implementation of the previous Committee decisions and the Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, encourages the State Party to establish, as soon as possible, the Integrated Management Bureau to ensure coordinated management, conservation and monitoring of the property;*
4. *Also notes the improvements made with the establishment of an integrated management system and requests the State Party to complete the integrated management plan, together with the comprehensive conservation and tourism management plans and submit these plans to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017**, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

37. Masjed-e Jame of Isfahan (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1397)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (ii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1397/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1397/assistance>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June-July 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- On-going development projects
- Management systems/management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1397>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 18 March 2016, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1397/documents/>. It reports on progress made to address the concerns raised by the Committee at the property as follows:

- Revision of the Meydan-e Atiq project: new revised plans, submitted at the request of the Committee, confirm that there is no structural connection between the new galleries and the historic walls of the mosque. The north opening of the new Meydan-e Atiq, through which much of the pedestrian passage is expected, will feature arched openings in the gallery along with a redesigned entrance gate, foreseen in the middle of the north-western side of the square.
- Strengthening of the protection for the buffer zone and the property's wider setting and Integrated Conservation and Management Plan: the development of the Management Plan is still ongoing. Efforts have been made towards identifying and monitoring various factors that could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its surroundings. This work shall directly inform the Management Plan and the Action Plan announced by the State Party in its report.
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs): the approval of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO) is necessary for all new projects in the area. ICHHTO also carries out impact assessments prior to granting its approval. Such evaluations are ongoing for the northern section of the Meydan-e Atiq, in the immediate vicinity of the property, the historic bazaar and the Khiyar caravanserai, and that several experts have been tasked with producing assessments of plans submitted to the ICCHTO and their potential impact on the surroundings of the Masjed-e Jame and the property's OUV.

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

The strong commitment of the State Party to revise the Meydan-e Atiq project, taking into consideration the structural, safety and design issues raised by the Committee, should be noted. According to the State Party's report, no structural connection is foreseen between the new galleries and the historic walls of the mosque. The concerns of the 2014 ICOMOS Advisory mission have also been taken into account with regard to the revision of the north and north-western side of the Meydan-e Atiq square, and it is recommended that the Committee welcome the progress made with the revision of this project.

However, the State Party has not dealt with the issue of the relation between the Masjed-e Jame and its traditional setting, nor how new buildings or projects within the buffer zone could irreversibly alter the character of the property's traditional historic setting. When carrying out its assessments, ICHHTO is strongly encouraged to thoroughly consider the suitability of new projects, especially with regard to their correlation to the property's historic settings, in keeping with the ICOMOS's various international charters and recommendations. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to report on any project that could have an impact on the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The 2014 Advisory mission also highlighted the need for further archaeological excavations and expressed concerns about the potential impacts of vibrations from the underground road section in the immediate vicinity of the property. The mission further recommended that the potential atmosphere and noise pollution, as well as the impact of vibrations on the static behaviour of the Mashed-e Jame structures be monitored regularly. These questions have not been addressed in the State Party's report and it is recommended that the Committee highlight the need for the State Party to address these questions, notably in the framework of the upcoming Management Plan.

At the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, 2014), it was reported that the property's buffer zone has been integrated into the Isfahan Master Plan, and in view of this, the Committee requested the State Party to develop, as a matter of urgency, an Integrated Conservation and Management Plan (ICMP) to manage the urban development plan as well as the revitalization plan for the historic axis of Isfahan.

The State Party indicates that the development of this ICMP is still in progress, although encouraging progress has been reported with the identification of the factors impacting the OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party proceed with the finalization and adoption of the ICMP, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party with the revision of the Meydan-e Atiq project, taking into account the Committee's previous requests, and notes with satisfaction that no structural connection is foreseen between the new galleries and the historic walls of the mosque or the structures connected to the mosque walls;*
4. *Strongly encourages the State Party to take into account the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property when evaluating the suitability of new projects in the vicinity of the Masjed-e Jame, especially with regard to their correlation to the property's historic environment;*
5. *Reiterates its recommendation that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, be carried out for any future development in the buffer zone, in particular if these are intended to be directly attached to the mosque complex or would be located in its immediate vicinity; and requests that before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, the State Party inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any project which may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on potential atmosphere and noise pollution generated by the urban revitalization projects around the property, as well as on the potential impacts of vibrations from the underground road on the static behaviour of the Mashed-e Jame structures, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize, as a matter of urgency, an Integrated Conservation and Management Plan, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, before proceeding with its adoption;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

38. Shahr-i Sokhta (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1456)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

39. Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration (Japan) (C 1418)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2013

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1418/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1418/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threat identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Lack of a fully functional management system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1418/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1418/documents>. The report addresses the Committee's specific requests at the time of inscription (Decision **37 COM 8B.29**) as follows:

- The State Party's response outlines the development of (i) a detailed Vision based on the idea of the mountain as a "sacred place" and a "source of artistic inspiration"; and (ii) strategies for the property, to be implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders. On this basis, a revision of the Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan was carried out, according to which the property's 25 components will be managed as a cultural landscape and as an entity, with full participation of all local communities. This will allow management to cover both the property and its buffer zone and to respect the relationships between component parts in spiritual and aesthetic terms ;
- One of the Vision's goals is to control the number of visitors ascending the mountain and the way they approach their journey, based on cultural traditions dating back to the 17th century and on the need to preserve scenic landscapes. A three-year research programme (2015-2017) on the carrying capacities of the upper access routes is currently underway and, by July 2018, indicators will have been developed for the daily number of climbers. Increased awareness of the cultural values of the mountain has already resulted in a decreased amount of littering caused by climbers. A research programme on the former network of lower pilgrim routes (encompassing different religious beliefs over various periods) is also underway and has clarified relationships between various component parts. This work will eventually lead to the

development of interpretation centres and encourage visitors to explore these components and their links to the ascending routes ;

- Development control measures have been strengthened within parts of the property and the buffer zone. Yamanashi Prefecture has adopted a new ordinance governing development for part of the property and the buffer zone, including the area along the shorelines of the Fuji Five Lakes (Fujigoko), and further landscape plans and ordinances are being developed to encourage sustainable land use ;
- Longer-term conservation projects are being planned for Oshino Hakkai springs, Shiraito no Taki waterfalls, fifth station of the Yoshida Ascending Route, and the Mihonomatsubara pine tree grove ;
- Monitoring indicators have been strengthened and a disaster risk management strategy has been prepared.

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

The State Party has produced a detailed and comprehensive report on work undertaken since the inscription to address the requests of the Committee. In particular, the development of a Vision to overarch a holistic management approach is very welcome. This allows the management of the property as a cultural landscape to bring together work related to various different disciplines such as research, interpretation, visitor management, strengthened protection, and conservation in an iterative process whereby each disciplines reinforces the others.

The revised Management Plan is now a comprehensive document that clearly sets out the scope of the property, its OUV and the attributes of the various components sites in the context of their history. It clearly articulates the need for “sustainable relationships between people and Fujisan by looking forward at land utilization based on the historical land utilization of the areas at the foot of the mountain, together with maintaining and improving upon the hallmarks of beauty and divinity possessed by Fujisan”.

The issues that are being addressed cannot be easily “solved” or “completed”. The crucial need is to embed them within the management framework and to monitor the impact of work being undertaken. Some progress has already been made with the voluntary reduction of litter on the mountain as climbers become more aware of cultural and environmental issues, in the coordination of management for mountain routes, mountain huts and tractor routes; in assembling research on the multiple lower level routes and shrines to allow an understanding of religious approaches and different historical approaches during which the routes were used; and in strengthening coordination between different authorities to promote more effective use of planning policies. The removal of electric wires from key views of the mountain has also had a significant impact.

The scope and extent of the outlined programme are both impressive and absolutely necessary if the mountain – both its upper summit and lower flanks – is to be understood as a whole and as a place of religious and artistic inspiration in tune with its natural and cultural environments. The development pressures around the property are considerable and it is acknowledged that work on mapping the lower pilgrim routes must be done as soon as possible before development severely compromises essential links.

There has clearly been considerable energy put into addressing the issues since the inscription and this implies significant coordination between all the many authorities involved in the management of the property. If the momentum is to be maintained, there will be a need for strong coordination from the Fujisan World Cultural Heritage Council and effective sharing of information.

It is considered that the multidisciplinary work being undertaken is exemplary in its scope, aims and ambitions. In bringing together experts and communities, cultural and natural dimensions, spiritual and recreational needs, development and conservation on the large canvas of Fujisan and its buffer zone, it is providing an excellent example of how the management of a property can deal not only with conservation but can add value through enhanced cultural identities and social responsibilities.

It is suggested that, as much as feasible, the work being undertaken and the lessons learnt should be shared with other extensive cultural landscapes that share similar conservation and management challenges.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.29**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the well-detailed and informative progress report from the State Party on work undertaken to address the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription;
4. Welcomes the considerable efforts and progress made by the State Party in putting in place an inter-disciplinary and sustainable management system that draws in local communities and considers both the property and its buffer zone as an overall cultural landscape unit;
5. Also welcomes the focus on bringing together experts and communities, cultural and natural dimensions, spiritual and recreational needs, conservation and development;
6. Also acknowledges the significant coordination between the many authorities involved in the property in taking this work forward and considers that if the momentum is to be maintained, there will be a need for strong coordination from the Fujisan World Cultural Heritage Council and effective sharing of information;
7. Also considers that the approach being promoted provides an excellent example of how the management of a property can deal not only with conservation, but can add value through enhancing cultural identities and social responsibilities;
8. Encourages the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to find opportunities to share Fujisan's practices with other extensive cultural landscapes that face similar conservation and management challenges;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

40. Pyu Ancient Cities (Myanmar) (C 1444)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2012-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 1,892,032 USD from Italian Funds-In-Trust on Capacity building for safeguarding cultural heritage in Myanmar project (Phase I & II, 2011-2015), partially contributed to the property.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Lack of a conservation plan for the burial sites
- Need to strengthen capacity-building in the conservation of these particularly fragile and vulnerable sites

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2015, the State Party submitted a full report concerning the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1444/documents/>. The report provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations adopted at the time of the property's inscription on the World Heritage List. The State Party reported that a comprehensive strategy was developed to address the World Heritage Committee's recommendations, based on the following:

- A comprehensive inventory and conditions assessment of all burial sites at the property;
- Technical capacity-building activities were carried out for site management staff in cooperation with Pyay Field School of Archaeology;
- Pilot conservation activities were carried out at selected burial sites;
- Conservation facilities at the property were upgraded;
- Protocols for identification, excavation and conservation of archaeological remains and objects were developed;
- The management staff was re-organised into teams with specific tasks (archaeology, conservation and research);
- A moratorium on future excavations was declared and the preservation, documentation and interpretation of previously excavated sites were prioritized;
- Additional technical assistance by UNESCO, through a multi-year Italian Funds-in-Trust project, is expected in 2016 to enable the authorities and experts to continue to implement the above and strengthen the overall capacity of the management body.

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

The resolved commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property should be noted; the most urgent recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2014 have been acted upon.

The State Party has made remarkable progress with the inventory and documentation of the state of conservation of the burial sites in the property, as well as with the elaboration of a conservation programme and the associated technical capacity building activities. Several training activities have been completed, involving many staff members; guidelines and protocols have been established for the archaeological vestiges and demonstrations carried out for testing and capacity building purposes, thanks to a multi-year Italian Funds-in-Trust project (2011-2015) in partnership with UNESCO.

After having taken action upon the most urgent issues, there is a need for the State Party to sustain these efforts and to complement the Management Plan with a risk preparedness strategy, a tourism management strategy/plan to prepare for an increase in visitors, and the addition of key priorities and an action plan that addresses ways to improve the living standards of local villages, and to manage an increased numbers of pilgrims.

On 13 April 2016, a 6.9 magnitude earthquake occurred in Myanmar. The epicenter was about 149.6 to Halin site of the property. At the time of preparing this report, according to the initial assessment made by the State Party, no damage has been reported at Pyu Ancient Cities.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.28**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the actions it has undertaken in response to the Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription to develop and implement, as soon as possible, a conservation plan for the burial sites, allied to capacity-building in the conservation of these particularly fragile and vulnerable sites;*
4. *Requests the State Party in order to complement the Management Plan, to develop a risk preparedness strategy, a tourism management strategy/plan to prepare for an increase in visitors, and to add key priorities and an action plan that addresses ways to improve the living standards of local villages, and to manage an increased numbers of pilgrims;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

41. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C121bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the mission report)

42. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 1,677,936 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for 2009 – 2017; 21,776 Euro and USD 70,000 from Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance from 2008 - 2015; and USD 7,200 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust in 2006.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2004 and November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and September 2008: UNESCO Advisory missions; UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2009 in the context of the implementation of specific projects.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan
- Impact of the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple (constructed in 2002) on the archaeological remains
- Commercial Development, Interpretive and Visitation Facilities & Industrial Areas
- Air pollution

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>, responding to the requests of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- The Integrated Management framework document has been finalized but has not yet been approved by the Government. Therefore, no implementation has commenced. The State Party reports that no development work has been carried out that would impact the potential archaeological remains within the property. However, the following developments have been carried out within the property: a pedestrian walkway with meditation platforms; additional meditation platforms; and the planning of a Pipal tree (Bodhi Tree). Within the buffer Zone, the following works were undertaken: drainage work; an outer pedestrian walkway; and the paving of a walkway along main axis from the north;
- The project document for the proposal for development of the Lumbini World Peace City has been finalized and awaits approval and implementation by the Government. A summary report of the Master Vision Plan for the Lumbini World Peace City has been provided;
- The strategy for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama is being developed. Under the UNESCO /Japan Funds-In-Trust project Phase II, the team has carried out a GPS survey in Kapilvastu district following the survey done by a Nepali/Italian joint archaeological team in 1994. The team has identified 120 archaeological sites in Kapilvastu district. An Archaeological Risk Map has also been prepared;

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

The finalization of the Integrated Management framework document is noted, but it is regrettable that it remains to be approved by the Government, despite the repeated request by the Committee. Furthermore, it is reported that certain activities have been carried out within the property and the buffer zone, but there is no evidence provided as to whether these activities were part of the Management Plan or whether systematic impact assessments have been carried out before implementation. Some of the activities carried out are aimed at facilitating pilgrims and for religious reasons, but the report should have made it clear that they were part of the Management Plan (except the planting of the Bodhi tree). There is also no evidence that the activities carried out have followed the archaeological risk map, which has identified the areas with no archaeological remains.

The ongoing research to better understand the property and its related sites and larger setting is noted, as is the programme to utilize the property to propagate the message of world peace through the Lumbini World Peace City. However, as explained in the report, this is a mega-development project, which will have an immense impact on the World Heritage property, focal point for the project. The report makes no reference to the status of Lumbini as a World Heritage property, although this fact must be made a central feature of the overall development proposal, in order for it to be implemented without any adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Considering the scale of the proposal, the fragile nature of the property and its use as a place of pilgrimage for over

two thousand years, there are concerns that the mega-project Lumbini World Peace City may have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property, if the latter is not taken into consideration at the outset. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to carry out, as a matter of priority, Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, and to provide details of the project and the HIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to the approval of the project.

UNESCO continues to receive third-party information expressing concern for the property over the environmental quality and industrial development at Lumbini. In light of the potential impact of development and environmental degradation, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to develop a strategy for the protection of the larger Greater Lumbini Area and its setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes the progress made in finalizing the Integrated Management framework document, but regrets the delay in its adoption;*
4. *Also notes that development activities have been undertaken before the adoption of the management plan and without conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);*
5. *Urges the State Party to adopt and implement the Integrated Management framework document as a matter of priority, and to carry out HIAs, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, for the proposed projects, before undertaking any new work within the property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;*
6. *Takes note of the State Party' strategy with the international community to utilize the property to develop a Lumbini World Peace City, but expresses its concern with the project's potential impact on the property and its current use and therefore, requests the State Party to provide details on the proposed project and to carry out a HIA, with a specific section focusing on its potential impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, before the project proposal is approved;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to develop a strategy for the protection of the larger Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

43. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

44. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received; and late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2001-2012

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1994-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 153,200

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 20,000 USD under Italy Funds-in-Trust for study tour; 47,000 USD under the UNESCO Participation Programme for emergency assistance following typhoon Emong in May 2009; 40,600 USD, Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, emergency stabilization and restoration for the Rice Terraces after typhoon Juaning in July 2011

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2005: UNESCO expert mission; April 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of sustainable funding for the functioning management agencies
- Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan through operational arrangements
- Implementation of Community-Based Land Use and Zoning Plan
- Need for an integrated tourism Management Plan and mechanisms to control tourism related to infrastructure developments
- Vulnerability to natural disasters

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents> and presents the progress in addressing the conservation issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015 to 2024 was adopted on 15 April 2015. The Master Plan defines major programmes to ensure a balanced ecosystem and sufficient income for the rice terraces farmers, to restore and to sustain the rice terraces, and to ensure adequate support towards the conservation of the rice terraces by providing sufficient financial, technical, infrastructural and institutional support. It further outlines the processes for the approval and implementation of relevant and appropriate interventions and requests the establishment of a rice terraces database system;
- The “Community-based land use planning and zoning implementation program” has been included in the Master Plan in order to preserve the rice terraces through the proper delineation of land use and the identification of protected rice terraces and buffer zones. A number of measures have been undertaken in that respect: advocacy for the concept of community land use management to community members; preparation of community land use plans for rice terrace areas that are not part of the World Heritage property; adoption of zoning ordinances for rice terrace communities with no zoning ordinances; assessment of the implementation of community-based land use plans; and recommendations for the updating of land use plans and the implementation of zoning laws;
- In the process of putting together the new 10-year Master Plan for the property, the previous 2003-2012 Master Plan was reviewed and consultations involving communities both within and outside of the World Heritage property were held in order to evaluate the situation and identify problems in the conservation of the rice terraces. The draft Master Plan was adopted by the Provincial Development Council and endorsed by the Provincial Board. Upon approval, copies were distributed to the local municipal governments in the province.

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

It should be noted that the State Party has sustained its efforts to address the conservation issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, which has resulted in the overall improvement of the property’s state of conservation and management. The grassroots approach to the protection of the property will take longer to become fully functional, given that consultation and engagement with a diverse range of communities and stakeholders is a time-consuming process. This process is critical, however, in securing the long-term sustainability of the management arrangements, as it ensures that people who live within the property and/or have their livelihoods connected to it can embrace the management system and contribute to its successful implementation. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee welcome the finalisation of the updated Master Plan, notably as it ensures a degree of consistency between the main planning tool and the different provisions that are being adopted through legal processes at the national and provincial levels, such as bills and ordinances.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue to provide adequate human and financial resources to actively support the implementation of measures that have been included in the Master Plan and concern not only the tangible conservation of the property, but also the Ifugao practices and intangible cultural heritage associated with them.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.20, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the considerable efforts and progress made by the State Party to finalize the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024, which ensures an overall consistency between the main planning tool and the different provisions that are being adopted through legal processes at the national and provincial levels, such as bills and ordinances;*

4. Encourages the State Party to continue implementing the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024, including not only the tangible conservation of the property, but also the Ifugao practices and intangible cultural heritage associated with it;
5. Requests the State Party to ensure the necessary human and financial resources to support the implementation of the Master Plan of the property through operational arrangements;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,333

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 1994: ICOMOS mission to Sri Lanka; March 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Management systems/ management plan

Newly (in 1999) constructed temple, alien to the World Heritage complex (issue resolved)

General deterioration of the Golden Temple

Lack of tourism strategy and interpretation

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

Current conservation issues

On 10 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents>. It provides information on the issues raised by the Committee at its 38th session. The findings and recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission carried out by ICOMOS in March 2015 are included below.

- **Management:** The site management is based on a traditional management system, supported by a legal framework established during the British colonial period. Ownership of the property is with the Temple Authorities while the management should in principle be carried out jointly through mutual understanding with the Department of Archaeology. No formal arrangements exist to carry out regular meetings.

- *Conservation*: Monitoring of the effects of humidity, temperature, light and dust has been commenced through the installation of data loggers. The data is communicated directly to the University of Peradeniya.
- *Funding*: Fees collected at the entrance are allocated by the Temple Authority to the infrastructure of the temple, including services and roads.

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

Since 2014, some progress with the management and conservation of the property has been made. Although not mentioned in the State Party report, the 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was informed that a special committee for Dambulla with experts in different fields has been set up by the Department of Archaeology, and research on problematic issues has been carried out.

The Management Plan of 2010 has not been updated nor fully implemented. The lack of a clear management structure and clear lines of responsibilities was very apparent during the mission and prevented further discussions and insights into this issue. Therefore, it is of utmost urgency that the Management Plan be revised and updated and based on clearly defined governance and communication structures that sets out the interface between the State and Temple authorities, setting short-, mid- and long-term strategies for both Conservation and pilgrim/visitor Management, as well as budget planning.

Furthermore, a site management committee should be set up as a matter of priority and include representatives of the Government, Temple authorities and the local community, as well as experts, in order to improve the site management. This committee should meet on a regular basis to discuss and decide on all matters related to the conservation and management of the World Heritage property.

In terms of conservation, the Department of Archaeology (DOA) has commenced the analysis of problematic issues such as fungi, potter wasps, water leakage, cracks, discoloration of statues and paintings, as well as vandalism. Since this research has only commenced recently, more time is required to complete the research in order to identify appropriate solutions. A Conservation Strategy also needs to be developed as part of the revised Management Plan to address the conservation needs of the property. It is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to request technical assistance, if necessary, to support the conservation of stone and wall paintings, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The lack of a pilgrim/visitor Management Plan was apparent to the mission. Indeed, there was no control over the number of pilgrims/visitors entering the caves; there were signs of the vandalism to the property, as well as no restrictions on flash photography, causing further threats to the condition of the caves and the wall paintings. Therefore, the State Party needs to develop a pilgrim/visitor Management Strategy, as well as elaborate a policy prohibiting flash photography within the caves. In order to deal with vandalism, security checks should also be introduced at the entrance.

In light of the overall situation of the property it is recommended that the Committee express its serious concern about the apparent threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.22, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Takes note of the results of the March 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the mission as appropriate;*
4. *Expresses its serious concern about the lack of clear management structures and clear lines of responsibilities, and in particular the lack of implementation of the Management*

Plan which increases the problematic of conservation and pilgrim/visitor management of the property, and therefore strongly urges the State Party to:

- a) *Establish a site management committee as a matter of priority, including representatives of the government, Temple authorities and the local community, as well as experts,*
 - b) *Revise and update the Management Plan based on clearly defined governance and communication structures while incorporating traditional management systems, that sets out the interface between the State and Temple authorities, setting short-, mid- and long-term strategies for both conservation and pilgrim/visitor management, as well as budget planning, and to provide the draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - c) *Develop a Conservation Strategy, as part of the revised Management Plan, to address the conservation needs, develop a pilgrim/visitor Management Strategy to control the number of pilgrims/visitors allowed into each cave, as well as a policy prohibiting flash photography within the caves;*
5. *Encourages the State Party, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to request technical assistance, if necessary, to support the conservation of stone and wall paintings;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,334

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2007: UNESCO expert Advisory mission; April/May 2008: UNESCO New Delhi Office Advisory mission; February 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Weakness in the management of the Galle Heritage Foundation in its role as the managing authority for the property

- Potential impact of a proposed port construction on the integrity of the property
- Intrusive and illegal constructions within the Galle cricket ground impacting on the integrity of the property

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

Current conservation issues

On 10 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents>, which includes the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Galle Port Development (January 2015) and the Integrated Management System (IMS) document (January 2015):

- *Galle Port Development Project*: The port development has been scaled back from the original proposal and is intended as a tourism port for cruise ships. It is awaiting the approval and funding from JICA Japan;
- *Heritage Impact Assessment and Archaeological Impact Assessment*: The HIA carried out in 2015 was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for review. While the conclusion of the HIA is largely positive, it also provides a number of recommendations concerning the scale of the project, tourism management and underwater investigation by diving survey. A technical study of the impacts on the maritime archaeological remains was undertaken in 2007. According to the State Party, this assessment remains valid for the now downscaled harbour development project, and it is concluded that there would be no damages to the underwater archaeological remains;
- *Integrated Management System*: The Ministry of National Heritage, together with the Department of Archaeology and the Galle Heritage Foundation, have prepared the Integrated Management Plan, thereby providing a legal framework for the implementation of actions towards the preservation of the property. Once it receives approval by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, it will be ready for official adoption;
- *Boundaries and buffer zone*: There is no need to extend the boundaries and buffer zone of the property to include the maritime archaeological heritage, as this heritage is not considered representative of the values of the property. In addition, the protection of underwater heritage is already sufficiently provided for under the provisions of the Antiquities Ordinance.

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

It is noted that the port development project has been significantly scaled back. The terminal quay has been shortened and is intended for tourism cruise ships only. The conclusions of the HIA are largely positive and see the development of the port as having great potential for the development of the area; the major negative impact remains the way new structures in the harbour and at the port will be visible from the property and could affect views of the property from the sea and from the opposite side of the harbour. The HIA provided a series of recommendations in order to minimise this impact on the OUV of the property. They include the need to downsize and relocate the new structures associated with the port as far away from the Fort as possible, undertake further hydrodynamic modelling of the proposed design of the port area, and carry out monitoring of the potential impact on underwater archaeology. The State Party has responded that it is too late to scale back the development and that adequate hydrological modelling has been undertaken.

It is suggested that the Committee request the State Party to provide exact plans for the port development as soon as possible and to indicate how its recommendations have been considered in order to limit the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Furthermore, the way development projects will be addressed must be clarified, should the port project be successfully implemented, along with the consequences of increased tourism such as the need for larger buildings. Little has been said about the ways in which future development will be planned or controlled.

According to the HIA, the effects of the changed currents and tidal flows will not have any impact on the marine archaeology. The State Party should consider appointing a marine archaeologist at an early stage during the development to closely observe the impacts of the project, in order to initiate mitigating actions, if necessary. It is noted that the State Party does not consider it necessary to extend the buffer zone to include maritime archaeology, which supports the attributes of OUV,

although it should be highlighted that the State Party indicates that this heritage is fully protected under national legislation.

While the Integrated Management System Report contains overall strategies for the management of the property, it remains unclear how and when it will be implemented, how it will reinforce the overall management capacity of the Galle Heritage Foundation, and how far along the process of adopting this system has come – all of which was already requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session. In addition, it is considered that further legislative changes would be required to ensure that the system is functional. A clear funding strategy, including funding for the maintenance of the property, should also be provided. Furthermore, a tourism strategy should be developed to promote and protect the cultural values of the property and ensure sustainable benefits for the local community, particularly from the port project which, if successful, could overwhelm local infrastructure.

The management and conservation of the property remains a concern, particularly in view of the lack of information in the State Party report concerning progress with the revision of the boundaries and with the international cricket stadium project. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to consider the detailed plans for the port project and how it will be managed sustainably to benefit the property and local communities, as well as to examine the overall state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM7B.21**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party concerning the Galle Harbour project and welcomes the significant scaling back of the project;*
4. *Taking note of the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), supports its recommendations and requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Provide assurances that the recommendations will be considered, in order to limit the potential impact of the development on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
 - b) *Make available detailed plans for the port development as soon as possible,*
 - c) *Appoint a marine archaeologist at an early stage during the development, who shall closely observe the impacts of the project and initiate mitigating measures if necessary;*
5. *Notes the information provided on the Integrated Management System and recommends that the State Party:*
 - a) *Consider the need to make further legislative changes to ensure its functioning,*
 - b) *Provide a clear timetable for the implementation of the Management Plan,*
 - c) *Strengthen the management capacity of the Galle Heritage Foundation,*
 - d) *Establish a clear, long-term funding strategy which includes sufficient funds for the maintenance of the property,*
 - e) *Develop a tourism strategy to promote and protect the cultural values of the property and ensure sustainable benefits for the local community, especially from the Port project;*

6. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in order to consider the plans for the Port project prior to its adoption, and to examine the overall state of conservation of the property, and further requests the State Party, ahead of such a mission, to provide large-scale plans and high-resolution, photo montages of the port project;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

48. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

49. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

50. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979;

Year of extension 1994

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1985-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 142,053

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount of the postwar major restoration programme coordinated by UNESCO: USD 80,000,000

Previous monitoring missions

November 1995: fact-finding mission; November 2015: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Earthquake in September 1995 (issue resolved)
- Need to extend the buffer zone
- Large project in the vicinity of the property
- Cruise ship tourism
- Planned sport and recreation centre with golf course and tourist settlement

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

Current conservation issues

In November 2015, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was undertaken and provided a set of recommendations to the State Party. The mission evaluated potential impacts of the following major development projects in the vicinity of the property: Sports and Recreation Centre with a Golf Course and the Bosanka North and Bosanka South Tourist Resorts, new Bosanka 2 settlement and preliminary plans for the recently privatized Hotel Belvedere. The mission also identified five major restoration/interventions and one new construction project within the property: the City Walls; the Pustijerna Site; the Orlando Column; air conditioning units; the historic sewerage system; and a possible landing stage adjacent to the Lazaretto. Two major proposals within

the buffer zone of the property were also identified and examined: a possible Northern pedestrian zone and a possible tunnel from port of Gruž with a southern terminal in the North buffer zone.

On 1 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, (an executive summary of which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/>), addressing progress made with the implementation of the previous Committee's decision. Measures implemented to control the development within the property and its buffer zone include:

- The submission of detailed documentation, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), for the development project: "Sports and Recreation Centre with a Golf Course and Bosanka North and Bosanka South Tourist Resorts";
- The appointment of the Institute for Restoration of Dubrovnik to co-ordinate the elaboration of the Management Plan for the property;
- A strategic document concerning tourism at the property, based on extensive survey and analysis is in the final stage of drafting.

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

The State Party provided information about the protection of the property and conservation and restoration works undertaken.

The maintenance and management of the City Walls is governed by a contract between the City of Dubrovnik and The Association of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities. However, procedures for the implementation of the works by the contractor are not ensuring use of adequate materials and methods for conservation, restoration and maintenance. In order to prevent damage to the City Walls, the State Party should immediately develop guidelines on best conservation practice which should be strictly followed. All restoration/conservation/repair works should also be subject to regular monitoring by the responsible national and local authorities. The terms of the maintenance contract should be carefully revised by introducing transparent procedures, quality control by the State institution in charge of the implementation of the *Convention* in Croatia and strict rules for conservation, restoration and maintenance. Repair to all parts of the Wall damaged by previous inappropriate interventions should occur as soon as possible to prevent threats to its structural stability.

In relation to specific conservation and development projects:

- Prompt safeguarding of the Orlando column is required;
- For the Sports and Recreation Centre with a Golf Course and the Bosanka North and Bosanka South Tourist Resorts project, no construction should take place within a minimum distance of 50m from the edges of the plateau;
- Amended plans of the resorts should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* before construction works begin;
- The Bosanka 2 project should not proceed because of inconsistency with the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The plans to construct the Lazeretto; Quay/Landing Stage with connection to the Old Port should not proceed for the same reason and no new construction should be permitted in this area;
- Detailed plans for the development of the Pustijerna Archaeological Site should be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- A full HIA should be undertaken in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties before the northern tunnel proposal is carried forward, and the project details should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Furthermore, the Statement of OUV, Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone, as well as a clear framework for management and action should be urgently developed and finalized. Extension of the buffer zone of the property to include the slopes of Mt Srđ is recommended to facilitate more consistent protection.

The Management Plan should address the following issues: the maximum number of tourists in regard to the sustainable carrying capacity of the city and emergency evacuation requirements; a risk-preparedness action plan and an interpretation strategy; management of cruise ships. The extension of the Port of Gruž has decreased the passenger load at the Old Port, but further measures are needed. A legal Act should be envisaged by the State Party to prohibit or limit the passage and mooring of boats, ships and yachts in the coastal area between the old city and Lokrum Island.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to implement relevant measures to prevent threats to the property and its buffer zone, as soon as possible.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **22 COM VII.17** and **38 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 22nd (Kyoto, 1998) and 38th (Doha 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses its concern regarding inappropriate conservation works of all parts of the City Walls and requests the State Party to implement all relevant measures, including repairs of damage and development of guidelines on best conservation practices, to prevent any threat to the structural stability of the City Walls, and to ensure strict and regular monitoring;*
4. *Endorses the recommendations of the 2015 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and also requests the State Party to give the highest priority to the implementation of its recommendations, notably to:*
 - a) *Develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the Management Plan of the property, including a tourism strategy, legal regulations for cruise ship tourism, identification of the sustainable carrying capacity of the city, a risk-preparedness action plan and an interpretation strategy,*
 - b) *Not to proceed with the Bosanka 2 project, nor to construct the Lazeretto; Quay/Landing Stage with connection to the Old Port,*
 - c) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, a minor boundary modification proposal with a view to expanding the buffer zone as recommended by the mission,*
 - d) *Finalize and submit the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for the property to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017,*
5. *Taking note of the current status of the Sports and Recreation Centre with a Golf Course and the Bosanka North and Bosanka South Tourist Resorts project planned for the plateau of Mount Srđ and Bosanka in the vicinity of the property, considers that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) demonstrates that, subject to design refinement, the proposed Sports and Recreation Centre with a Golf Course and the Bosanka North and Bosanka South Tourist Resorts would have an acceptable effect on the OUV of the property, and further requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Facilitate revisions to the plans and drawings for the project to ensure that no construction is to take place within a minimum distance of 50m from the edges of the plateau,*

- b) *Continue the dialogue with the Advisory Bodies as the Resorts project progresses,*
 - c) *Submit amended plans for the project to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies before construction works begin,*
 - d) *Submit relevant documentation, including HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any final decisions are made or any works start, for major developments projects within the property, its buffer zone and setting;*
6. ***Finally requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

51. Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey (Germany) (C 1447)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1447/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1447/assistance>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management Plan and its Operational Master Plan not yet approved
- Lack of an overall risk management plan for the property, including also risk preparedness against floods, explosions and other types of accidents
- Need to approve and enforce protective measures related to the panoramic views from and towards Corvey
- Renewable energy facilities: Possible wind farm
- Continuing further systematic research and non-destructive archaeological investigation both for conservation and research purposes

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1447/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report concerning the state of conservation of this property, which is available at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1447/documents/> and provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations adopted at the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, as follows:

- The Management Plan and the Operational Master Plan is said to have been already approved by signature of the Minister for Culture on behalf of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia as well as the Foreign Secretary on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany. This was included in the nomination dossier;
- A provisional budget and timescale for the implementation of planned measures of the Management Plan was submitted to ICOMOS by letter on 26 February 2014. Moreover, the State Party has made national funds of 4 million euros available to the City of Höxter in December 2014 for such measures;
- A long term monitoring system of the climate conditions inside the Westwerk has been implemented;
- Risk Management Plan is currently in place for the museum buildings;
- No additional archaeological investigation measures have been taken to date;
- New forms of presentation of the properties Carolingian and medieval history are being considered outside the church, for the museum and the Vorburg. A project for a walk in media-enhanced spatial theatre with installations of video projections inside the authentic Carolingian first floor of the Westwerk has been launched. The project is currently under consideration;
- Regarding the reinforcement of the monitoring system with regard to the identification of indicators related to the objectives identified in the management plan, a meeting of the owners with members of the monitoring group of ICOMOS Germany took place in September 2015;
- The study for protecting the panoramic views from and towards Corvey has been partially finalized.

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

The commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property should be noted; as well as the fact that many of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2014 have been acted upon.

The management plan and the master plan were prepared together by the owners, the representatives of the Town of Höxter, the District of Höxter, the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe, Werkgemeinschaft Freiraum Landschaftsarchitekten and the Ministry for Building, Housing, Urban Development and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The plan accompanied the nomination dossier which was signed by the Minister of Culture of the State of North - Rhine Westphalia and by the the Foreign Secretary of the Federal Republic of Germany. However none of the other relevant stakeholders that prepared the management plan seemed to have signed it. Therefore it would be important to understand what mechanisms ensure that all stakeholders are committed to implement the management and the master plans according to their capacities and responsibilities.

It should also be noted that the State Party has successfully made progress with regards to the Management Plan, Operational Master plan and provisional budget. Although, the State Party has made national funds of 4 million euros available to the City of Höxter for the implementation of measures of the Management Plan of the property, these measures have not yet been realized as the funds have not been forwarded to the owner.

In addition, the planned comprehensive conditions assessment and monitoring of Westwerk have been implemented. In 2014 and 2015, the State Party has conducted a continuous monitoring, including documentation and implementation of necessary restoration measures. The State Party has also successfully developed a Risk Management Plan for the museum buildings. The Flood Emergency Plans have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2014 and a plan is already in place concerning the railway lines.

It should be further noted that, even though this is being considered, new forms of presentation of the property Carolingian and medieval history still lacks funding. The project for a walk in media-enhanced spatial theatre with installation of video projections has been launched but is yet to be implemented. The project lacks the necessary funding; nonetheless it is currently being reviewed by the relevant authorities.

Another conservation issue is the wind farm repowering project. This project in Bosseborn was cancelled because of the expected negative visual impacts for the property. For the wind farm project in Fürstenau, negotiations are still ongoing to avoid significant visual effects. Unfortunately, the wind farm project in Beverungen has been authorized despite concerns of the authority regarding the visual impact on the property. It should be requested the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the wind farm projects in both Fürstenau and Beverungen, in order to prevent any irreversible transformations and potential threats to the property's OUV.

In light of the progress made by the State Party, it is considered that some of the concerns of the World Heritage Committee are currently being addressed. It is however recommended that the World Heritage Committee encourage the State Party to continue with the implementation of all relevant measures and plans, including the establishment of the Steering Committee, which is envisaged by the management Plan, for coordination purposes and in order to prevent any threats to the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.33**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the actions undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription to complete the additional planned measures of the Management Plan and the additional archaeological investigations measures;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to set up the Steering Committee envisaged by the Management Plan, involving the offices and stakeholders that worked to develop the management and Master Plans;*
5. *Regretting that the wind farm project in Beverungen has been authorized despite concerns from the authorities regarding the visual impact on the property, requests the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), for the wind farm projects in both Fürstenau and Beverungen, in order to prevent any irreversible transformations and potential threats to the property's OUV;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the mission report)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (v)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 85,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2001: ICOMOS monitoring mission; November 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; July 2009: ICOMOS/IUCN Technical Advisory mission (invited by Lithuania); December 2010: WHC/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential pollution from the oil exploitation of the D-6 oil field in the Baltic Sea by the Russian Federation
- Lack of bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and the Russian Federation, including joint assessment of environmental impact of the D-6 project
- Impacts of sewage spill accident which took place at Klaipėda Water Treatment Station (Lithuania)
- New constructions and possibly illegal constructions
- Sand dunes erosion
- Possible tourism economic zone in Kaliningrad
- Construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal outside Klaipėda and proposed construction of a deep sea port at Klaipėda
- Reported plans to construct a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the Lagoon to the Spit
- Absence of a Management Plan and associated cooperative management system between the States Parties

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

Current conservation issues

In accordance with Committee Decision **38 COM 7B.28**, an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the Lithuanian part of the property occurred from 19 to 22 January 2015. The mission investigated reports of preliminary plans to construct a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the lagoon to the Spit; construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal (LNGT) outside Klaipėda and the proposed construction of a deep sea port at Klaipėda.

Subsequently, on 26 November 2015, the State Party of Lithuania submitted an updated report on the state of conservation of the property; followed on 1 December 2015 by a report from the Russian

Federation, which are both available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/994/documents/>. These 2 reports outline the progress made in relation to the requests of the Committee:

Lithuania:

- The LNGT is located within Klaipėda port territory, outside the property boundaries and outside the Kursui Nerija (Curonian Spit) National Park. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project concluded that there would be no adverse significant impact on the attributes which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.
- A decision regarding the location of the deep sea port of Klaipėda will only occur once the Master Plan of Klaipėda port has been prepared, including Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment procedures and consultation.
- There are no current plans, nor any feasibility analysis, for the construction of a bridge from Klaipėda across the lagoon to the Spit.
- Kursui Nerija National Park forest governance, protection and management functions are being transferred to Kretinga State Forest Enterprise and the Kursiu Nerija National Park Management Plan is being revised.

Russian Federation:

- There have been no major changes and no illegal construction within the Russian domain of the property.
- A Draft Programme for Social and Economic Development of Curonian Spit Rural Settlement Municipality for 2014-2021 has been elaborated.
- A programme which has been developed for the Curonian Spit National Park Preservation Area is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.
- The Curonian Spit National Park authority is preparing a database of historical and cultural heritage.
- There have been a range of conservation and management initiatives undertaken jointly by Kursui National Park and Curonian Spit National Park authorities.

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

The property continues to face a complex range of challenges, which are closely connected with the dynamic natural phenomena impacting on the human-made dunes. These challenges are further complicated by current issues such as development pressure, tourism management and traffic. There is also ongoing tension between the requirements for national park management and local development expectations. It is therefore important that the States Parties fully implement their commitment to the completion of a common Management Plan to be consistently applied by both States Parties and supported through a system of inter-institutional and trans-boundary cooperation. The Management Plan should be based on sustaining the attributes bearing the OUV and should also include a capacity development strategy for national park administrations and municipality staff. A transnational Management Plan would therefore need to comply with both legislations, as well as with the provisions of the *World Heritage Convention* and its *Operational Guidelines*.

In May and October 2014, the World Heritage Centre has been informed by the Lithuanian authorities that no formal agreement has been given for the construction of a bridge connecting Klaipėda City and the Curonian Spit and that such construction is not foreseen in any strategic nor territorial planning documents of the Republic of Lithuania, which was also established by the Reactive Monitoring mission of January 2015. The mission concluded that any bridge across the Curonian Lagoon would visually and physically cause irreparable damage to the integrity of the property. The forthcoming Management Plan should therefore exclude any possibility of future bridge construction.

The approval and implementation of the LNGT project outside Klaipėda followed relevant Lithuanian national requirements and addressed some other international obligations but was not preceded by submission of the relevant documentation to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. There was also insufficient information-sharing with the other State Party regarding the EIA and HIA. However, the mission concluded that the LNGT does not create an adverse effect on the visual integrity (and therefore on attributes which contribute to the OUV) of the property, because of its location and its context, in which the landscape of the Curonian Spit contrasts with the highly-industrial “port-scape” of the Klaipėda marine port.

Conversely, the proposed construction of a deep sea port has potential to impact upon the attributes of the OUV of the property. However, if the enlargement of the existing channel area does not exceed the current port borders, the project may be consistent with the OUV of the property. This option may also have a positive effect by enabling reduction of other traffic within the property. Another option for a deep sea outer port at Klaipėda, which may be considered as an alternative or second phase of the project, could result in unacceptable visual impact, as well as changes to sea currents and the stability of the dunes on the Spit, such that the attributes of the OUV may be irreparably damaged. It is therefore highly recommended that alternative options be considered by the States Parties. Whichever option is pursued, potential impacts should be thoroughly addressed through EIAs and HIAs, which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made.

The Management Plan for the property should include guidelines and conditions concerning future port development, as well as prescribing the need for the preparation of HIAs, which accord with the 2011 ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*. The Management Plan should also include a capacity development strategy for national park administrations and municipality staff. Relevant recommendations from the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission, the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission and 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission should be incorporated into the Management Plan.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.78** and **38 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continuing collaboration between the two States Parties and the management of the two national parks and the commitment to produce a trans-boundary Management Plan for the property, as well as the strengthened forest governance, protection and management within the Lithuanian National Park;*
4. *Taking note of the Reactive Monitoring mission, which took place to the property in January 2015, notes that the Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal (LNGT) project outside Klaipėda does not cause an adverse impact to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and requests the State Party of Lithuania to ensure that in the future relevant documentation for all major projects that may affect the property are submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Also notes that there is currently no proposal for the construction of a suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the lagoon to the Spit;*
6. *Further notes that the development of a deep sea port and/or a deep sea outer port at Klaipėda could cause an adverse impact to the OUV of the property, arising from both visual impacts and possible changes to sea currents and the stability of the dunes on the Spit and therefore also requests the State Party of Lithuania to ensure that no final decision is made and no work proceeds on the development of a deep sea port and/or a deep sea outer port at Klaipėda until all relevant documentation, including the results of forthcoming Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, in order to allow an evaluation of potential impact on the property;*

7. Further requests that both States Parties expedite the completion of the Management Plan for the entire property, inclusive of the Lithuanian and the Russian domains including:
- a) a system of inter-institutional and international (trans-boundary) cooperation,
 - b) a capacity development strategy for national park administrations and municipality staff,
 - c) guidelines and prescriptive conditions concerning future port development,
 - d) provision for preparation of HIAs which accord with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, with a specific section focusing on their potential impact on the OUV, for all major projects within the property, and
 - e) coverage of other relevant matters raised in reports from the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission, 2013 Advisory mission and 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, including (but not limited to):
 - (i) a policy to prohibit or severely limit construction on the shores or fore-dunes to preserve the unique landscape of the dunes bordering the Baltic Sea and the shore of the Curonian lagoon,
 - (ii) programmes to address conflicting perceptions between the national parks and the municipalities so that there is common commitment to conservation of the OUV of the property,
 - (iii) identification of buffer zones,
 - (iv) continued attention to housing problems and illegal development in the Lithuanian domain of the property, and
 - (v) an education and information strategy oriented to the local community and other stakeholders;
8. Finally requests the States Parties of Lithuania and the Russian Federation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

54. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1979-2003

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1979-1982)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2003: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; January 2006: Management Planning Course; February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake damage (issue resolved)
- Lack of Management Planning/system
- Inadequate legal system
- Accelerated urban development and urban pressure
- Proposed major bridge at Verige
- Lack of buffer zone – requested since 2003

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/> and provides the following information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014):

- The establishment of the Management Council of the Kotor Region has progressed. An updated legal framework ensures the protection and management of the property. Visual Impact Studies are compulsory for plans and projects of structures or infrastructures larger than 3000 sqm and for those causing major changes. The Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Property issues opinions on planning documents and permits for conservation projects;
- A draft Study for the protection of the Kotor Region identifies attributes and measures for their preservation and a Study for the protection of heritage properties is expected, defining parameters and protection regimes for inclusion in the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Area; the Study on traffic is underway. The completed Study for the protection of cultural properties for inclusion in the Spatial Urban Plan (SUP) for the Municipality of Kotor was expected by the end of 2015, and the SUP will be aligned to it. The Strategic Plan for Development of the Municipality of Kotor (2013 – 2017) was adopted in 2013;
- The Visual Impact Study for the Verige Bridge recommended exploring less impacting alternatives; accordingly, a feasibility study for a tunnel was elaborated and sent to the Ministries of Sustainable Development and of Transport for consideration. The Directorate for Planning and Development of Kotor, as developer of the above infrastructure, is responsible for elaborating the requested Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). A road map and timeframe are included in the report, envisaging the submission of the HIA report by February 2016;
- The report also updates on progress in implementing the management plan, legislation and planning documents, strengthening the legal/institutional framework, improving protection and valorization of the property's heritage, strengthening the capacity and increasing human resources and defining sustainable development strategies and actions.

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

The report shows that the State Party has continued its efforts in addressing the property's current conservation issues and in setting up effective management mechanisms and structures, supported by adequate legislative and regulatory provisions. The appointment and enforcement of the Management Council, with clear responsibilities, is urgent to guarantee management coordination and effectiveness. Completing the harmonization of all planning tools for the property and its buffer zone is a crucial and urgent factor to ensure that present and future development is sustainable, equitable and compatible with the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Within the review of all planning instruments, adopting a comprehensive *HIA* framework for all of them, based on the OUV and its related attributes and under the coordination of the Management Council, would strategically assist the responsible administrations in orienting the overall planning framework, defining land-use zones and the related system of measures and detailed provisions so as to protect the characteristics

of the cultural landscape and to provide precise criteria and limits for future development. In this respect, the finalization of the HIA for the Verige Bridge and for its alternatives appears pivotal also for the delineation of a transportation strategy for the Region of Kotor that does not negatively impact on the World Heritage property.

The State Party reports briefly on the developments in Morinj, Kostanjica and Glavati and on the obligation to carry out a HIA. However, a letter by a third party, received on 4 April 2016 and transmitted to the State Party in conformity with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines* on 6 April 2016, informs that a Local Study of Location of a tourism facility project (41.197sqm, 4 floors and 400 beds) has been adopted by the Municipality of Kotor for Glavati, at St Anne cove, which is one of the rare, still pristine rural areas along the coast contributing to the OUV as an essential element of the settlement layout. At the time of writing this report, the State Party had not yet provided any clarification. This new proposal adds on others already begun that caused serious concerns to the Committee in 2014 and resulted in a specific recommendation. It also highlights certain tensions towards contradictory approaches to development. An independent HIA is necessary before any planning provision is finalized and building permit issued for this project; HIAs for the development projects already begun, at the above-mentioned and at any other location, would also assist in identifying options for reducing or mitigating their impacts. In this regard, an inventory of all development projects, planned, approved or begun, is indispensable as a solid base for a comprehensive HIA approach.

The efforts already undertaken by the State Party will only achieve effectiveness if a committed sustainable, heritage-compatible and equitable development approach, including tourism, which is designed around the property's OUV and shaping development and spatial planning, is embraced by all parties concerned.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in strengthening the legal, planning and management framework of the property;*
5. *Strongly requests the State Party to proceed with promptly finalizing the appointment and enforcement of the Management Council with a clear mandate to ensure effective coordination in management;*
6. *Also strongly requests the State Party to finalize the actions undertaken to respond to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations, in particular to:*
 - a) *Review and harmonize all planning instruments through a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), based on the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, so as to establish a clear planning / policy framework that is consistent with the need for protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its attributes and promoting sustainable, equitable and compatible forms of development,*
 - b) *Finalize the Study of protection of cultural properties for the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Area (SPSPCA), as a basis for defining land-use zoning and its related system of measures and detailed provisions, which should be founded on the OUV of the property and the characteristics of its landscape, and incorporate them into all other plans,*

- c) *Finalize the HIAs for the Verige Bridge and for any alternative options to it as a basis for developing the Regional Transport Strategy,*
 - d) *Conclude and adopt the Spatial Urban Plan for the Municipality of Kotor, in coherence with the objectives, zoning and provisions that will be elaborated for the SPSPCA;*
6. *Requests the State Party to undertake an independent HIA, in line with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, for the tourist facility at Glavati - Prčanj for which a Local Study of Location has been adopted, as well as for all planned, approved and begun development projects, in order to assess their impacts on the OUV of the property and its attributes;*
 7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the results of the above HIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to undertaking any further commitment;*
 8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

55. Auschwitz Birkenau - German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C 31)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 10,000 from Israel

Previous monitoring missions

July 2001: joint Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee/World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS site visit during the management seminar; May 2007: site management meeting; May 2008 and October 2013: Expert Consultation Group Meetings

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of management plan
- Slow process of consultation with local communities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/documents>. This is based on issues raised in an ICOMOS review submitted to the State Party in August 2015, in response to the State Party's report of 3 March 2015 and on individual responses from each of the key stakeholders: the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Town of Oświęcim and Oświęcim Commune and the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways.

In April 2015, the State Party submitted a Conservation strategy for the property to the World Heritage Centre. ICOMOS received this in April 2016 and will submit a review to the State Party.

Planned expressway S-1 and the south ring road of Oświęcim

This road project was initiated in 2011 to upgrade the transport infrastructure serving the property by linking a ring road of Oświęcim with the provincial road and then national roads to Cracow and Wadowice. Various routes for the expressway were put forward for evaluation. The State Party reports that in April 2015, a hybrid variant of the options for the expressway and the south ring road of Oświęcim were approved. A request for environmental approval was submitted in 2015 and is pending. It is stated that further research and analyses of the route of the ring road of Oświęcim in the area of the property will be carried out after the environmental decision has been obtained. This will include a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage Properties, that will cover a visual and spatial analysis of the impact of the proposed bridge over the river Soła.

Conservation

Work has started on the 'comprehensive' conservation of two brick prisoner barracks in the oldest part of the camp in order to strengthen their structure while preserving as much as possible of the frail historic fabric. All of the brick barracks will be renovated in subsequent years. Historical structures associated with the camp in the area of the Commune of Oświęcim, such as Judenrampe (railway) and the potato and cabbage warehouses, are systematically monitored and the area around them is maintained on a regular basis.

Management of visitors

An advance booking system has now been instituted for the 1.72 million visitors received annually, with good results. A new visitor centre near the Auschwitz Memorial in Oświęcim is planned near the warehouses, and funds are being sought.

A strategy for visitor traffic is also being planned to deliver better car access. This will include the construction of a road near the museum in Brzezinka and an access road to the Judenrampe and the potato and cabbage warehouses, linking Piwniczna and Kombatantów Streets in Brzezinka.

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

The details provided by the State Party are welcomed. They cover issues that have been reported several times since 2011 and provide details of work undertaken or already planned.

The detailed Conservation Strategy is an important step forward in setting out approaches to the conservation of the property and its setting, in the documentation of the historical and memorial contexts of the property and in setting out management and development controls appropriate for different areas. It highlights the difficulties in the conservation of structures that are privately owned and the lack of legal instruments to allow grants to be awarded. It also highlights the necessity of engaging with the local community on a substantial and sustainable basis and indicates the need to develop a separate programme to this end.

In setting out the key threats identified in 2008, the Conservation Strategy further highlights that these have become more intense. While the Conservation Strategy indicates buildings are in an extremely fragile state, as is the case with various memorial camps and their associated infrastructures such as railway sidings and warehouses, these need to be monitored to prevent them from falling into irreversible disrepair.

No further action is reported on resolving the conflicting boundaries of the buffer zone.

Requests have been made over the years for more information on the proposed road projects to be submitted with the necessary HIAs before any decisions are taken so that a better understanding can be achieved as to the delivery of necessary infrastructure in harmony with local development and while respecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is to be noted that the HIAs have not yet been submitted.

With regard to the various transformations that are taking place in relation to the capacity of the property to accommodate nearly two million visitors each year, it is important to ensure that all transformations (not only infrastructure) be undertaken in symbiosis with the surroundings and in line with the Conservation Guidelines.

These issues highlight the need for more coordinated management and a greater dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on forward planning for major projects so that the Committee has a clearer understanding of the way the property is being protected and conserved to sustain its OUV. After several years of consultation, a Retrospective Statement of OUV (SOUV) is now in the process of being adopted by the Committee (see Document WHC/16/40.COM/8E) and this will be crucial for monitoring and management.

The great efforts being invested by the State Party, particularly through the work of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, are acknowledged. There does remain however concern that these efforts could be better coordinated and promoted through more open processes so that there is a clearer understanding as to how the property and its setting might move forward in an integrated way. Once the SOUV has been adopted by the Committee, this should provide an opportunity to align the management of the property and its setting with the OUV.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.115**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Acknowledges the details provided by the State Party on the ongoing projects including progress made in the management of visitors including with advanced booking systems, the express route and the start of a restoration initiative of the barracks in Auschwitz;*
4. *Welcomes the development of the detailed Conservation Strategy and urges the State Party to ensure that its Guidelines are followed;*
5. *Whilst understanding that the proposed expressway and south ring road of Oświęcim have been approved in principle, subject to environmental decisions, reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake as soon as possible a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the overall project, and to submit this, together with details as to how this project relates to other proposed road schemes in Brzezinka and elsewhere, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before irreversible commitments are made;*
6. *Also welcomes the start of the restoration project of the two brick prisoner barracks and requests the State Party to submit further details on the restoration principles at use with documentation in order that good practice be established for further application in other parts of the property;*
7. *In light of the various transformations that are taking place to accommodate the nearly two million visitors arriving at the property each year, also requests the State Party to provide more information on how the various projects and necessary infrastructure will*

be provided in symbiosis with the surroundings of the property, in line with the Conservation Guidelines, while respecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

8. *Also reiterates its request that HIAs are undertaken for all projects before any decisions are taken, in order to define clearly potential impacts on the attributes of OUV;*
9. *Notes with satisfaction that the Retrospective Statement of OUV of the property has been finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Committee for adoption (Document WHC/16/40.COM/8E);*
10. *Considers that there is a need for a governance system that brings together all the stakeholders at the property and for a clearer multi-disciplinary management approach that is based on OUV, and further welcomes the suggestion of a programme to facilitate more positive relationships with the local community;*
11. *In order to undertake a dialogue with the State Party on how best these issues might be addressed, further requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;*
12. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

56. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: joint UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of joint management system between national, local and religious authorities (issue resolved)
- Lack of monitoring mechanisms

- Lack of appropriate legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration, management and use of World Heritage properties of religious interest

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/documents/>. It provides detailed information on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. In July 2015, an ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property was undertaken.

- Changes to the Development Strategy of Solovetsky Archipelago, recognizing it as a unique site of spiritual, historical-cultural and natural heritage, were introduced by Decree in July 2015. Improvements to its statutory legal status have been supplemented by sub-divisions pertaining to management, control of the ecological situation, social development, stabilisation of the municipal and transportation spheres, tourism development, improvement of the economic system and educational and scientific activities;
- Significant changes have been introduced to the Federal Law of October 2014, which entered into effect in January 2015, to improve the legislation in the sphere of protection of cultural heritage sites at federal level. In addition, legal measures are being taken on establishing a state natural sanctuary including an offshore strip of 3 nautical miles in the White Sea and a regime of special protection of the natural complexes and sites within the sanctuary boundaries;
- The development of the Management Plan has commenced with the definition of the attributes which express the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the definition of the proprietary affiliation and usage. The plan will reconcile the interests and activities of all stakeholders and define the goals and tasks of the basic development strategy of the territory considering its cultural and spiritual significance. The management of the property is supplemented by legislative documents regulating the management of the Archipelago. These include orders pertaining to the approval of boundaries of the protection zones of cultural heritage sites of federal importance, as well as requirements for land-use and town-planning regulations within the boundaries of the zones passed in December 2013 and the October 2014 passed decree of the Government of the Russian Federation on the approval of a set of organizational measures on conservation and development;
- Conservation and restoration projects are carried out in accordance with the Conception of Cultural Heritage Preservation of Solovetsky Archipelago, based on analysis of the state of conservation, proposals on procedures and methods. Works executed are based on scientific renewal to return the cultural heritage to its historic function;
- The Master Plan of the municipal structure is currently being developed for the whole territory of the Archipelago;
- A Road Map on construction, reconstruction and restoration projects of sites located on the Archipelago to assess the impact on the OUV was prepared and approved in May 2015. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was commissioned in July 2015 for the Project on the Construction of a Residential Building for Specialists of the Complex Fire Rescue Centre, including a number of other projects not specified in the report.

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

Considerable efforts have been deployed by the State Party to address the recommendations of the Committee, notably the improvements made to the legal status of the property, the revision to the Development Strategy to reflect its spiritual, historical-cultural and natural aspects, as well as the progress made with the definition of the attributes which express the OUV, encompassing the cultural and natural context of the property. However, the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission noted a number of gaps and deficiencies which need urgent attention.

In order to effectively ensure the preservation of the OUV of the property, the mission considered that, to date, the comprehensive complexity of this property, its cultural resources, natural and spiritual attributes, namely the pilgrimage routes and monastic roads, the complex irrigation systems with its lakes, visual axis, and its overall cultural landscape, largely shaped by the monastery from the 15th century, have not been fully recognized in management and planning tools. Therefore, the State Party

should further develop the Management plan based on OUV and its attributes, on a full understanding of the development of the overall landscape, and on a cultural landscape approach.

With regard to the current legislative measures and legal status of the property, the mission noted that at present the natural, spiritual and cultural values of the property are not recognized within the legal protection measures, although it is noted that the State Party is elaborating an amendment to the Federal Law to encompass the historical-cultural and natural aspects of the Archipelago.

It is also noted that the boundaries around the Archipelago of Solovetsky, reported at the time of the inscription of the property, do not have a legitimate status of protection according to federal legislation. Only the boundaries around the main monuments and ensembles are considered but these by no means cover the territory of the archipelago. In the absence of adequate protective mechanisms for the whole property composed of six islands and adequate land-use zones, continuing urbanization of the Solovetsky Island poses a serious threat to the integrity of the property, particularly around the Solovetsky Monastery, which is zoned as a Construction Zone and for regulated economic activities.

Attention is also called by the mission on the urgent need for the development of a Conservation Plan for the overall property, to adequately plan and implement conservation measures, in particular addressing the seriously endangered monastic irrigation system, lakes, canals and pilgrimage routes, how the vulnerable traditional wooden architecture might be conserved and upgraded and the reconstruction of monastic buildings approached, and how the overall cultural landscape might be sustained. Meanwhile, the State Party is strongly recommended to refrain from reconstruction or conjectural rebuilding which threatens the authenticity of the property.

The mission found that despite the negative impacts identified by the HIA, the project for the Museum Complex has continued. Constructions, such as the airport building, also potentially threaten the OUV of the property. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to immediately halt these constructions and identify alternative solutions for the design and location of the museum building and the airport building.

The Master Plan for the entire Archipelago and the Development Plan need to be revised to take into account the retrospective Statement of OUV and to set out land-use zones, limits on development and on how development can reinforce the attributes of OUV relating to the “unique site of spiritual, historical-cultural and natural heritage” that has now been formally recognized.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

2. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
3. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
4. *Notes the recommendations of the July 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property and requests the State Party to give high priority to the implementation of its recommendations;*
5. *Acknowledges the positive steps taken by the State Party to address the decisions of the Committee, notably the revisions undertaken so far to the legislative and regulatory measures;*
6. *Considers that the draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property should fully reflect the complexity of this property, its attributes and resources, namely the pilgrimage routes and monastic roads, and the complex irrigation systems with its lakes and visual axis, and its overall cultural landscape;*
7. *Recalls its previous concerns regarding the inappropriate location of the Museum Complex and urges the State Party to immediately halt its construction, remove the parts already constructed, and consider a more appropriate design and location for the*

Museum, and to report progress to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016**, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Also requests that the construction of the airport building be halted and the project reconsidered;
9. Expresses its concern about the poor state of conservation of the monastic irrigation system, with its lakes and canals, pilgrimage routes and vernacular timber buildings, and the degree of rebuilding of monuments, and further requests the State Party to elaborate a Conservation plan for the overall property, to adequately plan and implement conservation measures, and meanwhile to refrain from reconstruction or conjectural rebuilding which threatens the authenticity of the property;
10. Also urges the State Party to revise the Master Plan of the Solovetsky Archipelago, and the Development Plan so that they define the limits of development, and set parameters to ensure that land use and development reinforce the OUV of the property;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to revise the Management Plan so that it is based on the OUV and its attributes, and takes a cultural landscape approach, and to submit the revised plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
12. Invites the State Party to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre and in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of any intention to undertake or authorize major restoration, conservation, and/or development projects which may affect the OUV of the property, as soon as possible and before making any decisions;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

57. Historic Centre of the City of Yaroslavl (Russian Federation) (C 1170)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1170/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 9,348

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1170/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2009, February 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions;
October 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Gradual changes to the urban fabric: construction and restoration projects
- Inappropriate urban development
- Major changes to the property's skyline through the construction of the new Cathedral of the Assumption
- High rise projects
- Lack of appropriate management system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1170/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1170/documents/>. It provides information on the following:

- *Legal regulations:* Updated information regarding legislative and regulatory protection for the property and its buffer zone has been provided and concerns the Order of the Ministry of Culture passed in December 2014, specifying requirements and restrictions in support of the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. With regard to town planning activities, further amendments to the rules for land use and development in the city of Yaroslavl and the Yaroslavl territorial zoning layout is planned for 2016. A further substantial amendment to the Federal Law was passed in October 2014, improving the protection of cultural heritage through, among others, requirements for conservation, strengthened authority of the Federal protection agency, greater role of the local and regional protection bodies, and enhanced supervisory function of the state over conservation of monuments. Regulations of protection zones of cultural heritage sites were passed by Decree of the Government of Russia in September 2015.
- *Management Plan:* The State Party informs that improvements to the management system are required and that the Management Plan will be developed taking into account the recommendations by the Committee and the previous reactive monitoring and advisory missions. Furthermore, the Department of Cultural Heritage Site Protection of the Yaroslavl region was established in 2015, while the Ministry of Culture has the overall responsibility for protection and conservation measures.
- *Construction projects:* Requirements for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) have been established since November 2014. Construction works are determined according to the Master Plan, land-use and development rules. Further improvements to the legal regulations are planned.
- *Bell Tower of the Cathedral of the Assumption:* Presently regulations within the World Heritage property permit reconstructions of ruinous churches. While the project was originally presented and approved in 2007, the Bell Tower lies within the authority of the Yaroslavl Diocese which to date has not applied for a construction permit.
- *Traffic management:* Limitations imposed on town-planning within the World Heritage property include also restrictions on transportation, vehicular traffic and urban infrastructure development.

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

While the State Party has made some improvements with regard to the strengthened legislation and steps are being taken to develop the Management Plan, insufficient regulations and the lack of a comprehensive management system remain of concern. It is not apparent to what extent the revised regulations on urban development and infrastructure relate to the OUV of the property and how these regulations are implemented in the absence of an appropriate Management Plan.

Despite the repeated requests by the Committee, detailed information on the development and construction projects within the property and its buffer zone, or HIA of existing development proposal have not been provided by the State Party. In December 2014, information was received by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS from the civil society concerning a number of construction and infrastructure development projects within the property and its buffer zone. In terms of scale, height and mass, these future projects, specifically in the vicinity of the river Kotorosl, pose a threat to the

OUV of the property inscribed for its importance in architecture, town planning and spatial relationships between buildings. It further confirms the concerns expressed by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) and, the findings of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring and 2014 ICOMOS Advisory missions. On 19 December 2014, information received was transmitted to the State Party for comments in conformity with paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to further elaborate, regulations and rules considering the OUV of the property.

Restrictions on land use and developments within the property and strict limits to development rights should be included, and should apply to development and building projects which were already approved within the existing Urban Master Plan. In this sense, the ICOMOS Advisory mission to Yaroslavl in October 2014 provided essential guidance for the development of the Management Plan and highlighted the need to revise the Urban Master Plan in order to effectively preserve the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, through, among others, specific legislation on historic monuments, architectural and urban morphology regulations.

Conservation measures and archaeological research are carried out according to the current management system and the prevailing policy. However, there is current regulation which permits the reconstruction of ruinous monuments. Therefore, the State Party should refrain from reconstructing any monuments until a conservation strategy, in parallel with the Management Plan, is developed to guide conservation measures and ensure an approach and methodology that is appropriate to the World Heritage status of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Acknowledges the steps taken by the State Party to improve the protection of the property through strengthened legislation and regulations;*
4. *Expresses its concern about the continuing inappropriate construction and infrastructure development projects within the property and its buffer zone, which threaten the authenticity and integrity of the property, and urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *Further elaborate, as a matter of urgency, regulations and rules that take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its buffer zone,*
 - b) *Restrict land use and developments within the property, with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones and strict limits to development rights,*
 - c) *Review and revise the Urban Master Plan, with attention to developments in the buffer zone and the zone of the Kotorosl river, in order to ensure visual integrity of the property;*
5. *Recommends that the urban dimension of the property be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted to ensure the conservation of the latter; using if necessary the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011);*
6. *Encourages the State Party to commence a participatory process for the development of the management structure and to submit a Management Plan for the property to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017**, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

7. Also encourages the State Party to revise the current regulations allowing reconstruction of ruinous monuments and to develop a Conservation Strategy, in parallel with the Management Plan, to guide conservation measures and ensure an approach and methodology that is appropriate to the World Heritage values;
8. Strongly reiterates its request to the State Party to submit, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details of any proposed developments, including those reported as still awaiting implementation, such as the new bypass road, bridges and traffic interchanges around the property, that may have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property, accompanied by Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

58. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (i)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1992-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 38,540

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1992, 1993, 1994, 2011: ICOMOS missions; 2002: UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission and on-site workshop; 2007, 2010 and 2013: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; July 2014 and October 2015: ICOMOS Advisory missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Structural integrity issues at the Church of the Transfiguration
- Lack of an integrated management plan addressing the overall management of the World Heritage property
- Tourism development pressures

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/>, and provides detailed information on the progress made with the conservation efforts, the implementation of the remedial measures identified in 2010, and the recommendations of the Committee:

- A revised Management Plan submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2015 contains key provisions such as the sustainable tourism development strategy, spatial and land-use regulations, a Disaster Risk Management Plan, guidelines on landscape management, guidelines for restoration and a monitoring programme. The Action Plan for 2015-2026 has also been completed;
- No new developments within the buffer zone and adjacent areas have been permitted. In accordance with the approved development concept, the project for the museum entrance area was elaborated in close collaboration with international experts and amended according to the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and recommendations provided;
- Measures have been taken to address the possible impact of tourism through the development of a sustainable tourism strategy and guidelines for tourism development;
- Comprehensive restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration is continuing according to schedule and encompasses all recommendations provided throughout the Reactive Monitoring and ICOMOS Advisory missions and the Committee's decisions, pertaining to the technical aspects of the restoration as well as training components and site management;
- Training and capacity-building activities have been developed and carried out. An educational and training centre on wooden architecture conservation was established in 2014, followed by an agreement signed in 2015 between ICCROM and the Kizhi Museum on the organization of international courses. A new UNESCO Chair of Wooden Architecture Research and Preservation has been established in October 2015.

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

The overall progress achieved in the continuing conservation and restoration measures is commendable and is the result of the dedication of the Kizhi Museum staff and the commitment of the State Party. This significant progress has also been accomplished through the process of continuous discussion and cooperative efforts of all stakeholders involved.

The restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration has entered a challenging period although progress is good and the work is being carried out with high quality. It is recommended that the introduction of new strengthening systems be kept to a minimum and that traditional methods should be preferred. Further it is important to note that there is a potential danger of loss of interior elements due to conservation challenges. This concerns in particular the beams of the heaven ceiling. Removing the original ceiling beams, which are part of the original construction and almost complete church interior, would constitute a loss of authenticity and integrity and would affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Therefore, the re-establishment of every part of the church, including construction and interior, to a state close to original is recommended as the goal of the restoration works. During the critical phase of the restoration works in 2016, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies suggest that the State Party consider inviting another follow-up Advisory Mission to assess the progress on the conservation measures and the finalization of the management plan. It is critical that funds be secured to ensure that the work can continue.

It is noted with great concern that the developments of the museum entrance project are being planned despite the previous decisions of the Committee. Only the possibility to reuse existing buildings for museum staff accommodation should be explored, as previously recommended by the Reactive Monitoring missions. Primarily, the objective of the entrance project should be to spread the pressure and reduce the impact of tourism on the property, rather than to increase tourism.

In response to earlier recommendations, the authorities moved the visually obtrusive floating restaurant to another location. Nevertheless, the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory Mission noted that a large floating pier has been added to the guest house, and a road section has been constructed leading to the guest house and this causes concern in relation to visitor management. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate that the control of development and fluvial regulation, as well as land-use, remain a substantial challenge and necessitate strict application of legal regulations and sensitive tourism development.

While the Management Plan "Kizhi Pogost 2016-2026" is an improvement and contains some positive changes, it requires further development and should focus on the establishment of sufficient protection measures both within and outside the buffer zone area. Detailed comments are provided to the State Party.

In relation to capacity building and training, the recent developments for the setting up of a training centre, the agreement for the organization of international training courses with ICCROM, as well as the development of a UNESCO Chair on Wooden Architecture Research and Preservation are commendable. The competences and experiences obtained at Kizhi can hereby be shared with other professionals and projects internationally and within Russia.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the continuing excellent conservation and restoration works at the Church of the Transfiguration and requests the State Party to secure all necessary funding to complete these works ;*
4. *Notes with concern that developments, such as the Museum entrance project, are being planned despite its previous request to the State Party to halt any developments within the property, its setting and the protected areas of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve, and reiterates its request to the State Party to explore possibilities to reuse existing buildings for Museum staff accommodation in order to significantly reduce new constructions;*
5. *Reiterates that the control of development and fluvial regulation, as well as land-use, remain a substantial challenge and necessitate strict application of legal regulations and sensitive tourism development;*
6. *Recommends that the Management Plan “Kizhi Pogost 2016-2026” be further developed and should focus on the establishment of sufficient protection measures both within and outside the buffer zone area;*
7. *Notes that the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration has entered a challenging period and also requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Ensure that the introduction of new strengthening systems be kept to a minimum and that traditional methods should be preferred,*
 - b) *Re-establish every part of the Church, notably the beams of the heaven ceiling, to a state close to original in order to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the Church,*
 - c) *Consider inviting a follow-up Advisory mission to assess progress made on the conservation measures and the finalization of the management plan;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

59. Pergamon and its Multi-Layered Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1457)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1457/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1457/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Incomplete Management Plan
- Need to restrict vehicle access to the acropolis
- Need to improve the monitoring system by specifying which organization is responsible for monitoring each indicator and include seismic monitoring

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1457/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report concerning the state of conservation of this property, which is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1457/documents/> and provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations adopted at the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, as follows:

- The Management Plan has been improved and finalized. Currently, the Plan has been submitted for formal approval to the Turkish authorities.
- A list has been provided with regards to the regular monitoring of the state of conservation and management of the property, which is undertaken by the key parties involved in monitoring the property, including seismic monitoring.
- Restriction of vehicle access is currently being researched as to its feasibility as well as exploring different means of providing safe access to the Acropolis.
- To prevent floods, the State Party is preparing a Restoration and Amelioration project to preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Survey works of the Selinos Brook Amelioration project as well as a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
- Height restrictions: in accordance with the Committee Decision, the new height limits for construction have been approved to maintain the visual links between the Acropolis and Tumuli.

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

The strong commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property should be noted; as well as the fact that virtually all the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2014 have been acted upon.

It should be noted that the State Party has successfully made progress with regards to the Management Plan and it is currently in its final stages and awaiting approval from the authorities. The need to sustain these efforts to comprehensively address concerns should be underscored, particularly in relation to the efficiency of the management system, state of conservation, and visitor management and public use. The draft Management Plan has been received and it will be the object of an ICOMOS technical review to be submitted separately to the World Heritage Centre.

With regards to the monitoring system of the property, it is noted that the State Party has specified which organization is responsible for each monitoring indicator. It should also be noted that seismic monitoring has also been assigned an organization and that research will be carried out, in the first half of 2016, with Bogazici University Kandilli Observatory and Research Institute to monitor the effects of the seismic waves on archaeological and medieval structures of the site. Financial resources are also being explored for the purchase of the monitoring equipment. This development aims to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the property.

Due to windy weather conditions and resistance from the local population, the restriction of vehicle access to the Acropolis is currently being reviewed. Research is currently ongoing to find other modes of transport as well as whether the restriction of vehicles is feasible in the long-term.

Other conservation issues include the Selinos Brook Amelioration Project, which has been embarked on to prevent floods to the site. A survey and a HIA will be undertaken in conformity with ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties, and subsequently submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review.

In light of the progress made by the State Party, it is considered that the main concerns of the World Heritage Committee are currently being addressed. It is however recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue with the implementation of all relevant measures and plans, improving protection effectiveness and defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property, in order to prevent any threats to its OUV.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.38**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the actions it has undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription to complete the Management Plan for the property, to improve the monitoring system by specifying which organization is responsible for monitoring each indicator, including seismic monitoring, and on its implementation of new height limits to conserve the visual integrity of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the study on the restriction of vehicles to the Acropolis and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Notes the proposed Selinos Brook Amelioration Project and also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the survey and Heritage Impact Assessment for the project, with a specific section focusing on its potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

60. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

61. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527 bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

62. Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora (Ukraine) (C 1411)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

MIXED PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

63. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

AFRICA

64. Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (v)(vii)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1988-2011)

Total amount approved: USD 98,640

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient site management means
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property
- Instable security situation

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

Current conservation issues

On 11 February 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/>. It provides information on the following issues:

- The Cultural Mission of Bandiagara has continued its management functions and carried out urgent conservation measures. The rehabilitation of villages in Youga and the mosque at Nando were implemented with financial support of ISESCO and the Dogo Initiative Association. The State Party identified measures that need to be taken to address the increasing threat to the cultural heritage, which includes awareness raising and education to reaffirm the importance of preserving the cultural diversity and immaterial heritage, as well as updating the management and conservation plans;
- Illegal excavations, illicit trade of cultural objects and vandalism have been reported especially at the site of Bidi, where pillagers have been intercepted. In order to address the lack of knowledge of the regulations and laws, and to increase awareness among communities of the importance of heritage, the authorities propose to enforce the formal ban on illegal excavations through installation of signage, communication and awareness-raising, and to carry out rescue excavations at the affected sites.

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

In spite of the prevailing instability in Mali and the difficulties encountered in maintaining the property, the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara has continued to fulfill its task in ensuring as best possible the conservation and management of the property. It is recommended that the Committee commend the

dedication and preparedness of the Cultural Mission, local professionals and the communities in taking measures to safeguard their heritage during these difficult times. Their efforts to strengthen capacity, through awareness-raising and education to secure the protection and conservation of heritage are invaluable and will contribute to the sustainable conservation of the Cliffs of Bandiagara.

The measures proposed by the authorities to prevent illegal excavation and illicit trade in local cultural artefacts are welcome. However, steps should also be taken to enhance the monitoring and protection of vulnerable sites. It is recommended that the Committee call on all States Parties to support Mali in its fight against illicit trafficking, in the framework of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

In this respect, it is crucial to continue the collaboration with the local communities and to raise awareness to ensure that the different stakeholders participate in the maintenance and monitoring of this heritage. Equally important is the updating of the management and conservation plan taking into account the current circumstances, in order to support traditional maintenance and conservation of the sites by the local communities, through the active participation of all stakeholders, and to enhance measures to support sustainable livelihoods.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as circumstances allow, in order to discuss ways to support and enhance the sustainable management of the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the efforts and commitment of the State Party in the conservation and preservation of the property, at a time of great instability;*
4. *Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to prevent illegal excavation and illicit trafficking of local cultural artefacts, particularly in the site of Bidi, and urges the State Party to take all necessary measures to enhance the protection and monitoring of vulnerable sites;*
5. *Also urges the State Party to continue the collaboration with the local communities to raise awareness of the value of local cultural artefacts to the property and to ensure that the different stakeholders participate in the maintenance and monitoring of this heritage;*
6. *Appeals to all States Parties to ratify and implement the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to support Mali in the fight against illicit trafficking;*
7. *Requests the State Party to commence the process for the updating of the management and conservation plan with the active participation of all stakeholder to include measures to support sustainable livelihoods, and to identify financial support for its implementation, and to submit the draft revised plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to invite, when circumstances allow, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the overall management of the property, and particularly ways to reinforce traditional practices and diversify sustainable development opportunities for local communities;*

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an interim report on the state of conservation and by **1 December 2017** 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 42nd session in 2018.

ARAB STATES

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a database on cultural heritage
- Lack of proper conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites
- Lack of traffic and visitor management plans
- Potential encroachment from development in the village of Rum
- Lack of trained staff and financial resources for the management of the property
- Financial resources
- Governance
- Human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste

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

Current conservation issues

In January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- A legal suit against all seven illegal tourist camps has been prepared and submitted, in addition to legal warnings against at least a dozen impermanent camp-like installations, which are considered by the State Party to be attempts at land grabbing. Both the specialized court of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and the local governor have confirmed their commitments, within the constraints of the region's sensitive political and security conditions, to resolve the camps issue as soon as possible (anticipated in 2016). It is noted that there are 25 recognized legal camps in the property, of which 15 are currently active;
- A Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2014 by ASEZA and the Department of Antiquities (DoA) includes provisions for the establishment of a unified cultural heritage database to be administered by DoA in close coordination with the Wadi Rum Protected Area management

team. This database has since been integrated into the DoA's national cultural databank, though the data entry, verification and geo-referencing processes are still underway. Submission of a specific request for International Assistance to complete the database is envisaged for 2016, and a fully operational database is anticipated later that same year;

- A second revision of the Management Plan was initiated in mid-2015 and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the end of 2017. Among the revisions planned is an improvement to the quality of visitors' experience by developing and updating the interpretation programme;
- The 2016-2017 planning and budgeting process will include the recruitment and installation of two new specialists in cultural and natural science management on-site, as a matter of priority.

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

The State Party has achieved progress in addressing a number of the Committee's concerns, despite facing substantial challenges as a result of regional political instability, economic difficulties and social changes.

Notable progress includes completing the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEZA and the DoA with the aim of enhancing the management of the cultural components of the property; and launching a programme to revise the draft 2014 Management Plan. Less progress has been made on the management of waste water of Rum village, which is noted to be a top priority for ASEZA's investment plan for 2016. The State Party's intention to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the development of a waste water treatment plant, in order to comply to the greatest degree with guidelines and standards, should be welcomed.

Likewise, little progress is reported on implementing Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIA and HIA, respectively) for tourism activities in and around the property. However, it is foreseen that the EIAs and HIAs will be completed in 2016, for which advice will be sought from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the application of IUCN's and ICOMOS' respective guidance documents on impact assessments.

Concerning illegal tourist camps and other camp-like installations within the property, the State Party considers that this issue does not represent a major threat to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), integrity or authenticity. It has nevertheless taken legal steps against the camps and has initiated a negotiation process with the violators in an attempt to reach a peaceful solution for the illegal activities and to explore possibilities for a mutually acceptable compromise. The State Party has not commented on whether strategies exist or are foreseen for the rehabilitation of any degraded areas.

The State Party has not commented on the integration of cultural and natural attributes within a single database, as recommended by the 2014 mission. The cultural heritage database currently under development should be integrated with any existing natural heritage data into one compatible GIS (geographic information system) database including cultural and natural data, in order to support and facilitate the integrated monitoring and management of the cultural and natural values of the property.

The highest priority in the revised Management Plan should be placed on the inclusion of legal measures and policies, backed by the necessary staff and financial resources, to enable effective management of the property and its buffer zone, and the regulation of development activities, visitor management, and tourism infrastructure and facilities, including vehicle route control within the property.

The State Party has not commented specifically on the engagement of national and international research institutions in the management system for the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee strongly encourage the State Party to harness the work achieved by such institutions for achieving the highest possible levels of science- and evidence-based decision-making in the ongoing management of the property and its buffer zone.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the State Party in addressing the recommendations made by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, particularly in the context of the region's sensitive political and security conditions;
4. Welcomes the State Party's intention to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about progress with the development of a waste water treatment plant for the Rum village, in order to ensure maximum compliance with applicable guidelines and standards;
5. Urges the State Party to complete, as a matter of priority, the full and permanent resolution of the issue of illegal tourist camps and other camp-like installations within the property, and to rehabilitate any areas that may have been degraded;
6. Reiterates its request to integrate the cultural heritage database currently under development with any existing natural heritage data into one compatible GIS (Geographic Information System) database, which includes both cultural and natural data, in order to support and facilitate the integrated monitoring and management of the cultural and natural attributes of the property;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the revised Management Plan provides legal measures and policies, backed by the necessary staff and financial resources, to enable effective management of the property and its buffer zone, including the regulation of development activities, visitor management, and tourism infrastructure and facilities, including vehicle route control within the property;
8. Strongly encourages the State Party to harness the work achieved by national and international research institutions in the management system for the property;
9. Requests the State Party to pursue the full implementation of all recommendations of the 2014 mission;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

ASIA-PACIFIC

66. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181quinquies)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the mission report)

67. Trang An Landscape Complex (Viet Nam) (C/N 1438)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (v)(vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Need to revise the management plan and zoning plan, including a tourism management plan
- Potential overcrowding and environmental impacts due to tourism
- Lack of an appropriate surrounding buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/>

Current conservation issues

From 7 to 11 September 2015, Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee hosted an international workshop on the revised management plan of the property, which was attended by representatives from ICOMOS and IUCN. On 1 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents/> and reports on the following:

- Continued support for archaeological research is demonstrated by the property's Management Board having signed a cooperative agreement (June 2015) with two United Kingdom-based universities for a comprehensive 5-year programme (2015 to 2020) of archaeological and palaeo-environmental research;
- The Management Plan submitted with the nomination dossier has been revised as requested. The revised Plan, submitted on 1 December 2015, provides for systematic zoning of the

property and includes a comprehensive Tourism Management Plan, which includes consideration of overcrowding, and proposes some measures to ensure that the environmental, social and management carrying capacity are not exceeded, although that carrying capacity is not clearly defined. It also provides for archaeological research and management strategies to be updated as new information becomes available;

- Annex 2 of the revised Plan (Summary of the Tourism Master Plan for the Province) indicates that the current population of the buffer zone is 27,295, with an anticipated growth to 31,470 by 2030. However, it then describes the Bai Dinh area as a spiritual tourism destination, which will become a new urban university area with a projected population of about 20,000 in 2030;
- A recent revision of the property's boundary to better reflect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has resulted in a minor modification which adds 54 hectares to the property and removes the same area from the buffer zone, the outer boundary of which remains unchanged. A request for a minor boundary modification of the property has been submitted by the State Party, and will be examined by the Committee under item 8 of its Agenda at its 40th session.

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

The progress made by the State Party in addressing the concerns raised by the Committee regarding the boundaries of the property is welcomed.

The revised Management Plan notes that overcrowding on some days is already a concern, yet it projects an increase from one million visits to two million by 2020. The Trang An Management Board (TAMB) expresses confidence that it can manage a cited peak of around 25,000 visits without undesirable environmental and social impacts, but the property is already experiencing this level of visitation so if visits do double by 2020 then 50,000 visits in a single day is possible. While the plan prescribes surveys to identify impacts of overcrowding and imposes controls "as required", it does not identify potential problems and also does not elaborate a strategy to prevent overcrowding. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure measures are in place to limit overcrowding and its impacts, such as a clearly justified maximum daily quota on visitor numbers, and an assessment of the facilities required to adequately service the anticipated increase in visitation.

Following the September 2015 workshop, IUCN noted with concern that the draft Plan proposed to encourage rock-climbing, which would result in an increased risk of impacts on the OUV of the property. The Plan submitted by the State Party in December 2015 notes, on page 77, that climbing is considered inappropriate in the property but, on page 48, it states that the main festival held at Tran temple every year ends with mountain climbing. It is therefore recommended that the Committee express its concern over the potential impacts of rock and/or mountain climbing on the OUV of the property, and that it request the State Party to place a ban on climbing in sensitive areas and to prepare a detailed Plan. This Plan shall clearly define the additional recreational activities which are to be encouraged, where they will be permitted, what facilities will be provided; and it shall also identify the potential impacts on OUV and how these will be addressed.

In addition, it is noted with concern that the Management Plan refers to a new urban university area in Bai Dinh, which would result in a population growth of 20,000 people in the buffer zone by 2030. It is recommended that Committee request the State Party to provide further information on these plans, and to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment for development of the buffer zone, taking into account potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties for the proposed projects, prior to allowing any such development to take place.

As the Plan notes that archaeological sites will become better-known among the public, and as tourist numbers increase, the management of these sites will become of greater concern. Therefore, the Management Plan should be further revised to include detailed information on which specific actions will be conducted, in terms of staff training, and long-term planning, and much more detail needs to be included as to how the archaeological heritage is to be catalogued, condition-surveyed, monitored and protected through conservation measures, including the method by which the Management Board legally acquires, archives and stores archaeological artefacts, in order to ensure their adequate conservation.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.14** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Acknowledges the cooperative agreement signed with two United Kingdom-based universities for a comprehensive 5-year programme (2015 to 2020) of archaeological and palaeo-environmental research;
4. Notes with significant concern that the State Party has not included adequate measures in the revised management plan concerning the management of tourism and cultural heritage, and requests the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure measures are in place to limit overcrowding, including the establishment of a clearly justified maximum daily quota for peak and normal visitation days,
 - b) Include sections concerning the archaeological heritage, which clearly detail the actions to be undertaken, in terms of staff training, conservation/restoration methods, and long-term planning,
 - c) Develop the skills of the management body to successfully plan the management of the archaeological heritage at the property,
 - d) Establish a system for the cataloguing, condition-surveying, monitoring and protection of archaeological heritage through conservation measures, in order to adequately conserve archaeological artefacts;
5. Also requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of the facilities and services required to adequately service the anticipated increase in visitation from one to two million visitors, including the extrapolated festival-day peaks of up to 50,000;
6. Expresses its concern over the potential impacts of rock and/or mountain climbing on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Assess these impacts and implement all necessary measures to avoid and mitigate them, including by putting in place a ban on climbing in sensitive areas,
 - b) Prepare a detailed plan clearly defining the additional recreational activities which are to be encouraged, where they will be permitted, what facilities will be provided and identifying the potential impacts on OUV and how they will be addressed;
7. Also notes with concern that the revised Management Plan refers to a new urban university area in Bai Dinh, which would result in a population growth of 20,000 people within the buffer zone by 2030, and requests furthermore the State Party to:
 - a) Submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed development projects within the property, its buffer zone and setting for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse,
 - b) Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment for development of the buffer zone, taking into account potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and a

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties for the proposed projects, prior to allowing any such development to take place;

8. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

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

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

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1986-2011)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 20 000 (UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice)

Previous monitoring missions

September 1998: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN mission; December 2013: UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and planning
- Economic and demographic developments
- Buildings and development
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation

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

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99/documents>, as well as additional documentation on 28 February 2016 following a request of the World Heritage Centre dated 28 January 2016. Progress in addressing a number of requests made by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) is presented as follows:

- The design for the “Instauration of St. Clement’s University at Plaoshnik” was revised taking into account recommendations of the 2013 UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission, with regards to the size, elevation, scale and scope of planned constructions;
- The draft Management Plan for the property was finalized with support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice, and is currently in consultation process by relevant authorities;
- The preparation of a detailed urban plan for the entire monumental ensemble in Ohrid was abandoned in favour of 19 urban plans, one for each of the complexes, which are expected by September 2017;

- The establishment of a Commission with an advisory and coordinating role for natural and cultural heritage to control development pressures and interventions at the property is pending the adoption of the Management Plan;
- A Comprehensive Action Plan for the lakeshore is planned in the future;
- The coastal development plans at Ljubanishte 1 and 2 by the investor “Sahara India, Pariwar” were cancelled;
- The 2015 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for amendments to the Management Plan of the Galičica National Park submitted by the State Party provides information on the potential significant negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the proposed change of zoning of the Galičica National Park, aimed at accommodating the proposed Galičica Ski Centre and Resort and the planned construction of the Express Road A3 (Ohrid-Peshtani);
- Lin (Albania)-Struga-Kicevo section of the Railway Corridor VIII: an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), prepared in June 2010, provides information on a number of potential negative environmental impacts. The EIA of the Highway A2 (Trebenishte-Struga) project notes negative impacts on the environment, cultural heritage and landscape and proposes mitigation measures to minimize impact. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) notes no significant impact of the highway on the OUV of the property;
- Port construction in the town of Ohrid: a feasibility study and public consultation were undertaken;
- The State Party continues to cooperate in the framework of the Upstream Process towards the extension of the property to the Albanian side of the lake.

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

The State Party has taken significant measures to respond to the recommendations of the 2013 Advisory mission and the requests by the Committee, in particular by reviewing the project St. Clements University at Plaoshnik and progressing in finalizing the Management Plan for the property. The decision to cancel the coastal developments at Ljubanishte by the investor is also noted.

However, large-scale projects continue to be proposed within the property. The SEA of the Draft Amendments to the Management Plan for Galičica National Park (2011-2020) notes that changes to the park's zoning were proposed by the Government to accommodate development projects, including the Galičica Ski Centre, associated ski lift base and the Gradiste Lakeside Village, which would conflict with the World Heritage status of the property. The SEA also notes cumulative impacts of the combination of the Ski Centre and the A3 road, which would lead to increased human activity and additional pressures on the property. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party not to approve the proposed amendments and to consider alternative locations for ski developments outside of the boundaries of the property and the Galičica National Park.

The EIA of the Pan European Railway Corridor VIII notes that incidents of substance run-offs during construction and operation phases would result in pollution of Lake Ohrid. This raises particular concern since part of the railway is planned very close to the lake shore in one of the last well preserved stretches. Given the high sensitivity of its aquatic ecosystems and the lake shore's visual integrity of this stretch, alternatives with minimal potential impact on the lake and its shoreline should be preferred and all necessary impact mitigation measures should be adopted during the construction and operation phases.

The EIA and HIA of Highway A2 (Trebenishte-Struga) have been developed for only a 8km-long stretch, which is only a portion of a much wider planned transportation infrastructure upgrading. Therefore they do not provide a comprehensive assessment of the entire stretch of infrastructure which should also consider potential cross-border impacts on the Albanian side of the lake and the possible alternatives for its location.

The conclusions of the above mentioned SEA, and concerns for the A2 Highway and the Railway Corridor VIII indicate that these projects represent a potential danger to the property, in line with paragraphs 179 and 180 of the *Operational Guidelines* and would represent a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

A comprehensive action plan for the lakeshore and a SEA and HIA for all the above-mentioned infrastructure projects should be developed as a matter of urgency, in order to assess their potential

cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property and to consider possible alternative routes and locations for these major projects to ensure they do not impact adversely on OUV.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and to provide technical advice on the development of a SEA and HIA for all proposed infrastructure projects.

It is further recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to finalize the Management Plan and to establish, as a matter of urgency, the envisaged Commission which would provide a management structure to coordinate actions at different levels. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for the Integrated Protection Plan for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid for which no information was provided by the State Party.

Finally, the continued cooperation of the State Party in the framework of the World Heritage Upstream Process aimed at a possible transboundary extension of the property to the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid should be commended, as effective transboundary management will ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the property and enhance its integrity.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.58, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party concerning the revision of the project for the Instauration of St. Clement's University at Plaoshnik to reduce its negative impacts on the property;*
4. *Notes with concern that a number of large-scale infrastructure projects have been proposed within the property and that the conclusions of the impact assessments of the proposed Galičica Ski Centre, the A3 road, the Railway corridor VIII and Highway A2 demonstrate that these projects would be likely to cause significant potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and considers that these projects appear to represent a potential danger to the property, in line with paragraphs 179 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Requests the State Party, as a matter of urgency, to prepare an overall Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that assess comprehensively the potential cumulative impacts of all proposed infrastructure plans and other major projects on the property's OUV, with a view to identifying alternative routes and locations for these major projects that do not impact on the OUV, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any further work is undertaken;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2016 to assess its state of conservation and to provide technical advice to the State Party with regards to the development of the above-mentioned SEA and HIA;*
7. *Also welcomes the participatory approach to the revisions of the Management Plan for the property but strongly encourages the State Party to:*
 - a) *Finalize the Management Plan for the property, and the Integrated Protection Plan for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid, and submit an electronic and three*

printed copies of the revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to the above-mentioned Reactive Monitoring Mission,

- b) Finalize the detailed urban plans for each of the 19 complexes which are part of the monumental ensemble, in line with the existing regulatory framework, to ensure the enforcement of provisions and the control of activities that might impact the OUV of the property,*
 - c) Strictly enforce legal and regulatory provisions, and establish, as a matter of urgency, the foreseen Commission to coordinate natural and cultural heritage activities, as a management structure to control development pressures and interventions at the property,*
 - d) Develop a comprehensive action plan for the lakeshore to provide adequate guidance on the type and extent of potential developments in relation to the attributes of OUV of the property and its setting;*
- 8. Also encourages the States Parties of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to continue to cooperate in the framework of the Upstream Process towards the preparation of a transboundary extension of the property to possibly include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid, in order to strengthen the values and integrity of the property;*
- 9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

NATURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

69. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2008: World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Proposed hydropower dams
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation, uncoordinated development)
- Illegal activities (logging and hunting) (issue resolved)
- Management systems (problems associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)
- Invasive / alien species
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/documents>, providing the following information:

With regards to the transboundary cooperation on the contiguous properties of Iguazú National Park and Iguaçu National Park, the Iguazu National Park's Administration has sent a proposal for a memorandum of understanding to its counterpart in Brazil but no formal response has been received and therefore no formal agreement has been signed between Argentina and Brazil to date. However, both countries have continued their cooperation in the fields of planning, patrolling and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts. Moreover, experts from Iguazú National Park (Argentina) have been appointed as counselors to the Advisory Board of Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) which provides them an opportunity to participate in the planning process for the updating of the management plan for the Brazilian park.

Information on planning, control and surveillance, public use, monitoring and research is also provided.

The management plan for the Iguazú National Park is currently ongoing and it is expected that the plan will be finalized in June 2016. With regards to public use, the report informs of progress achieved

with development of new walkways aimed at improving the flow of visitors. Likewise, several measures have been undertaken in the fields of species monitoring (fish species inventory in the national park and new estimations of the population of jaguar in the broader region) and eradication of invasive alien species.

The State Party also expresses its concern regarding the construction of the Baixo Iguaçu hydropower plant, close to the Iguaçu National Park in Brazil, and refers to potential impacts to the environment, the Iguazú Basin and the water level of the Iguazú Falls. However, the report does not provide any further details on this matter.

Another concern raised in the report is the proposed extension of the National Route 101 at the eastern boundary of the property which would pose risks to wildlife and result in fragmentation of this key area. However, no further details are provided on this matter.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While the information on the ongoing cooperation on the ground between the contiguous properties of Iguazú National Park (Argentina) and Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) is welcome, the absence of a formal agreement on transboundary cooperation between Argentina and Brazil remains of concern. It is noted that a draft memorandum of understanding has been suggested by Argentina, but no formal response has been given by Brazil. Given the numerous previous World Heritage Committee requests to formalize the transboundary cooperation, it is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to resolve this issue as a matter of priority. Mindful that within the legal and institutional systems in each country options for a formal high-level agreement might be limited, it is also recommended that the Committee request the two States Parties to develop a roadmap for resolving this issue in the nearest future, including options for formal agreements at different levels, as well as other ways of formalizing transboundary cooperation, for example through management and annual work or action plans, mutual inclusion of experts on boards and management bodies of the two parks. It is recommended that such a roadmap is presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

The concerns of the State Party regarding the Baixo Iguaçu Hydropower project in Brazil are noted. This issue has been examined by the Committee since its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and is discussed in detail in the report on the state of conservation for Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) in this document.

The information provided on the activities in the field of species monitoring is welcome. Given that for some key species, such as jaguar, it is highly important to consider the broader region, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue its efforts and to increase its cooperation in this field with the State Party of Brazil where a number of monitoring projects is also ongoing.

The limited information provided by the State Party with regards to the extension of the National Route 101 raises significant concern. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on this issue, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and to ensure that activities associated with the road extension are not permitted to proceed until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken, including an assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the OUV of the contiguous property of Iguaçu National Park in Brazil, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.31, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the information regarding the ongoing cooperation on the ground between Iguazú National Park (Argentina) and the contiguous Iguaçu National Park (Brazil), but*

notes with concern that in spite of its numerous previous requests, no formal agreement on transboundary cooperation with regards to the two properties has been signed between Argentina and Brazil to date;

4. *Noting* that within the legal and institutional systems in each country, options for a formal high-level agreement might be limited, *requests* the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to develop a roadmap for formalizing transboundary cooperation, including options for formal agreements at different levels and other mechanisms, and to submit it, by **1 December 2017**, to the World Heritage Centre;
5. *Encourages* the State Party to continue its efforts to monitor key species and to increase its cooperation in this regard with the State Party of Brazil;
6. *Notes with concern* the information provided by the State Party regarding the extension of the National Route 101 and *also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, detailed information on this project, and to ensure that activities associated with the road extension are not permitted to proceed until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken, including an assessment of the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the OUV of the contiguous property of Iguazu National Park in Brazil, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

70. Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2001

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 50,000 under the Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for firefighting planning.

Previous monitoring missions

March 1999: IUCN mission; April 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (construction of a hydropower dam)
- Ground transport infrastructure (draft law and pressure to re-open an illegal road)
- Illegal logging and hunting (issue resolved)
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation, uncoordinated development)
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)
- Management systems (issues associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)
- Invasive / alien species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/>

Current conservation issues

An IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in March 2015 with the main objective to assess the status and potential impacts of the Baixo Iguaçu hydropower project. The mission report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>. The mission elaborated a list of recommendations with regards to the Baixo Iguaçu project, the situation with the Colono Road, as well as the management of the property.

On 4 January 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The Colono Road remains closed and the Bill 61/2013, which would provide a legal basis for the reopening of the road, has not been discussed in the Senate to date and is awaiting assessment by the Infrastructure Services Committee of the Senate. The Brazilian government has maintained its position not to reopen the road, therefore even if the bill passes in the Senate, it can be vetoed by the President;
- The Environmental Installation License for the Baixo Iguaçu project was issued in August 2015. The license includes a number of conditions that the company responsible for the project will have to comply with. The State Party notes that thanks to the conditions under the water use license granted for the future plant, a greater regulation of the water flow at the waterfalls can be expected. A monitoring programme has also been established downstream from the Plant to track and prevent possible impacts;
- The review of the management plan of the Iguaçu National Park began in August 2015 and it is expected that the revised management plan will be available in July 2017;
- Cooperation between the staff of the Iguaçu (Brazil) and Iguazú (Argentina) national parks has been ongoing. Experts from Brazil have been taking part in the planning process for the Argentinian park, which is currently also undergoing a review of its management plan, and vice versa;
- A number of projects aimed at monitoring populations of key species, such as *Panthera onca* and *Puma concolor*, are currently ongoing.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Although the State Party confirms that the Colono road remains closed and that approval in the Senate of Bill 61/2013 is unlikely, concerns remain. The confirmation that the Brazilian Government remains opposed to the reopening of the road and that the Bill could still be vetoed by the President is also noted. The conclusion of the 2015 IUCN mission was that reopening of the road would represent a clear ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the property and that, as long as the Bill remains pending, the property continues to be potentially threatened. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee urge the State Party to ensure that the proposed Bill is not approved, even if positively voted on by the Senate, through the legal mechanisms that may be available.

As for the Baixo Iguaçu project, the conclusion of the mission was that the project had undergone significant changes over a number of years, with the most recent one being the fact that ICMBio (Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade) was given an opportunity to elaborate a set of conditions which would be imposed on the company responsible for the project. These conditions included, *inter alia*, restrictions to ensure minimal water flows and minimize water flow fluctuations. Taking into consideration that the Iguaçu River already has a cascade of dams upstream of the proposed Baixo Iguaçu, these fluctuations have so far been substantial, including to such a

degree that the aesthetic values of the Iguazu Falls were at times compromised. Therefore imposing strict conditions on the Baixo Iguazu could potentially help reduce such extreme variations. However, the mission also concluded that, given the location of the Baixo Iguazu very close to the property, additional risks had to be considered carefully and recommended to prepare, in addition to the existing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), an assessment of all potential impacts specifically on the OUV and integrity of the property and of the adjoining Iguazú National Park in Argentina, which would need to be submitted to ICMBio for comment. The information provided by the State Party that the Environmental Installation License containing a set of conditions was granted in August 2015 is noted. However, it is unclear whether an additional assessment has been conducted, as recommended by the mission. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to ensure that the construction of the dam does not proceed until this and other recommendations of the mission with regards to this project have been implemented.

The information provided on species monitoring is welcomed and these efforts are in line with the recommendations of the 2015 mission. Given that for some species, such as jaguar, it is highly important to consider the wider landscape, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue its efforts and increase its cooperation with the State Party of Argentina where a number of monitoring projects are also ongoing.

The information provided by the State Party on the review of the management plan and the transboundary cooperation is noted. Given the numerous previous Committee requests to formalize transboundary cooperation, and mindful that within the legal and institutional systems in each country options for a formal high-level agreement might be limited, it is recommended that the Committee requests the two States Parties to develop a roadmap for resolving this issue as a matter of priority, including options for formal agreements at different levels, as well as other ways of formalizing transboundary cooperation, for example through management and annual work or action plans, and mutual inclusion of experts on boards of the two parks, and to present it for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.82, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the information provided by the State Party that cooperation on the ground between Iguazu National Park and the contiguous Iguazú National Park in Argentina has been ongoing, but notes with concern that in spite of its numerous previous requests, no formal agreement on transboundary cooperation with regards to the two properties has been signed between Argentina and Brazil to date;*
4. *Requests the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to develop, in accordance with the legal and institutional systems in each country, a roadmap for formalizing transboundary cooperation, including options for formal agreements at different levels and other mechanisms, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**;*
5. *Also welcomes the confirmation that the management plan for the property is currently being revised and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan;*
6. *Notes with appreciation that the Colono Road remains closed, that the approval in the Senate of Bill 61/2013, which would provide a legal basis for the reopening of the road, is considered unlikely and that, in case any Bill regarding the reopening of the road is*

positively voted on by the Senate, it can be still vetoed by the President of the Republic;

7. Recalling that the illegal opening of the road in 1997 led the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, notes the conclusions of the 2015 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that the reopening of the Colono Road would represent a clear ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the integrity of the property, and considers that the situation where Bill 61/2013 remains pending continues to represent a potential threat to the property;
8. Urges the State Party to ensure that the proposed Bill 61/2013 is not approved, and also considers that failure to resolve this issue could create conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the construction of the Baixo Iguazu hydropower dam does not proceed until all recommendations of the 2015 mission with regards to this project have been implemented, in particular:
 - a) In addition to the existing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), develop a specific assessment of any potential impacts of the construction and operation of the Baixo Iguazu hydropower plant specifically on the OUV and integrity of both the property and the adjacent World Heritage property of the Iguazú National Park in Argentina,
 - b) Ensure that ICMBio has the opportunity to review this assessment and undertake appropriate consultations with the relevant Argentinian authorities, in order to confirm whether ICMBio would still give its authorization for the construction of the dam and/or whether the conditions it has already elaborated should be further amended or completed based on the results of the assessment,
 - c) Ensure that further development of the project does not proceed prior to a copy of the specific assessment and the conclusions of ICMBio having been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN,
 - d) In case authorization is given by ICMBio, ensure that the conditions it sets are duly fulfilled before the construction of the dam proceeds, and submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the conclusions of ICMBio on the degree to which the conditions have been fulfilled;
10. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in the field of key species monitoring and to increase its cooperation in this regard with the State Party of Argentina;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

71. Cerrado Protected areas : Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) (N 1035)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 - World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for Brazil; USD 30,000 - Rapid Response Facility support for firefighting

Previous monitoring missions

March 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient legal framework and protection in place

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The management plan of the Pouso Alto Environmental Protection Area (EPA) that surrounds the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property was approved in 2015 and is currently under revision for publication;
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in June 2015, between the Ministry of Environment, the ICMBio (Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation) and the Government of the State of Goias for the development of a strategy to consolidate conservation units to ensure the conservation of biodiversity of the region;
- Three public consultation hearings were carried out in September 2015 in the municipalities of Nova Roma, Cavalcante and Alto Paraiso de Goias to discuss the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park. These discussions and complementary meetings with key stakeholders led to certain modifications to the previously proposed new boundaries of the park, namely exclusion of potentially contentious areas and addition of new areas to the south of the national park;
- A project aimed at promoting conservation of the privately owned lands surrounding the property has been approved in partnership with the State of Goias. The objective is to intensify the Rural Environmental Registry and map the vegetation cover in more than 2,200 rural properties within the Pouso Alto EPA;
- Several risk prevention initiatives have been carried out for the protection of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, in particular the engagement of fire brigade staff.

An IUCN Advisory mission visited the property in February 2016 to discuss the results of the public consultation process on the expansion of Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park and examine the possible need and related procedures of a major boundary modification and re-nomination, including the potential design of a revised boundary. Its report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Despite the loss of the national park status on 72% of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component, the State Party reports that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains well preserved. However, anthropogenic pressures, especially fires and extensive cattle grazing, have clearly increased in the last years and have affected some areas, particularly in the northern limits. Permanent human presence in those areas has prevented the re-establishment of the national park status on the entire property.

It is noted that significant progress has been made on the revision of the boundaries of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park. In this regard, a consultation process was initiated in 2015 engaging 400 stakeholders in the discussion on the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park boundaries.

The 2016 IUCN Advisory mission noted that the process met the national legal requirements for the creation and expansion of conservation units and that a number of concerns expressed during the consultation process were taken into consideration during the development of the final proposal for the expansion of the national park, which should guarantee its acceptance by the affected stakeholders. The proposed expanded boundaries of the national park cover 248,301 ha and largely follow its original 2001 boundaries which remain the current boundaries of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property. The proposal adds further areas important for conservation of some mammal species, while excluding the most degraded areas in the northern part of the property. However, it should be noted that a proposal for significant boundary modification of the property will need to be submitted by the State Party in order to allow for a detailed evaluation by IUCN, and decision by the World Heritage Committee. The findings of the mission do not prejudice the results of that evaluation.

It was communicated to the mission that the Decree on the expansion of the national park would be submitted in 2016 to the Ministry of Environment and subsequently to the President of Brazil for approval. As further reported by the mission, officials of the Ministry of the Environment and the Government of Goiás met in February and confirmed a mutual understanding of the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, but it currently remains to be confirmed if the new decree will be signed and the State Party did not provide clear information on the expected timeframe.

While the progress achieved with the development of a proposal for the re-expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park and the undertaking of public consultation process is noted, the process of the restoration of the protection regime of the entire Chapada dos Veadeiros component has not yet been completed. Consequently, the preparation of a proposal for a significant boundary modification of the property remains pending.

Further actions undertaken by the State Party to ensure protection of the property, including approval of a management plan for the Pouso Alto EPA which surrounds the property and land tenure regularization process, are noted.

It is recalled that Decision **39 COM 7B.27** noted that in the case significant progress to address the lack of protection of parts of the property has not been achieved, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger could be considered, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. While the measures undertaken by the State Party to resolve the issue are noted, a number of actions remain to be completed. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that the Decree on the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros is approved as a matter of priority and to submit a proposal for a significant boundary modification of the property to reflect the new boundaries of the national park. It is further recommended that, in case there is insufficient progress in addressing these remaining issues, the Committee consider inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 41st session in 2017.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,

2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.29** and **39 COM 7B.27**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Reiterates its concern that the majority of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property continues to no longer benefit from National Park status, and that its integrity is therefore no longer guaranteed;*
4. *Acknowledges the progress achieved by the State Party to restore the protection status of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component, including the undertaking of the public consultation process on the expansion of the park, but notes that a number of issues remain to be urgently resolved;*
5. *Regretting that the State Party did not submit any proposal for a significant boundary modification of the property, in line with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines and as requested by the Committee at its 37th and 39th sessions, urges the State Party to ensure that the Decree on the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park is approved as a matter of priority and to submit, by **1 February 2017**, a proposal for a significant boundary modification of the property to reflect the new boundaries of the National Park;*
6. *Requests the State Party to continue its efforts in the implementation of the management plan of the Pouso Alto Environmental Protection Area (EPA), which surrounds the property and in the undertaking of the land tenure regularization process;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017, **with a view to considering, in the case that significant progress to address the lack of protection of parts of the property has not been achieved, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

72. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama) (N 205bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

73. Morne - Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica) (N 814)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

74. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

75. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

76. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 350,000 for management planning, installation of mooring buoys for diving boats, working with local communities, capacity building, public use planning and improved local stakeholder's understanding of legal protection measures.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Livestock farming (continued and growing presence of cattle)
- Management systems (delayed implementation of the Management Plan)
- Marine transport infrastructure (planned construction of a naval base)
- Legal framework (absence of clear regulations)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Human resources (insufficient management capacity)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>, and provides the following information:

- The removal of livestock from the Coiba Island is the priority for the National Directorate of Protected Areas and Wildlife under the newly established Ministry of Environment;

- The financial mechanisms for the Coiba Fund are being elaborated and its implementation is expected to begin in 2016;
- Following the evaluation of the management plan for the Coiba National Park, its validity was extended for five years. Its revision will be completed by July 2017;
- A number of measures are foreseen to strengthen the Executive Council of the National Park;
- No additional infrastructure has been constructed within the naval base and the total amount of the military personnel present on the island remains low (11 people). The staff of the National Park has conducted meetings with the military personnel and organized presentations about the conservation of the property;
- A Public Use Plan (PUP) is being developed for the property, which will identify its carrying capacity and establish the limits of acceptable change;
- The Ministry of the Environment and the Authority of Aquatic Resources of Panama are going through a restructuring phase with regards to their respective roles in the implementation of regulations in the Special Zone for Marine protection of the property (SZMP);
- The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama is currently also introducing changes in order to improve fisheries management nationwide. In 2016, it is planned to assess fishing activities in the SZMP and develop proposals for their management through a participatory approach. The State Party confirms that shark finning is prohibited in Panama;
- An overall good state of conservation of the property is reported, including a healthy state of reef communities.

On 11 March 2016, the State Party submitted additional information, namely a copy of the resolution adopted by the Ministry of Environment which authorizes the removal of livestock from Coiba Island and requests the relevant authorities to develop and implement a work plan for these activities.

On 13 April 2016, the State Party provided additional details on the project aimed at assessing fishing activities and development of management actions for the main artisanal, commercial and sport fisheries in the SZMP. It also states that the development of the PUP for the property is in its final stages.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The measures undertaken by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2014 mission are welcomed.

The resolution adopted recently by the Ministry of Environment to authorize the removal of livestock from Coiba Island is welcomed, but given the slow progress in addressing this issue to date and the delay of the previous timeframe proposed by the State Party, the prompt identification of a timeframe for its implementation by the State Party is imperative.

The decision to develop a PUP for the property to identify its carrying capacity and the limits of acceptable change is noted. However, no detailed information on the Plan has been provided. While development of such a Plan would be important in order to ensure that public use, particularly tourism activities, are strictly regulated, it is unclear to what extent this Plan can address the Committee's request to ensure that no development will be permitted within the property and that cumulative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) caused by mainland developments are effectively addressed.

While the communication between the staff of the Coiba National Park and the military personnel at the naval base is noted, no specific information was provided by the State Party on the implementation of biosafety measures for the base.

The progress indicated on establishing fisheries regulations within the SZMP is noted. However, it should be recalled that the Committee, in its Decision **38 COM 7B.84**, expressed its concern about the negative impacts of fisheries and that the 2014 mission concluded that fisheries, in particular illegal and sport fisheries, posed a threat to the property's OUV. The measures reported by the State Party to address the issue, and the announced project on assessing fishing activities and development of management actions for the main fisheries in the SZMP are welcomed but will not be sufficient to fully address the impacts of fisheries on the property. Recalling that the completion and implementation of the management plan for the SZMP was a key request of the Committee in Decision **38 COM 7B.84**,

significant additional measures in the framework of a consolidated management response are required, in line with the detailed recommendations made by the 2014 mission, in order to fully address the issue. In the absence of significant progress, it is considered that the threat posed by unregulated fishing would represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

A number of significant institutional changes have recently been introduced in Panama, particularly the establishment of the Ministry of Environment in 2015. The Aquatic Resources Authority is undergoing restructuring and the validity of the management plan for Coiba National Park has been extended and is currently undergoing a revision. Despite these institutional changes, it will be crucial to prevent further delays in the implementation of the Committee's requests and to ensure that key measures are undertaken, such as the revision and implementation of the management plan for the property, elaboration and implementation of a comprehensive legislation on fisheries, development of clear regulations that would ensure that no coastal development is permitted within the boundaries of the property and the operationalization of the Coiba fund. The continuous absence of these key legislative and management instruments will constitute a clear potential danger to the OUV and integrity of the property. Given the lack of significant progress in addressing previous Committee requests, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the impacts of unregulated fishing, assess progress with the implementation of the 2014 mission recommendations and provide technical advice to the State Party on the urgent implementation of the outstanding recommendations in the context of the new institutional framework for the property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the adoption of a resolution authorizing the removal of the livestock from the property, which should allow to address the significant delay in this issue, and requests the State Party to proceed with the livestock removal as a matter of utmost priority;
4. Notes with concern that no significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of a number of key Committee requests, in particular those related to regulations to ensure that no coastal development is permitted within the boundaries of the property and the management of fisheries, and considers that a continued absence of effective regulations and management programmes in that regard would constitute a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:
 - a) *Ensure that the Coiba Fund becomes fully operational as a matter of priority and the decision-making power of the Executive Council is strengthened, by including representatives from the tourism sector and the local communities from the coastal areas opposite the property,*
 - b) *Rigorously ensure that no development will be permitted within the boundaries of the property, and that cumulative impacts on the property's OUV caused by developments on the mainland are effectively addressed,*
 - c) *Complete, implement and enforce the management plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) as a matter of priority, which should include clear regulations related to fisheries management, including no-take zones and*

seasonal closures of critical areas, such as Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island, and to provide an electronic copy and three printed copies of the draft management plan for the SZMP, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

6. Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate impacts of unregulated fishing, assess progress with the implementation of the 2014 mission recommendations and provide technical advice regarding the urgent implementation of the outstanding recommendations in the context of the new institutional framework;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 19,950

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2010: World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Renewable energy facilities (geothermal energy exploration)
- Absence of strict development control process (issue resolved)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species

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

Current conservation issues

On 21 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents>. The report presents progress as follows :

- As the property continues to attract potential investors and developers, the State Party focuses much of its efforts on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 study on the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), which was endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers on April 2015 as the tool for appraising applications for development within the property. The integration

of the recommendations of the study in the policy framework and other development guidelines for the property are highlighted, including the draft Terms of Reference and Guidance Notes for the incorporation of these recommendations as Regulations within the Physical Planning and Development Act (2001);

- With regards to geothermal resources, the current stage continues to be restricted to non-invasive exploration and is reported to have no impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property at this time. Furthermore, preliminary findings suggest modest, if any, direct overlap between areas of geothermal potential and the property;
- As part of a broader awareness campaign, the State Party organized a successful invasive alien plant eradication exercise on the Gros Piton Nature Trail. Further community outreach and public awareness activities specifically address the World Heritage status of the property;
- The terms of reference for the updating of the Pitons Management Area (PMA) Management Plan are currently under development;
- The LAC study recommended two minor modifications to the zones within the property with different levels of restrictions on development (Policy Areas 1, 3 and 4), which can only be implemented by undertaking a survey for the boundary adjustment. The State Party intends to seek the assistance of the World Heritage Centre in identifying funds for this exercise. It also notes that there are challenges related to boundary demarcation due to private land tenure within the property;
- Construction of villas has already started as part of the Freedom Bay project; however several governmental institutions are involved in monitoring and ensuring compliance with the LAC Study and a "Freedom Bay Monitoring Committee" has been set up for the purpose. Discussions are also ongoing with the developers of the Sugar Beach project with the objective to ensure compliance with the LAC study and the reengagement of the consulting firm responsible for the elaboration of the study has been proposed to provide guidance in that regard.

On 04 May 2016 the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party regarding third party information which raised concerns about a recent sale of land within the property to a private developer. On 10 May 2016 the State Party responded that the sale had to be abandoned since the land concerned was located in Policy zone 1 where no construction is permitted by the LAC study.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the adoption of the LAC study by the Cabinet of Ministers. It is noted that the study appears to have sparked an ongoing and important debate and has directly informed attempts to find a more balanced approach to conservation and development. The accompanying efforts to raise public awareness are commendable. However, the incorporation of the recommendations of the study into enforceable legislation remains to be completed.

According to the State Party report, the earlier concerns about location of potential geothermal resources within or in the immediate vicinity of the property have not materialized. At the current non-invasive exploration stage, recent findings suggest minor to no potential overlap with the property. Nevertheless, any exploration or eventual use of geothermal energy will require adequate assessment of the potential impacts on the property even when the development may not occur within the property itself.

The efforts to eradicate invasive alien plants along a widely used trail, combined with public awareness-raising, are exemplary. At the same time, it is unlikely that an approach restricted to such short-lived events can effectively achieve the eradication of invasive plants. Systematic and permanent monitoring to guide management responses are needed at all times.

The intention to review and revise the Management Plan for the property as part of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) is noted. However, the State Party does not further elaborate on this process even though it would appear to be highly relevant for the management of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide additional information on this process, including on how the outcomes of the LAC study will be integrated into the review process and what the expected timelines are.

It is noted that the State Party intends to undertake a survey and demarcation adjustments of the boundaries of policy areas within the property and it is therefore recommended that the Committee

also request the State Party to provide more details on the planned activities and their objectives, as well as the challenges to demarcation due to private land tenure.

In the view of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the most critical issues continue to be the development projects within the property. In spite of finalization and endorsement of the LAC study and a positively evolving policy framework, it continues to be unclear how decision-making is going to be guided, also given the fact that the process of integration of the recommendations of the LAC study into the Physical Planning and Development Act has only just started.

With regards to the Freedom Bay and Sugar Beach development projects, while it is hoped that dialogue with developers will result in a mutually acceptable balance in line with the World Heritage status of PMA, the continued absence of an enforcement mechanism in case dialogue fails to generate a consensus, including as regards visual integrity, is noted. The confirmation from the State Party that a sale of a land within the Policy area 1 of the property to a private developer has recently been rejected is noted. However, the third party information referred to in the letter sent by the World Heritage Centre also noted that there continues to be an interest from the developer to pursue the construction plans. Recalling the previous request of the Committee “to not allow any developments to proceed if they are considered to exceed the LAC”, it is noted that exceeding the limits of acceptable change would trigger the consideration of the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcoming the efforts of the State Party and external supporters to address threats to the property stemming from alien invasive plants, including by investing in communication and public awareness-raising, encourages the State Party to continue and increase these efforts;*
4. *Also welcoming the endorsement of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study by the Cabinet of Ministers, notes that the process of integrating the recommendations of the LAC study into the Physical Planning and Development Act has commenced, and requests the State Party to complete the integration of these recommendations into the national legislative and institutional framework as a matter of priority, to ensure compliance with the recommendations can be enforced;*
5. *Also notes the confirmation by the State Party that a dialogue with the developers of the Freedom Bay and Sugar Beach development projects is currently taking place which is aimed at ensuring that the developments conform with the recommendations of the LAC study;*
6. *Reiterates its consideration that, should any development exceeding the limits of acceptable change, or otherwise having a negative impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, be allowed to proceed, the integrity of the property would clearly be compromised, leading to consideration of the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also encourages the State Party to fully reflect the conclusions of the LAC study in the planned revision of the Management Plan, and also requests the State Party to provide*

an electronic and three printed copies of the revised Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

8. *Further notes the State Party' stated intention to undertake boundary demarcation of policy areas within the property (zones with different levels of restrictions on development) and to seek the assistance of the World Heritage Centre in identifying funds for this exercise, and further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre more details on the planned activities and their objectives, as well as the challenges to demarcation noted by the State Party, which are due to private land tenure within the property;*
9. *Notes furthermore the preliminary conclusions that the geothermal potential of Saint Lucia appears to have no significant overlap with the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to inform the Committee of any geothermal developments which may directly or indirectly impact on the OUV of the property;*
10. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

AFRICA

78. Okavango Delta (Botswana) (N 1432)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Lack of wildlife monitoring programme
- Animal sanitation and diseases
- Mining
- Management and governance
- Engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents> and includes a number of supplementary documents. Progress on a number of issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription is reported, including:

- Measures to develop a coordinated wildlife monitoring programme and to establish baseline population data for key species;
- The condition of veterinary cordon fences, resource constraints related to their maintenance, and plans for a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to evaluate their effectiveness and impact on wildlife in the Okavango Delta;
- Progress towards ensuring that no extractive industry is permitted in the property, including termination of all mineral prospecting licenses in the property and 32 of the 41 prospecting licenses within the buffer zone;
- Monitoring of mineral prospecting licenses and mining operations outside the buffer zone especially where they occur in close proximity to the property along its western 'panhandle' section;

- Efforts to improve livelihoods among communities around the property, change land leasing arrangements towards a more equitable distribution of the economic benefits of tourism and initiate research to inform measures aimed at integrating cultural heritage and user access rights in the management of the property;
- Efforts to enhance governance, management planning and coordination, including through cooperation with other institutions, purchase of equipment and management of human resources;
- Enhanced efforts to control the spread of alien invasive species, especially the floating aquatic plant, *Salvinia molesta*.

The State Party report also draws attention to a number of challenges related to resource constraints and ineffective institutional structures. Potential threats to the long-term conservation of the property are identified including a possible scheme to augment water supplies to central Namibia through inter-basin transfer from the Okavango River or groundwater exploration, and the possible development of a large irrigation scheme in Angola's portion of the Okavango watershed.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party has made commendable progress on a number of important issues, most notably the termination of all mineral prospecting licenses within the property and most licenses within the buffer zone, with negotiations ongoing to terminate the remaining nine concessions. However, there remains some concern about mineral prospecting and mining operations outside the buffer zone, especially in the vicinity of the panhandle area as these activities could potentially result in pollution of the Okavango's waters and have a severe impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Although efforts are being made to establish wildlife monitoring protocols, the continuing absence of adequate baseline data on key wildlife species is delaying the ability to monitor long-term trends that directly affect the property's OUV. The immediate priority should be to undertake a replicable aerial survey, to establish reliable baseline population estimates for key species across the entire property and to ensure that such surveys are repeated regularly according to the January 2012 seminar recommendations. An ambitious ground-based monitoring programme is envisaged for the complex of concession blocks, but it is not clear how this will be managed and resourced in the long term.

The State Party's intention to conduct a thorough EIA to inform decisions on the future management of veterinary cordon fences is noted.

Since 2014, local communities have lost the rights to control management of their lands as tourism concessions are now being negotiated and signed with tour operators directly by the Department of Lands. This new arrangement enables government agencies to re-distribute the benefits of tourism more equitably, but dis-empowers communities. A number of programmes are implemented to support livelihoods of the communities, and consultations have been initiated with indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders resolving to undertake necessary further research on incorporating cultural values into management of the property, the efforts of which are strongly encouraged.

While acknowledging measures undertaken, invasive alien plants continue to threaten the ecological integrity of the property, and continued vigilance is required to monitor their spread and ensure the effectiveness of the control measures.

The Okavango Delta Management Plan (2008-2017) provides a management framework for the area, but it pre-dates the property's inscription on the World Heritage List. Many of its prescriptions have not been implemented, and the institutional arrangements for its implementation have proved ineffective. The review process now underway could provide an opportunity to explore options for integrated management of the site under both Ramsar and World Heritage designations and should focus on development of a more appropriate institutional structure as a recognised entity, geared towards the requirements of managing the World Heritage property with a dedicated core staff and budget to ensure proper stakeholder coordination.

Concern is noted over potential impacts on the property arising from: a) Namibia's water augmentation plans for which a feasibility study is underway; and b) Angola's possible irrigation scheme, which is to be confirmed. Close liaison with these States Parties through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) is critical to ensure any developments in the Okavango watershed do

not adversely affect the property's OUV, and the State Party of Botswana's intentions to keep the Committee informed of any intended developments are noted.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.5**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the progress made by the State Party in terminating mineral prospecting licenses in the property, and requests the State Party to conclude negotiations with remaining licensees to terminate all prospecting activities within the property's buffer zone, and to continue monitoring and managing prospecting licenses and mining operations outside the buffer zone so as to avoid any adverse impacts on the property;
4. Reiterates its position that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals' (ICMM) Position Statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties;
5. Welcoming the progress made in developing wildlife monitoring protocols, also requests the State Party to integrate these protocols in the systematic wildlife monitoring programme, which should include replicable aerial surveys across the entire property to establish population baselines for key species and to track long-term trends;
6. Notes the measures taken to address management effectiveness, governance as well as access, rights and benefits, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Continue efforts to rationalize veterinary cordon fencing, including through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA),
 - b) Expand and strengthen programmes, which accommodate traditional resource use for livelihoods, user access rights, cultural rights and access to opportunities to participate in the tourism sector, in keeping with the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
 - c) Continue efforts to address a range of other protection and management issues including governance, stakeholder empowerment, management planning, management capacity and control of alien invasive species;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit the revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, prior to its approval, and calls on the international community to provide technical and financial support in its development and implementation;
8. Notes with concern the potential impacts of water resource management in Angola and Namibia on the property, and requests furthermore the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia to liaise closely to ensure that any proposed major developments within the Okavango watershed which may adversely impact the OUV of the property are subject to EIAs in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment; these EIAs should be submitted to the World Heritage

Centre and IUCN for review prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, 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 42nd session in 2018.

79. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 84,700

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

March 1998: UNESCO monitoring mission; June 2006, December 2009, February-March 2012 and November-December 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 7 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://wc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents>, containing the following information:

- Strengthening of the surveillance teams is foreseen in 2016. The operating budget has increased and an investment budget of 80,000,000 FCFA was granted, specifically for the construction of the home base at Lomié. Moreover, the property continues to benefit from technical and funding support from several partners;
- The State Party has reinforced the means of the surveillance teams in arms and ammunition, enabling them to carry out 97 anti-poaching patrols involving 9,512 man/days. Of the 465

poachers arrested, only 16 legal prosecutions were initiated (against 21 in 2014). A total of 79 ivory tusks were seized (against 37 in 2013), as well as 5,396.5 kg of animal hides;

- A wildlife inventory carried out in 2015 by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), in partnership with IUCN, shows that the flagship species are still present, but revealed a reduction in the elephant population (estimated at 420), a slight reduction of gorillas (estimated at 6,613) and stability in the chimpanzee population (estimated at 3,630);
- With regard to a Strategic and Social Environmental Evaluation (SSEE) recommended by the Committee, the report indicates that the terms of reference of the SSEE and the funding strategy have been approved by the Ministry for the Environment. The SSEE was funded by the Franz Weber Foundation;
- An interpretation map of satellite pictures of the forest cover shows that deforestation is only present at the periphery of the property;
- The boundaries of the mining permits have been reviewed to eliminate all overlapping or encroachment of the property by Order No.01502/MINMIDT/SG/DM/SDCM of 3 February 2015. The State Party confirms that the GEOVIC Mining Company is no longer operational at the site west of the property;
- Concerning the project of the Sud Hévéa company, the report highlights the support of this Company in the protection of the property and support to the local communities through the implementation of its Environmental and Social Management Plan (PEGS). The MINFOF and the Ministry of Art and Culture (MINAC) have urged the Hydro Mékin Company to take into consideration the conservation of wildlife and archaeological sites

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission was carried out at the property from 28 November to 5 December 2015. The report of that mission is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents>.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts undertaken by the State Party, confirmed by the 2015 mission, should be warmly welcomed. This primarily concerns the creation of an interministerial committee on Dja to strengthen the sustainable conservation of the property, the increase in the operating and investment budgets, improved knowledge of the state of conservation of large mammals, regular control of the forestry development units (FDU), and the approval of the terms of reference and the funding strategy of the SSEE for large-scale projects around the property. All the concerned partners involved with the State Party in contributing towards the protection and the sustainable conservation of the property, notably the Franz Weber Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, Zoological Society of London, Prague Zoo, RAPAC/ECOFAC 5 should be thanked.

In addition, there is confirmation that no mining activity has developed in the property since end-2014, and that the exploration permits in and around the property have not been renewed.

The 2015 mission has however noted that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains under serious threat:

- The construction of the Mékin dam represents a major threat to wildlife and habitat within the property. Construction work is almost completed without any measures to mitigate the negative impact being undertaken, as the Hydro Mékin Society does not have an environmental expert in its team to coordinate the implementation of the PGES of the project. This situation represents an ascertained danger for the property, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- The increase in poaching also constitutes an important threat to the wildlife, because it leads to a worrying decrease in the numbers of large mammals, in particular the elephant, estimated in 2015 to number a population of around 420 individuals. The mission considers that if elephant poaching continues in the property, its local extinction in the near future can be expected. Increased poaching activities, noted by the reactive monitoring missions of 2006, 2009 and 2012, and confirmed once again by the 2015 mission, qualifies poaching as a true scourge and represents a proved threat, in conformity with paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The mission also made the following observations:

- Although deforestation appears to be limited to the periphery of the property, it represents a threat to the habitat of the rare and threatened large mammals and is likely to affect the integrity of the property;
- The perspectives concerning the extension of the activities of the Sud Cameroun Hévéa Society risk resulting in continued demographic increase and thus exercise additional human pressures on the property;
- The conservation service of the property suffers from insufficient means, both human and material, to effectively combat poaching and the other threats to the property.

In the light of these conclusions, it is recommended that the Committee decide to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, that it adopt the corrective measures proposed by the mission, and that it requests the State Party to establish, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Warmly welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party, notably the creation of an Interministerial Committee on Dja to strengthen the sustainable conservation of the property, the increase of the operational and investment budgets, improved knowledge of the state of conservation of large mammals, regular control of forestry development units (FDU) and the approval of the terms of reference and the funding strategy of the Strategic and Social Environmental Evaluation (SSEE), for the major projects around the property, and thanks all the partners assisting the State Party in contributing to the protection and the sustainable conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that no mining activity has been developed inside the property since end-2014, and that the mining exploration permits inside and around the property have not been renewed, and reiterates its position regarding the incompatibility of mining exploration or exploitation with the status of World Heritage, policy supported by the declaration of the International Council for Mining and Metal (ICMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;*
5. *Expresses, however, its deep concern regarding the findings of the 2015 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission regarding the serious threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, namely the construction of the Mékin dam that is nearing completion without any mitigating measures being taken to diminish the negative impacts, and the increase in poaching resulting in a worrying decrease in the numbers of large mammals, in particular the elephant, and considers that these threats clearly represent an ascertained danger to the property and a potential danger, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. ***Decides to inscribe the Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
7. *Adopts the following corrective measures and strongly urges the State Party to implement them by the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2018:*

- a) *Ensure the recruitment of an environmental expert within the Hydro Mékin Society and urgently implement the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) ensuring that the measures mitigating the negative impacts of the dam to the property have been implemented,*
 - b) *Prepare a precise map of the flood zone that will result from the Mékin dam,*
 - c) *Prepare and implement a safeguarding plan for the wildlife living in the flood zone of the Mékin dam,*
 - d) *Strengthen the staff of the eco-guards and their operational capacities in the different bases for an effective surveillance of all human pressure, including improved consultation and coordination of the actions of the technical and financial partners of the property involved in the anti-poaching combat,*
 - e) *Strengthen the prosecution system concerning poachers and improve collaboration with the decentralised services of the State in information sharing concerning the anti-poaching combat (sub-prefecture, national police force, etc.) to ensure the completion of the legal process and discourage the poachers and avoid demotivation of the eco-guards,*
 - f) *Reinforce control of traditional hunting and poaching inside the property and at its periphery, in liaison with the vigilance committees,*
 - g) *Develop alternatives to bush meat for indigenous and local populations through, among others, the enhancement of non-ligneous forest products and the promotion of a sustainable family agricultural system in the periphery of the property;*
8. *Requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
 9. *Notes with concern the other conservation problems noted by the 2015 mission, namely deforestation at the periphery of the property, the perspectives of an extension of activities by the Sud Cameroon Hévéa Society with the demographic increase which might result, and the insufficient human and material means of the conservation service of the property;*
 10. *Also requests the State Party to implement all the other recommendations of the 2015 mission;*
 11. *Launches an appeal to the international community to support the efforts of the State Party in the implementation of these corrective measures and further requests all the concerned partners around the property to continue and strengthen their support for its sustainable conservation;*
 12. *Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1986-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 126,344

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

March/April 2014: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities
- Invasive / alien freshwater species
- Management systems/ management plan
- Surface water pollution
- Oil and gas exploration/exploitation

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

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2015, in a letter to the World Heritage Centre, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>, the State Party requested more time to respond to the Committee's decisions and reported that the new government, which started work in May 2014, had already:

- Established a joint ministerial committee to advise cabinet on the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, particularly in relation to the issue of oil exploration;
- Undertaken work to revise the property's management plan, which is now at an advanced stage.

Subsequently, on 18 January 2016, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the State Party requesting:

- Clarification on whether the State Party will submit a detailed state of conservation report for consideration at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee;

- Comments on a series of six reports in the Malawi press published during November and December 2015 concerning oil and gas exploration in Lake Malawi, in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- Further information on a proposed hotel construction adjacent to the property, which may impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

The letter also drew attention to the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessments, on any development that may adversely affect the property, and also acknowledged the State Party's participation in the project of the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme to develop a tourism management strategy for the property. No response from the State Party was received at the time of writing this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In the absence of a comprehensive report from the State Party, it is difficult to determine the extent of progress made in addressing the Committee's Decision **38 COM 7B.92** and the recommendations of the 2014 joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

The primary concern for the property's OUV arises from oil exploration activities following the granting of exploration licenses covering the whole of the Malawian portion of the lake (including the World Heritage property) in 2011 and 2013. An accidental spill anywhere in the lake would pose a potentially severe risk to the integrity of the entire ecosystem, including the aquatic zone and shoreline of the property, a concern already expressed by the Committee in its Decision **38 COM 7B.92**. The media articles shared with the State Party report that oil and gas exploration activities on Lake Malawi will begin at the start of 2016.

The State Party's efforts to manage tourism at the property, including through participation in the project of the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme to develop a tourism management strategy for the property, which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre following its approval, is noted. It should be recalled that the 2014 mission considered that the proposed development of a major hotel and tourist resort just outside the property, on the western shores of the Cape Maclear peninsula, may impact the property's OUV and should be subject to an EIA before any approval is given, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

There remain significant concerns highlighted in the report of the 2014 mission over aspects of the protection and management of the property. Whilst recognizing progress with revision of the management plan, it is important to ensure completion of the stakeholder consultations and effective on-the-ground protection, particularly for the shoreline aquatic habitats which provide the basis of the property's OUV. Completion of the management plan remains a priority and its implementation should be aligned with the tourism management strategy. In the longer term, it remains important to consider options for the extension of the property to encompass a more complete sample of the lake's unique fish, aquatic habitats and evolutionary processes.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.92, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Regrets that the information submitted by the State Party did not address the requests made by the Committee in its Decision 38 COM 7B.92;*
4. *Reiterates its concern over oil exploration activities throughout the lake, noting that an accidental spill would pose a potentially severe risk to the entire lake ecosystem,*

including the aquatic zone and shoreline of the property, and urges the State Party to cancel the oil exploitation permit which overlaps with the property;

5. Reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties, and reiterates its call on Surestream and RAKGAS, that have been granted oil exploration concessions on the lake, to make a commitment to not exploit nor explore for oil or gas in World Heritage properties;
6. Requests the State Party to ensure that any oil exploration activities outside of the property, as well as any other development that may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including tourism developments, are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission;
8. Also requests the State Party to complete the revision of the 2007-2011 management plan for the property and provide it for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, together with the approved sustainable tourism management strategy, in order to ensure that the revised management plan is aligned with the tourism plan and includes provisions for the implementation of the above-mentioned mission recommendations;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

82. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2004

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1995-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 116,739

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2003: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Staffing and budgetary deficiencies
- Degradation of buffer zone
- Climate Change
- Management systems/ management plan
- Impacts of tourism

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents>. Progress on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is reported, including:

- The revision of the management plan, which expired in 2014, has been initiated;
- Continued involvement of local communities in conservation and tourism, integration of cultural approaches to conservation, promotion of sustainable use of park resources in designated areas, implementation of measures to reduce crop-raiding and human-wildlife conflict, and efforts to ensure equitable sharing of park revenues;
- Development of tourism, including visitor and revenue statistics;
- With donors' support (World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF, European Union, French Development Agency), development of a sustainable financing strategy and a business plan, focusing on tourism promotion and including possible revenue from payments for ecosystem services and carbon credits (under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation - REDD);
- Trans-boundary collaboration with the State Party of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the adjoining World Heritage property of the Virunga National Park is ongoing through quarterly meetings and coordinated patrols;
- Implementation of the property's fire management plan and the 2010 ecological monitoring plan, as well as monitoring of the impacts of climate change, weather, snow recession, water quality, permanent vegetation sampling plots, key wildlife species and vegetation regeneration following fire;
- Repair of foot bridges, hiking trails and park access roads following a flash flood have been undertaken, as well as further development of park management infrastructure.

The State Party notes that a proposed mini-hydropower weir falling partly inside the property has not been approved for development. It also indicates that activities associated with the newly-signed 25-year concession to re-open the Kilembe copper mine immediately adjacent to the property will affect the water streams flowing out of the property, but details of the concession or wider environmental impacts of this development are not provided.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party report was submitted in February 2015; therefore, activities undertaken during the course of 2015 were not reported. Subsequent correspondence (December 2015) between the World Heritage Centre and the State Party has confirmed that no significant additional information was available.

Steady progress has been made in strengthening management effectiveness and engaging local communities through participation in boundary maintenance, fire control and management planning. Park revenues are now more equitably shared with communities, further progress has been made in the establishment and monitoring of collaborative resource use agreements with local communities and cultural approaches to conservation have been introduced. Long-term ecological monitoring is continuing with regular assessments of some key parameters, particularly related to the effects of climate change. However, no information is provided on the quantitative assessments of key large mammal populations, which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) under criterion (x), or

whether the Mountain Specialist Group of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has been consulted, as recommended in Decisions **36 COM 7B.4** and **38 COM 7B.93**.

The revision of the park management plan, which expired in 2014, and the sustainable financing strategy and the business plan, which has been underway since 2013, should be completed as a high priority to ensure an updated management framework for the property.

The decision to halt the proposed mini-hydropower scheme at Kakaka, based on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) findings indicating negative impacts on the property's OUV is welcome.

It is noted that quarterly meetings between the States Parties of Uganda and DRC are being held to plan operations including coordinated patrols but that insurgent activity in DRC is limiting such patrols. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its encouragement to the States Parties (**38 COM 8B.4**) to continue their efforts towards developing a formal protocol to further strengthen collaboration.

Visitor numbers to the property in 2014 have remained very low at 1,209 international tourists and 1,558 national students, which generates annual revenues equivalent to less than USD 100,000 hence the continued support of international partners is critical if management operations are to be maintained.

The State Party report does not adequately address the Committee's concerns which relate to the potential impacts of re-opening the Kilembe mine (Decision **38 COM 7B.93**). No information was received on the terms of the 25-year concession agreement with the China-based company Tibet Hima Ltd. The mine is located very close to the boundary of the property and may include subterranean mining shafts that enter the property. Given its connectivity downstream, the mine could also impact the conditions of integrity of the World Heritage property of the Virunga National Park, and therefore requires a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, which specifically assesses potential impacts on the OUV of both properties.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.4** and **38 COM 7B.93**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes further progress made in engaging local communities in the management and protection of the property;*
4. *Also welcomes the progress made in implementing the ecological monitoring plan for the property, encourages the State Party to develop additional monitoring protocols to assess population trends for key large mammal species, and reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to work with the Mountains Specialist Group of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in the long-term;*
5. *Appreciates the decision not to allow the development of a mini-hydropower scheme partially inside the property on the grounds that it would adversely impact the OUV of the property;*
6. *Notes the difficulty of organizing coordinated patrols along the international border with the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) due to insurgent activity on the Congolese side of the border, and reiterates its*

encouragement to the States Parties of Uganda and DRC to continue their efforts towards developing a formal protocol to strengthen their collaboration;

7. Reiterates its utmost concern about the award of a 25-year concession to re-open the Kilembe copper mine adjacent to the property;
8. Reiterates its position that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals' (ICMM) Position Statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties, and urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre details of the concession awarded to Tibet Hima Ltd and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the potential impacts of any activity on both the property and the Virunga National Park downstream, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and in consultation with the State Party of the DRC;
9. Also appreciates the funding provided by different donors to develop tourism and management frameworks for the property, calls on further donors to support the site, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the revised management plan, including the sustainable financing strategy and the business plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, prior to approval;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

83. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 59,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November/December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential impacts of a hydro-electric project in Kenya
- Reduced and degraded water resources
- Water infrastructure
- Potential impact of optical cables' installation
- Air transport infrastructure

- Ground transport infrastructure
- Illegal activities, including poaching

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents/>. The following progress on a number of issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is reported:

- Anti-poaching efforts have been strengthened with further recruitment and training of rangers and provision of additional equipment, which have been largely effective, although 32 elephants were killed by poachers over the two-year reporting period;
- Completion of an aerial census of large mammals in May 2014, recording a significant increase in the number of elephants in the Serengeti ecosystem since the last census in 2009, with populations of most other mammals remaining stable or increasing;
- Completion of the first draft of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the “Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan”, with an intention to share the second draft with the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to approval;
- Support by the German government for a preliminary feasibility study of two routes to the south of the Serengeti ecosystem, that would serve as an alternative to the previously proposed “north road” traversing the park;
- Limited progress in reviewing options for road surface improvements of the main road through the park from Naabi Hill to Seronera;
- Adoption of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the States Parties of Tanzania and Kenya for the joint management of the Mara River Basin;
- Assistance by the German government with a 5-year (2013-17, 20.5 million euros) “Serengeti Ecosystem Development and Conservation Project” for alternative livelihoods, community benefits and improved water management.
- Completion of a final draft of the revised management plan for the property in February 2014, which would be shared with the World Heritage Centre for review after its approval;
- Substantial progress in negotiations over the park extension to Speke Gulf, and submission of a draft cabinet paper in September 2015;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Mugumu Airport expansion to accommodate international flights is being revised following review by the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), and would be submitted to the World Heritage Centre afterwards.

The State Party does not report on any progress concerning the other recommendations of the 2010 mission.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The anti-poaching operations have been successful at the property, as evidenced by the increase in elephant numbers and prevention of any recent loss of rhinos. Nevertheless, the loss of 32 elephants (average of 16 per year), although significantly fewer than during the 2011-13 period (28 per year), remains high compared to previous years, proving the need for sustained anti-poaching efforts throughout the Serengeti ecosystem.

The aerial census of May 2014 provides a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of management. However, care is needed in assessing the reported increase in elephant numbers, as the 2009 census (which covered the Serengeti ecosystem) was over a smaller area than the 2014 census (which covered the whole southern part of the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem) and used different methodology and technology. A study on the potential migration of animals from Mara into Serengeti, as suggested in the 2014 census report, should be undertaken to inform future management strategies.

The completion of a draft SEA on the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan and its intended submission to the World Heritage Centre is welcomed. The support of the German government in enabling a preliminary feasibility study of alternative routes for a road corridor to the south of Serengeti is acknowledged and it is recommended that the Committee call upon the international donor community to support later stages of its development.

An EIA for road-surfacing options for the heavily used Naabi Hill–Seronera road through the property has not been conducted, but some work has been initiated on the Ngorongoro Conservation Area section of the road, which includes a feasibility study, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and a detailed engineering design, and would inform the EIA for the Serengeti road. In line with Decisions **38 COM 7B.94** and **39 COM 7B.34**, and given the fact that the project concerns the same road, a full EIA process comprising both properties should be completed before a decision on upgrading any section of the road is taken.

The EIA for the Mugumu Airport Project expansion to accommodate international flights is undergoing a revision following a first review by NEMC, and would be submitted to the World Heritage Centre thereafter.

While welcoming progress with the proposed park extension to Speke Gulf, and noting that the draft Cabinet paper is undergoing approval, it is recommended that a copy of the draft proposed extension is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before it is finalized. Continued efforts are also required to ensure the consent of and compensations for any affected communities.

An MOU signed between the States Parties of Kenya and Tanzania, under the auspices of the Lake Victoria Commission of East Africa Community on the management of the Mara Basin, is an accomplishment that provides for development of a joint management framework.

As the State Party report is limited to issues raised in Decision **38 COM 7B.94**, it is recommended that the Committee request further information on progress made in implementing the outstanding recommendations of the 2010 mission.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.7** and **38 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to strengthen its anti-poaching operations, which have reduced the number of elephants and rhinos lost to poachers, and requests the State Party to further strengthen these efforts across the wider Serengeti ecosystem;*
4. *Notes the completion of an aerial wildlife survey of the property, and encourages the State Party to assess, in cooperation with the State Party of Kenya, the potential cause for the migration of elephants from Mara into Serengeti, as suggested in the 2014 census report in order to inform future management strategies;*
5. *Also welcomes the completion of a first draft of the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan, and the State Party's intention to share the second draft with the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to its approval;*
6. *Further welcomes the reported progress towards extension of the National Park to include critical access to water and shoreline habitats on Lake Victoria's Speke Gulf, and also requests the State Party to ensure consent of and compensations for any*

affected communities and submit the draft proposed extension to the World Heritage Centre, for review before it is finalized;

7. Appreciating the support provided by the Government of Germany for a major project focusing on livelihoods and a preliminary feasibility study of road transport routes to the south of the property, calls upon the international donor community to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to enable the next stages;
8. Noting the limited progress made in evaluating road surfacing options for the Naabi Hill - Seronera road through the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the entire road from Lodwar to Seronera to assess the impacts of the different options on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of both Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to a decision on surfacing any section of this road;
9. Acknowledges the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the States Parties of Tanzania and Kenya on the Mara River Basin, and also reiterates its request to both States Parties to develop and implement a joint management plan for the basin;
10. Further notes that the EIA for the extension of the Mugumu Airport is being revised following review by the National Environmental Management Council prior to its submission to the World Heritage Centre for review before a final decision is taken;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above and of the 2010 mission recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

84. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe) (N 302)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1990-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 51,854

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching
- Oil exploration programme (issue resolved)

- Mining project
- Tourism development

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents/>. This was additional to a letter received from the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO, on 18 June 2015, which included reports on a visit to the property by some of its members, and a workshop to develop an anti-poaching strategy for the property. Progress on a number of issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is reported, including:

- Mitigation measures for environmental impacts are underway at the Mana Pools Lodge at Vine Camp, which is not yet operational;
- National aerial surveys of elephants and other wildlife were carried out in 2014. No specific information on the status of wildlife populations in the property is provided, but a summary of the national results is included in the anti-poaching strategy;
- Efforts to manage poaching will precede the completion of the feasibility study of re-introducing black rhino;
- Policies to focus on improvements to existing facilities and ensuring that any new developments are located in peripheral areas, away from the riverbank, have been adopted;
- Development of a comprehensive management plan for the property is delayed due to a lack of funding;
- Dialogue and collaboration is taking place between the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia through the Joint Operations Command (JOC) meetings, bi-lateral meeting on Mana Pools/Lower Zambezi Trans-frontier conservation area and drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU);
- A Mana Pools anti-poaching strategy and action plan for the property and an elephant management plan for the Zambezi Valley have been developed. Human resources, equipment and patrols have been strengthened, reducing poaching incidents;
- The “no mining in World Heritage properties” policy of the State Party has been reiterated through different initiatives, including a campaign.

In addition, the State Party of Zambia reported on 14 March 2016 that the proposed copper mine in the Lower Zambezi National Park (Zambia) has not been developed following an injunction by the High Court, confirming reports brought to the attention of the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014). A final decision on whether the mine will be allowed is therefore pending court proceedings.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The implementation of the environmental safeguards identified in the enhanced Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the new Mana Pools Lodge at Vine Camp is welcomed, but the effectiveness of these measures will require effective implementation of the environmental management and monitoring plans after the lodge becomes operational, in particular to assess whether the increased levels of activity at the site affects wildlife movements and use of critical habitat in this riverside location. Further mitigation measures may be necessary. The State Party's assurance that no other developments are planned for the National Park, as well as the intention to ensure that any future developments will be limited to the periphery of the property and not allowed along the Zambezi shoreline is appreciated.

The 2014 aerial survey recorded a 36% decline in elephant populations in the Zambezi Valley (where the property is located) since 2001, as well as declines in populations of most other mammals. The development of an anti-poaching strategy for the property and a broader elephant management plan for the Zambezi Valley should enable the State Party to address the situation. Both plans clearly need to be fully resourced and effectively implemented. The State Party's decision to delay plans for a feasibility study on the re-introduction of black rhino on account of the poaching threat is noted.

It is regrettable that completion of the new management plan has been delayed due to lack of funds to support the necessary stakeholder consultations. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to seek International Assistance to enable the completion of the plan.

Appropriate safeguards should also be placed to ensure that any possible impacts of mining activity outside the property are minimised. In particular, it is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party of Zambia of its obligations under Article 6 of the *Convention*, and request it not to make any decisions related to the mining in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZNP) until the potential impacts on the OUV of the property are carefully assessed, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, even if the outcome of the ongoing judicial process is in favour of this development.

Progress made in the establishment of a trans-frontier conservation area linking the property with Zambia's LZNP, and the development of a MoU to formally recognize and implement this collaboration is noted. It is recommended that the Committee also reminds the States Parties of its earlier recommendations (Decision **38 COM 7B.97**) to consider nominating the LZNP to constitute a joint trans-boundary inscription on the World Heritage List, as envisaged at the time of the property's inscription.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the implementation of the environmental safeguards in the development of the new Mana Pools Lodge at Vine Camp, and the State Party's assurance that any further developments will be located in more peripheral areas, away from the Zambezi riverfront, and requests the State Party to ensure regular monitoring of the effectiveness of the environmental management and monitoring plans at Vine Camp, and to adopt an adaptive approach to its management;*
4. *Notes with significant concern that the 2014 national aerial survey of key wildlife species has revealed a decline in the Zambezi Valley populations of elephants and other mammals which are key attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that the threat of poaching is currently too high to consider a feasibility study for a possible reintroduction programme of black rhinoceros;*
5. *Notes the development of an anti-poaching strategy for the property and a broader elephant management plan for the Zambezi Valley, and also requests the State Party to ensure that they are fully resourced and effectively implemented so as to restore and maintain the property's OUV;*
6. *Regrets that the State Party has not been able to complete the new management plan for the property due to lack of funds and encourages it to apply for International Assistance to support this work;*
7. *Also notes with appreciation the information provided by the State Party of Zambia that the approved open cast copper mine in Lower Zambezi National Park has not been developed due to an injunction by the High Court, and reminds the State Party of Zambia of its obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention;*
8. *Further requests the State Party of Zambia to ensure, in any case, that the potential impacts of copper mining in Lower Zambezi National Park on the OUV of the property*

are carefully assessed, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, before taking any decisions that may be difficult to reverse;

9. *Also welcomes progress made by the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia to establish a trans-frontier conservation area linking the property with Zambia's adjacent Lower Zambezi National Park, and also encourages them to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding and further enhance joint operations to protect and manage the area;*
10. *Reiterates its recommendation to the States Parties to consider nominating the Lower Zambezi National Park, in order to eventually constitute a joint trans-boundary inscription on the World Heritage List, in line with the World Heritage Committee's recommendation at the time of inscription of the property;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party of Zambia to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the status of the decision regarding the Kangaluwi and Chisawa opencast mine in Lower Zambezi National Park and its potential impacts on the property's OUV;*
12. *Requests moreover the State Party of Zimbabwe to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*

ARAB STATES

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 150,000 USD in the framework of the World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2003, 2004, 2013: World Heritage Centre missions; 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of adequate management systems/ management plan
- Lack of management capacity and resources
- Illegal fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Mechanical shellfish harvesting
- Oil exploitation
- Tourism and increased accessibility due to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Localized utilities
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- Renewable energy facilities
- Ground transport infrastructure

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which responds to the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission report undertaken in January 2014. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>.

To address the many cross-cutting issues that concern the property, the national World Heritage Committee has been enlarged to include all relevant ministries (Territorial Administration, Fisheries, Mining, Land-use Planning, Environment, Works and Transportation, Tourism, Agriculture, etc.). The operational management of the property has been transferred from Nouakchott to the new town of

Chami, which borders the property. A new Land Use and Management Plan (2015-2019) for the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) has been developed through a participatory process.

The State Party addresses all of the 18 recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission in a very detailed, positive and inclusive manner. Specific progress reported has been:

- The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) plan is still in progress and will take into account any concerns of the property's management authority;
- In February 2016, an Information Paper was submitted to the International Maritime Organization to apply for the designation of the Banc d'Arguin National Park and surrounding areas as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). The official submission of the full application dossier is planned for February 2017;
- In May 2015, Mauritania ratified the African-Eurasian Migratory Water Birds Agreement and the property signed an official twinning arrangement with the Wadden Sea World Heritage property (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) under the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative in February 2014;
- Governance has been improved by including representation of different ministries and local populations (the mayors of Chami and Nouamghar, and a representative from the local population) in the Administrative Council, and the Scientific Council of the Banc d'Arguin has been reinstated with new rules of procedure;
- Fisheries monitoring has shown that measures aimed at reducing fishing pressure both inside and outside the property have produced positive results, including improvements for 20 bottom-dwelling species and a substantial reduction in the number of rays and sharks captured;
- The previously reported planned extension of the Tasiast gold mine is still on hold as no plans to enlarge operations are envisaged, and any future developments will require a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- A process to develop a "Territorial Diagnostic" plan to guide all new development in the north of the country has begun.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The effort undertaken to address and implement the recommendations of the 2014 mission is commendable. However, some issues still require clarification.

The 2014 mission noted that fishing in the property had become more and more commercial with an increase in catch and the targeting of certain ray and shark species, as well as an issue of overfishing in waters outside the property. The State Party states that landings of sharks and rays are declining. However, it notes that this decline could be due to boats moving to other sites, such as Teichott, Iwik and R'Gueiba, reducing fishing pressure from Arkeiss in particular. Data provided by the State Party indicates catch levels of sharks and rays equaling those of 1997 (when the problem really started). While it is clear that efforts are being undertaken to ensure that fishing remains at sustainable levels and that key species such as sharks, rays and turtles are protected, the need to put in place a permit system in order to prevent fishing pressure related to the immigration of non-resident communities which have come to fish, and to clarify whether fishing by the local communities within the park should be commercialized has not been addressed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to fully implement the recommendations made by the mission in that regard.

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Road to Nouamghar (dated 2013) submitted by the State Party stresses the social needs for the road, to improve accessibility to the community of Nouamghar. While it is welcome that efforts are being put into place to mitigate the negative effects that the Nouamghar road may engender, the impact of the road on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has not been assessed. Clear measures on how to mitigate this impact (including restricting use and controlling access to the property), need to be undertaken urgently.

It is noted by the State Party that all new development at the new town of Chami will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), but there is no indication on what sort of development is anticipated. Therefore, and to enable the State Party to identify measures to avoid and where necessary mitigate impacts on the OUV of the property from any development at Chami, it is recommended to request the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all planned and anticipated developments at Chami, including an assessment of impacts on the

OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. It is noted that a tourism study is planned.

Further development of the Tasiast gold mine appears still to be on hold. Progress on the MARPOL plan to respond to potential future oil spills is ongoing, however no information on oil exploration or exploitation developments in the marine areas having a direct influence on the property is provided. Any future developments at the Tasiast gold mine and for off-shore oil exploitation should be subject to EIAs, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with the above-mentioned IUCN's Advice Note.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the 2014 mission.

In March 2016, the World Heritage Centre organized a workshop on local communities' involvement in the management and conservation of World Heritage sites in the Arab Region in Nouakchott and Banc d'Arguin, with the active participation of the Imraguen local community. During the workshop, the PNBA demonstrated its efforts in engaging local communities in the management of the property. The Imraguen community representatives requested to further enhance their accessibility to the property and improve their housing conditions.

The World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme has provided continuous assistance for the PSSA dossier, including the participation of Mauritanian delegations to meetings at the International Maritime Organization, the involvement of experts to assist with the development of technical documents, and translation (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1284/>).

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made on implementing the recommendations of the 2014 joint Reactive Monitoring mission, as well as towards the application for the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) designation of the property and its surrounding areas and encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to submit a completed application to the International Maritime Organization in February 2017;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to continue involving the local communities in the management and conservation of the property;*
5. *Notes that no oil or mining exploration permits are attributed within the property and that the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) plan is in process, but expresses its concern about potential impacts if any of the ongoing exploration projects lead to exploitation, in particular, in oil blocks close to the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to ensure that all future projects that could impact on the property are subject to an assessment of their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN:*
 - a) *A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of developments at Chami, in order to identify measures to avoid and where necessary mitigate impacts on the OUV of the property,*

- b) *EIAs for any future developments at the Tasiast gold mine and for off-shore oil exploitation;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to provide data on local and non-local use of the Nouamghar road collected by the new control points to ascertain that the road is not impacting on the OUV, in particular marine resources, of the property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to fully implement all recommendations made by the 2014 mission, in particular:*
- a) *Ensure the sustainability of the current surveillance system, and maintain the ban on fishing by the non-Imraguen communities, and on fishing by motorized boats,*
- b) *In consultation with scientific organisations and the Imraguen local community, address the problem of fishing of endangered species (sharks and rays) in order to guarantee their conservation; additional studies to identify any pressures on populations of turtles (reproductive and migratory) within the park also desirable,*
- c) *Put in place a permit system in order to prevent fishing pressure related to the immigration of non-resident communities which have come to fish,*
- d) *Undertake research to determine the effects of overfishing outside the property on the biodiversity located within the property, and reinforce measures to ensure the sustainability of fisheries located outside the property but in Mauritanian waters, in particular through regional and international cooperation;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

86. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2012: IUCN mission; June 2014: IUCN/Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal frameworks, governance and management systems
- Ground transport infrastructure: road network
- Livestock grazing: sheep, goat and cattle
- Invasive species
- Fishing and collection of marine resources
- Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>.

In November 2015, Socotra was hit by cyclones Chapala and Megh, causing damages to marine and terrestrial environments and human settlements, the extent of which requires further assessment. Seventeen people lost their lives, with many more injured and/or displaced. In response, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), in cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Environment, hosted a workshop in February 2016 to undertake a Needs Assessment for Socotra Archipelago World Heritage site, with the participation of representatives from Socotra, IUCN, UNESCO, and a number of international partners.

The State Party reports on progress with the implementation of the 2012 mission recommendations:

- Declared an independent Governorate in 2013, a position of Deputy Governor for Environment and Development has been created for the Archipelago. Actions are being taken to strengthen the role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the management of the property;
- A policy to cancel all previous decisions to expand main access roads within the property is in the process of being adopted. Alternative access options outside the property are being explored. While the current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation is suspended due to the political situation in Yemen, interim mechanisms are being considered;
- Rehabilitation of the sea port, damaged by the cyclones, will be limited to restoring it to its previous condition, and will not include any extensions;
- Various initiatives to increase the involvement of local communities in the management and conservation of the property are ongoing or planned;
- Although tourism at Socotra is virtually non-existent due to the current political situation in Yemen, sustainable tourism is seen as a potentially significant alternative revenue generating activity;
- Initiatives are being taken to strengthen the archipelago's biological monitoring, focusing on overgrazing, invasive species, marine resource exploitation, wood cutting and infrastructure development. A marine conservation programme will commence in mid-2016;
- Protection of cultural values is a primary focus of the local government, which intends to adopt special regulations to protect tangible and intangible heritage as an integrated part of the archipelago's planning and management systems.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 mission, despite the ongoing conflict in mainland Yemen. In particular, the appointment of a Deputy Governor for Environment and Development, the initiatives taken to strengthen the EPA's role in the management of the property, and the ongoing consideration of a policy to cancel all previous decisions to expand main access roads within the property, should be welcomed, as should the significant support from international donors and partners for the conservation of the archipelago's biodiversity and the sustainable development of its communities.

Nevertheless, some existing and significant concerns have been further complicated by the conflict and the impacts from the recent cyclones, which urgently need further scientific assessment in order

to establish with certainty to what extent the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been affected:

- The conflict in mainland Yemen has caused a temporary increase in the archipelago's isolation. Fuel supplies have decreased and resulted in increased wood collection. On the other hand, pressures to marine resources from overfishing appear to have decreased due to a shortage of fuel and a reduction of export;
- Localized stands of *Boswellia* and *Dracaena* have suffered significant impacts from the cyclones, however no serious declines in the island-wide populations of these or other endemic plant species are currently apparent;
- Although the cyclones have caused substantial losses in livestock numbers, overgrazing is considered to be a significant current pressure on Socotra's terrestrial ecosystems, causing soil erosion and habitat degradation;
- The cyclones have caused much damage to infrastructure, including increased soil erosion in the immediate vicinity of roads. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that prior to commencing rehabilitation of roads inside the property, the road master plan is revised in line with the property's zoning plan, with a particular focus on mitigating impacts from existing roads;

The participants to the ARC-WH Workshop (February 2016) were informed that two cargo ships were grounded within the property west of the harbor of Haulafe, where they were still remaining at the time of writing this report, causing a concern about damages to the marine environment. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to hire, as soon as it is feasible to do so, a professional specialized company to assess the possibilities of and risks involved in a salvage operation.

It should be recalled that at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the Committee expressed its concern over the increased vulnerability of the property owing to the security situation in Yemen, and the likelihood of recurring fuel shortages. Considering that this vulnerability may have been further exacerbated by the recent cyclones, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to implement the actions identified in the Needs Assessment for Socotra Archipelago World Heritage site as a matter of priority, particular to explore alternatives to respond to the local demand for energy that do not impact on the OUV of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and to support the State Party in identifying priorities for rehabilitation activities.

It is recommended that the Committee also urge the State Party to promote the revival of traditional land management practices, including seasonal transhumance in order to reduce threats from soil erosion and habitat degradation as a result of overgrazing. It is also recommended that the State Party be requested to ensure the enforcement of the archipelago's protected area regulations and its zoning plan, in order to address threats from unsustainable resource use both in the terrestrial and marine environments.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Expresses its sincere condolences to the State Party and the inhabitants of Socotra for the damages and loss of life caused by the passage of cyclones *Chapala* and *Megh*, which ravaged the island in November 2015;*
4. *Commends the State Party for the progress achieved with the implementation of the 2012 mission recommendations, despite the challenges resulting from the current security situation in mainland Yemen, and welcomes in particular the appointment of a*

Deputy Governor for Environment and Development, the initiatives taken to strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency's role in the management of the property, and the ongoing consideration of a policy to cancel all previous decisions to expand main access roads within the property;

5. *Also welcomes the support provided by international donors and partners for the conservation of the archipelago's biodiversity and the sustainable development of its communities;*
6. *Reiterates its significant concern over the increased vulnerability of the property due to the security situation in mainland Yemen, considers that the impacts of the recent cyclones are likely to have further increased the property's vulnerability to pressures from unsustainable resource use, soil erosion and habitat degradation, notes that these impacts require further and urgent assessment, and calls on the international community to support Yemen in implementing the actions identified in the Needs Assessment for Socotra Archipelago World Heritage site, developed in February 2016, at the workshop hosted by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH);*
7. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, in particular in view of the impacts from wood cutting, overgrazing, unsustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources, and the impacts from the cyclones, and to support the State Party in identifying priorities for rehabilitation and management activities;*
8. *Encourages the State Party to hire, as soon as it is feasible to do so, a professional specialized company to assess the possibilities of and risks involved in salvaging the two ships grounded inside the property near Haulafe and take appropriate measures to restore any damages caused by their grounding;*
9. *Urges the State Party to promote the revival of traditional land management practices including seasonal transhumance in an effort to reduce threats from soil erosion and habitat degradation as a result of overgrazing, and to ensure the enforcement of the archipelago's protected area regulations and its zoning plan, in order to address threats from unsustainable resource use both in the terrestrial and marine environments;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all recommendations of the 2012 mission;*
11. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

87. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000 (Enhancing Our Heritage project on management effectiveness assessment). The property has benefited from the United Nations Foundation funded World Heritage India programme from 2008 (enhance management effectiveness and build staff capacity; increase the involvement of local communities in the management of the property and promote their sustainable development; and raise awareness through communications and advocacy).

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre site visit; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Decline in the population of Siberian cranes (issue resolved)
- Inadequate water supply and competition for water with neighbouring communities
- Poor water (quality and quantity) management
- Invasive species (*Prosopis*, *Eichhornia*, *Paspalum*) (already an issue in the past)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/>

Current conservation issues

On 8 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. A summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/> and reports the following:

- Time series data on water flows for all projects shows that in 2015, the property received 390 million cubic feet (mcft) of water, which is still less than the recommended minimum of 550 mcft;
- Water bird surveys using standard methods identified a total of 72 species and 14,780 individuals in 2015;
- A draft notification declaring an eco-sensitive zone, defined as an area within 500 metres from the property boundary, was issued on 13 October 2015 in order to regulate developments in the immediate vicinity of the property;
- Over 40,000 invasive African sharptooth catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) were removed from the property in an operation conducted between May and July 2015;

No progress on the development of the revised management plan is provided.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the issuance of a draft notification declaring a 500 metre strip of eco-sensitive zone around the property boundary in order to regulate developments in its immediate vicinity. This plan is understood to include restrictions on land use, infrastructure, tourism, and to regulate pollution, whilst providing for restoration of land areas and conservation of water bodies. Noting that the Zonal Master Plan needs to be prepared within a period of two years from the date of publication of the final notification in the Official Gazette, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that a full consultation process with all relevant stakeholders be undertaken prior to finalizing the notification, and during the development of the Zonal Master Plan.

It is noted with utmost concern that provision of water to the property remains at a level insufficient to ensure adequate water quantities, recalling the minimum of 550 million cubic feet (mcft) recommended by the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in order to sustain the property's wetland value. The Govardhan Drain, which was initially anticipated to provide 350 mcft of water, appears to have only provided 290 mcft of water in 2015. It is crucial that water flow is increased, taking into consideration the quality of water, in order to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Noting with significant concern that there have been no water flows from Panchana Dam over the past two years, and recalling the Committee Decision **35 COM 7B.14**, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure annual releases of water from Panchana Dam in order to augment the water supply to the property.

The data on water bird counts is appreciated but the raw data provided lacks detailed analysis to assess potential causes in fluctuations for the different species. The methodologies used are also not clarified as requested by the Committee in Decision **38 COM 7B.66**. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide clear and accurate data and analyses of bird counts, including detailed information on methodologies used, in order to demonstrate the sustained recovery of bird populations.

The operation undertaken to remove invasive African sharptooth catfish from selected areas of the property is appreciated, but no update is provided on the status and eradication of other invasive species previously identified, namely Water Hyacinth and *Prosopis juliflora*. It is considered that an ongoing monitoring process for all invasive species is required, and it is reiterated that an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy should be encouraged as part of the updated management plan. A copy of the revised management plan, which ends in 2016, has not yet been submitted and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for review.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.66, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the issuance of a draft notification declaring a 500 metre strip of eco-sensitive zone around the property boundary in order to regulate developments in the immediate vicinity of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that a full stakeholder consultation process is held prior to finalizing the notification, and during the development of the Zonal Master Plan that is expected to follow the publication in the Official Gazette of the final notification;
4. Notes with utmost concern that the provision of water to the property remains insufficient to guarantee adequate water flows, recalling that at least 550 million cubic feet (mcft) was recommended by the 2008 mission to sustain the property's wetland values, and strongly urges the State Party to increase the water flow through the

Govardhan Drain and to ensure annual releases of water from Panchana Dam in order to augment the water supply to the property;

5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide clear and accurate data and analyses of bird counts, including detailed information on methodologies used, in order to demonstrate the sustained recovery of bird populations;*
6. *Appreciates the operation undertaken to remove invasive African sharptooth catfish from selected areas of the property, and also requests the State Party to develop an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy, including for Water Hyacinth and Prosopis juliflora to be integrated into the revised management plan;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.*

88. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (India) (N 1406rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Rights issues with respect to local communities and indigenous peoples in the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Impacts of grazing and other resource use
- Opportunities to progressively increase the size of the property, in order to increase integrity and better provide for the conservation of wide-ranging species
- Hydroelectric developments downstream of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/documents>. Reported progress in addressing Decision **38 COM 8B.7** (Doha, 2014) can be summarized as follows:

- Given the implications for the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, a preliminary decision was taken to not notify the Sainj and Tirthan wildlife sanctuaries as national parks, as this would require the relocation of three villages in the Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary. Definitive approval of the decision in line with applicable procedures is pending;
- Unlike the Great Himalayan National Park, the two wildlife sanctuaries within the property include small villages (Sainj) and existing user rights (Sainj and Tirthan) within their boundaries. Through an ongoing consultative process, local rights, in particular livestock grazing rights, are being resolved; further efforts are made in the buffer zone to promote alternative livelihood options;
- Strong commitment to the recommended further extension of the property is confirmed, in line with a broader rationalization of the protected areas network of Himachal Pradesh. It was decided to merge Khirganga National Park with the property and the corresponding formal process has been initiated. An eventual conservation complex, referred to by the State Party as the Western Himalaya's Conservation Jewel, is envisaged to eventually encompass as much as three times the size of the current property. World Heritage status is described as the catalyst of the initiative, which is intended to make the vision of the largest possible conservation area in the Indian Western Himalayas a reality;
- Confirmation of the State Party's commitment to the regional comparative study recommended by the Committee (Decision **38 COM 8B.7**) with the possible support of partners such as IUCN, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII - UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia-Pacific Region) to assess the scope of ecosystems within the Himalayas and adjacent mountain regions with a view to identifying potential World Heritage candidate areas and boundary configurations in this region, including potential serial nominations / extensions. The State Party recommends that this study fully consider and inform the ongoing efforts to expand the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts to address local and indigenous rights in parts of the property and the promotion of alternative livelihoods in the buffer zone are welcome. The preliminary decision to refrain from notifying the two wildlife sanctuaries as national parks is fully plausible in the case of Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary, given the undesirable implication that three villages would require relocation. It is less clear why the same rationale is applied to Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary, which has no permanent residents. While the maintenance of various management categories jointly forming one coherently managed conservation complex may well be adequate, the State Party should be encouraged to re-consider the possible notification of Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary as a national park in line with earlier communication submitted by the State Party at the time of the evaluation of the previously referred nomination, in 2013.

The management and conservation of the property requires the full consideration of the impacts of grazing and other forms of local resource use. However, this does not imply that such use, and associated rights would be incompatible with the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to assess the impacts of grazing and other local resource use (such as medicinal plant collection) on the OUV of the property, and to further work with local communities and indigenous peoples to underpin informed decision-making.

It is also recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the steps taken towards the expansion of the property to become an even more significant conservation complex, tentatively named Western Himalaya's Conservation Jewel. The use of World Heritage status as a catalyst for this process provides a notable example of the *World Heritage Convention* as an instrument to generate benefits for conservation beyond the boundaries of an initially inscribed property. It is likewise commendable that the entire property and its buffer zone are subject to one single

management plan, under one management authority. It is strongly recommended to extend the mandate of the management plan and the management authority in parallel with the intended future extension(s).

In May 2015, a synthesis report of a national level Management Effectiveness Evaluation exercise, which took place from 2006 to 2014 and which included the property, was published by the Wildlife Institute of India. The overall positive assessment points to room for improvement in some areas, such as the poorly regulated transit of livestock through the property and unsettled rights of some villagers in the Jiwanal Valley. Moreover, the assessment notes that the Parwati Valley portion of the property still requires management consolidation, and refers to some human-wildlife conflicts and some deficiencies in staffing, equipment and training for patrolling in the high-altitude terrain.

The State Party's confirmed commitment to the regional comparative study is welcome, which could indeed also inform the further expansion of the property. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to seek further dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in that regard, as well as with other States Parties in the region.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.11** and **38 COM 8B.7**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions, respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the further progress made by the State Party as regards the intended expansion of the property, in particular the decision to incorporate Khirganga National Park within the property in the future, and encourages the State Party to continue the plan for progressive expansion, with the technical support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as required, and taking into account the findings of the regional comparative study; and to submit its proposals to the World Heritage Centre, in the format of a new Nomination for examination by the Committee;*
4. *Also welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party in working with local communities and indigenous peoples, and also encourages further local consultation and involvement in decision-making to find mutually acceptable ways to resolve any ongoing resource use conflicts, while respecting any rights of use, and on the basis of an accurate assessment of impacts from resource use (in particular grazing and collection of medicinal plants) on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to re-consider the possibility of notification of Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary as a national park;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to fully consider and address the management deficiencies identified in the recently published national level Management Effectiveness Assessment exercise, which took place from 2006 to 2014, in particular:*
 - a) *Regulate the transit of livestock through the property,*
 - b) *Conclude the process to recognise the rights of local communities in Jiwanal Valley,*
 - c) *Consolidate the management of the Parwati Valley,*
 - d) *Address human-wildlife conflicts,*

- e) *Ensure adequate levels of staffing, equipment and training for patrolling in high-altitude terrain;*
7. *Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to contribute to a regional comparative study to assess the scope of ecosystems within the Himalayas and adjacent mountain regions with a view to identifying potential World Heritage candidate areas and boundary configurations in this region, including potential serial nominations / extensions, as recommended by the Committee, and recommends that the State Party consult with other relevant States Parties from the region, as well as with IUCN and other partners as required;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, 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 43rd session in 2019.*

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February/March 2012: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2014: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Cattle grazing

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

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2016, the State Party submitted a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/documents>, which presents progress on a number of issues previously addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- Efforts to combat illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood include provision of equipment, capacity building and financial benefits to forest rangers, joint patrols between forest rangers, army and border police, intensified law enforcement, forest restoration, and increased international cooperation, including with the Association of South-East Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and with Cambodia both at the ministerial level and on coordinated patrols in border areas;
- Comparative statistics on Rosewood poaching show a rapid increase in recorded cases between 2012 and 2014 (when 421.05 m³ were seized), and a decrease in 2015 (107.39 m³);
- Confirmation that illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood may be considered an ascertained danger to the property in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, but emphasis on the fact that Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is maintained;
- No evidence found of wildlife poaching in association with illegal logging;
- By end 2015, a total of 443 cases of encroachment are recorded with 380 cases still in various stages of process. Community Forests adjacent to the property are managed by local communities in cooperation with the Royal Forest Department;
- Ongoing implementation of the Action Plan to address environmental impact of the Huay Samong Dam. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Huay Satone Dam within the property has not been allowed;
- Road 3462 through the property is permanently closed for public use. No EIA has been allowed for expansion of Highway 348, and studies have shown that this area is rich in biodiversity;
- Construction of wildlife corridors across Highway 304 is planned to be completed by 2018. No visitor centers will be constructed in corridor areas;
- A Strategic Plan on Tourism in World Natural Heritage is currently being developed for integration in the property's Management Plan 2014-2018.

The State Party further reports on the implementation of the Road Map to support the property, presented to the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's recognition that the threat posed by Rosewood poaching represents an ascertained danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, but that it considers that the OUV is still maintained, should be noted. It should be recalled that the Committee, at its 39th session, decided to consider, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to the OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 40th session. It is therefore recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The political will demonstrated by the State Party to address Rosewood poaching as a matter of high priority should be commended. International collaboration to prevent and suppress illegal trade in Siamese Rosewood is a crucial aspect of the response to this threat. In that regard, the close collaboration with Cambodia on coordinated patrols in border areas is particularly welcome.

IUCN, through the project "*Protected Areas and Transboundary Conservation for Climate Change Adaptation: Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site*" implemented by its Thailand office with financial support from the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), has provided support to the State Party in addressing illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood, while fostering transboundary collaboration with Cambodia and sharing lessons on buffer zone management and community livelihood development. Following the implementation of this project, IUCN found that local

stakeholders both in Thailand and Cambodia are very supportive of the collaboration on transboundary conservation.

Despite the efforts to combat illegal logging and trade, these threats continue to increase in severity as a result of the rising market value of Siamese Rosewood. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the States Parties of Thailand, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to further strengthen their collaboration to combat illegal logging at the source, reduce demand at its destination, and intercept shipments of illegally logged Rosewood during transit. Although the State Party states that no evidence was found of poaching occurring in association with illegal logging, these illegal activities commonly occur in conjunction, and IUCN continues to receive reports that poaching is relatively frequent in parts of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake further investigations to determine the extent to which poaching, associated or not with illegal logging, is a threat to the property's OUV.

Encroachment continues to be a significant problem in the property. While the State Party notes that no new encroachment for resort development was found in 2015, no such assurance is given for agricultural encroachment. Efforts by the State Party to engage with local communities to verify land rights in forest areas are an important step towards addressing encroachment in some areas, however it should be noted that clarification of land rights is typically a complex and time consuming process. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that this process is undertaken in a fully transparent manner and with full participation of local communities.

It is welcomed that the State Party confirmed that no visitor centers will be constructed at wildlife corridors across Highway 304, and it is noted that EIAs for the Huay Satone Dam within the property and for the expansion of Highway 348, also within the property, have not been allowed. It is unclear if not allowing an EIA implies that the concerned projects will not be permitted to proceed, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to confirm this. It is also noted that the State Party intends to consider whether wildlife corridors will be foreseen on the basis of the results of the biodiversity surveys around Highway 348.

The ongoing development of a Strategic Plan on Tourism in World Natural Heritage is also welcome, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a copy of the draft plan to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for review prior to its finalization.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the significant efforts taken to address the threat from illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood, and welcomes the international collaboration, including coordinated patrols with the State Party of Cambodia, to prevent and suppress illegal trade in Siamese Rosewood;*
4. *Notes with concern that illegal logging continues to represent a significant and increasingly severe threat to the property as a result of the increasing market value of Siamese Rosewood;*
5. *Also notes the State Party's confirmation that illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood within the property may be considered as ascertained danger in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, but that it considers that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is still being maintained;*
6. ***Decides to inscribe Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***

7. Urges the States Parties of Thailand, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to further strengthen their collaboration to combat illegal logging at the source, reduce demand at its destination, and intercept shipments of illegally logged Rosewood during transit;
8. Requests the State Party to undertake further investigations to determine the extent to which poaching, associated or not with illegal logging, is a threat to the property's OUV;
9. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to address encroachment and the construction of illegal resorts, and also requests the State Party to ensure that the process of clarifying land rights in forest areas is undertaken in a fully transparent manner and with full participation of the concerned local communities;
10. Further notes that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the Huay Satone Dam and the expansion of Highway 348, both within the property, have not been allowed, and further requests the State Party to confirm unambiguously and in writing that these projects will not be permitted to proceed;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a set of corrective measures and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft Strategic Plan on Tourism in World Natural Heritage for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017.

91. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

92. Bialowieza Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33ter)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (potentially late mission)

93. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1995-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 21,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: financial support from the Participation Programme of UNESCO for development of a strategy for sustainable tourism (2010)

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Developments in the Bansko ski zone
- Lack of effective management mechanisms
- Boundary issues
- Illegal logging

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>.

The State Party confirms that the draft Management Plan for Pirin National Park will be subject to the procedures for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) as requested by the World Heritage Committee. Currently the draft plan is being evaluated by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW). It is expected that it will be returned for further elaboration due to the identified discrepancies between the prepared draft and the technical specification approved by the Ministry.

It also confirms that all projects in the buffer zone of the property are evaluated in line with the Bulgarian legislation and are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and AAs. The implementation of approved projects is controlled by the Pirin National Park Directorate (PNPD) and

the MOEW. A number of projects were approved in 2014 and 2015, which are mainly related to the maintenance of the existing facilities, improving visitors' safety, the quality of tourist services and the environment.

In line with the recommendation of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, the demarcation of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone was carried out. With regards to the other recommendations of the mission, the State Party reports the following:

- the Master Development Plans (MDP) for Bansko and Sandanski municipalities have been finalized, have received positive statements from the MOEW and will soon be considered by the respective municipal councils. MDPs for other municipalities around the property are currently being prepared;
- the Strategy for sustainable nature tourism is being promoted and implemented by the PNPĐ;
- the draft Management Plan of Pirin National Park foresees the elaboration of a methodology for monitoring the impacts on the property of skiing and other activities in its buffer zone;
- implementation of restoration measures set out by the EIAs and AAs of each project is controlled by the PNPĐ;
- territorial arrangement plans for Bansko and Dobrinishte ski zones in the buffer zone of the property can only be elaborated after the adoption of the Management Plan.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress achieved by the State Party in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 mission is welcomed. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard and to implement all pending recommendations.

The information provided by the State Party that the draft Management Plan for Pirin National Park will be subject to a SEA and an AA is noted. However, the fact that the draft Management Plan was considered by the MOEW as not being compliant with its technical requirements raises concerns. It should also be noted that concerns were expressed by local stakeholders during the public consultation process for the Management Plan, particularly over the planned extension of areas where tourism infrastructure development would be allowed. Concerns were also raised by local stakeholders regarding the proposed amendment of the Concession Contract for the Bansko ski zone. However, the State Party does not provide any details with regards to the contract.

In its Decision **38 COM 7B.73**, the Committee noted the information previously provided by the State Party that further developments in the buffer zone of the property could be considered within the new Management Plan. In its most recent report, the State Party does not provide any further details about what is considered in the current draft; however, it reports that a number of projects were approved in 2014 and 2015. Although the State Party notes that these projects were related to the maintenance of existing facilities and improvement of visitors' safety and the quality of tourist services, some of the projects listed in the report appear to be of a significant scale, such as the extension of the system for artificial snow, the reconstruction of an existing ski surface lift and the reconstruction of a ski lift station. Their cumulative impacts therefore need to be carefully evaluated.

It is crucial that strategic planning guides any developments within the property and its buffer zone. This can be achieved through the foreseen process of the review of the draft Management Plan under a SEA. The current situation where no such strategic guiding document is in place raises concerns. It is noted that all projects within the buffer zone of the property are subject to EIAs and AAs; however, these individual assessments might not take into account the cumulative impacts of all projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and on its buffer zone, and the pressures coming from the surrounding areas. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that the draft Management Plan is revised to comply with the requirements set out by the MOEW and is evaluated through the SEA and not to approve any further developments within the property or its buffer zone until these procedures have been completed. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the results of these assessments to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as they become available and prior to any decision to finalize the Management Plan is made.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 mission and requests the State Party to fully implement all pending recommendations;
4. Also welcomes the confirmation that the draft Management Plan for Pirin National Park will be subject to the procedures for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), as requested in its Decision **38 COM 7B.73**, but notes with concern the conclusion of the Ministry of Environment and Water that the first draft of the Management Plan did not comply with the requirements set out by the Ministry and was therefore sent back for revision;
5. Notes the information provided by the State Party that all projects within the buffer zone of the property are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and that the projects approved in 2014 and 2015 were mainly related to the maintenance of existing infrastructure and the enhancement of visitors' safety and of the quality of tourist services, but also notes with concern that some of these projects appear to be of significant scale and that the individual EIAs might not take into account the cumulative impacts of all projects within the property and its buffer zone;
6. Considers that any future developments within the buffer zone of the property need to be guided by strategic planning, which can be achieved through the strengthening of the current draft Management Plan and through its revision under the SEA and also requests the State Party:
 - a) to ensure that the draft Management Plan is revised to comply with the requirements set out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and is evaluated through the procedures for SEAs,
 - b) to submit the revised draft Management Plan and the results of its evaluation through the SEA and AAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to any decision to finalize the Plan is made,
 - c) to provide the World Heritage Centre information on other ongoing processes, that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its buffer zone and therefore need to be considered through the SEA alongside the draft Management Plan, such as the revision of the concession contract for the Bansko Ski zone,
 - d) not to approve any further developments within the property or its buffer zone until the revised Management Plan has been subject to the SEA and the results of the assessment have been reviewed by IUCN;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

94. Gros Morne National Park (Canada) (N 419)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Petroleum exploration in the vicinity of the World Heritage property
- No buffer zone around the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/documents/>, and reports the following:

- There continues to be no possibility of onshore and onshore-based petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing in the property given the existing moratorium;
- An independent Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel has been established to conduct a public review of the socio-economic and environmental implications of hydraulic fracturing in Western Newfoundland. The report, including recommendations on future actions concerning hydraulic fracturing, was scheduled to be released in February 2016, and was postponed to late spring 2016;
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the western portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area has been published;
- Parks Canada held meetings with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and concluded that the existing legislation and regulation provides a sufficient and effective framework to ensure the long-term protection of the property without defining a buffer zone.

Following review of the above state of conservation report, the World Heritage Centre requested further details from the State Party specifically regarding the SEA, to which the State Party responded on 12 February 2016 with the following information:

- The SEA was near completion when the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment was released, so retrofitting the SEA was considered to not be realistic;
- Future oil and gas production proposals will be subject to project-level environmental impact assessments (EIAs) that consider the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and therefore it was not the State Party's intentions to incorporate these at this stage in the SEA.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the continued moratorium on onshore and onshore-based petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing, and that there are currently no active offshore licences in areas adjacent to the property or plans to initiate any process to issue licences in this

offshore area. It is also recommended that, should the moratorium on acceptance for petroleum exploitation in the vicinity of the property be discontinued without putting other appropriate measures in place to maintain the OUV of the property, the State Party should invite a World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as per the Committee's previous request (Decision **37 COM 7B.18**). It is considered that the moratorium should be used to ensure substantive measures are introduced to prevent future petroleum licences from being issued if they are likely to have a negative impact on the OUV of the property.

It is appreciated that the State Party will submit to the World Heritage Centre, a report by the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel, on the public and stakeholder consultation of hydraulic fracturing. It is noted that the report will be used to reassess the effectiveness of the existing legislation and regulation to protect the property in the long term, and that it will also influence the SEAs and project-level EIAs.

The State Party's clarification of the intended purpose of the SEA is appreciated, and it is noted that the SEA was nearing completion when the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment was published. Nevertheless, it is considered that an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, as well as the identification of appropriate measures to avoid and/or mitigate such impacts would be required to inform the potential projects that could be considered before project-level EIAs are conducted.

It is appreciated that the State Party considered the Committee's Decision **38 COM 7B.74** on buffer zones, and it is noted that the meetings on this matter concluded that an effective framework already exists. However, it is also noted that the public opinion poll conducted by the Review Panel revealed significant public support for a buffer zone and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to establish a buffer zone as part of the measures needed to ensure adequate protection of the property against oil and gas exploration when the current moratorium expires.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.18** and **38 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Requests the State Party to ensure that substantive measures are introduced before the existing moratorium on onshore and onshore-based petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing expires, in order to prevent any future oil or gas licences from being issued inside the property, or issued outside the property where they could adversely impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Notes that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the western portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area, which is adjacent to the property, was nearing completion when the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment was published and that therefore, an assessment of impacts on OUV was not included in the SEA;*
5. *Nevertheless, also requests the State Party to incorporate into the SEA, through an addendum or other appropriate means, an assessment of the impacts on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, and to identify appropriate measures to ensure that any such impacts are avoided or adequately mitigated;*
6. *Also notes that the State Party, in consultation with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, concluded that the existing legislation and regulation provides a sufficient and effective framework to ensure the long term protection of the property*

without defining a buffer zone, but considers that the property may no longer be adequately protected against oil and gas exploration if the aforementioned moratorium expires before other appropriate protection measures are in place, and therefore further requests the State Party to consider establishing an appropriate buffer zone as part of wider protection measures;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the risks to the property's OUV of petroleum exploration in its vicinity, in case the moratorium on acceptance of such applications is discontinued without putting in place other appropriate measures for maintaining the OUV of the property;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

95. Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (N 98bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

96. Golden Mountains of Altaï (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: UNESCO/UNDP mission; 2007, 2012: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of a road project across the property
- Gas pipeline construction plans

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents>, which reports on the following matters:

- Reference is made to the possible construction of a gas pipeline, stressing that no construction is occurring at this stage. Any construction would require a positive result of a federal level Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). No such process is underway, let alone concluded;
- The Federal Government Order N° 1416-r, which had included the gas pipeline under consideration as one of several approved future pipeline projects in August of 2013, has since become invalid through the Federal Government Order N° 816-r dated May 2015. It is also reported that the Government of the Altai Republic has no plans for construction of linear infrastructure or other types of construction projects, which could affect the property.

The State Party reports on additional issues, which are summarized hereafter:

- Commitment is confirmed to the recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, whose implementation has repeatedly been requested by the Committee. While acknowledging room for improvement in terms of the overall coordination between the five components of the serial property, consolidation of management is reported for the Katunsky and Altaisky components;
- Illegal access and activities, such as poaching, are reported to constitute the main conflict with the formal protection status of the property;
- Research projects are ongoing, in particular transboundary work on the flagship species snow leopard and argali, studies on reindeer summer habitats, as well as long-term monitoring of ecosystem responses to climate change;
- An increased visitation in selected areas of the property is noted, along with efforts underway to monitor the situation, establish carrying capacity for and minimize the environmental impacts of tourism;
- Progress in improving transboundary cooperation between the Katunsky component and Katon-Karagaysky State National Natural Park in neighboring Kazakhstan includes coordinated management planning and the joint elaboration of a nomination for a transboundary Biosphere Reserve, planned for submission in 2016.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party that no further construction work on the gas pipeline has occurred within the property since the suspension of preparatory survey work in 2013 is noted. While the State Party reports that Federal Government Order N° 816-r dated May 2015 repealed the earlier Federal Government Order N° 1416-r, it does not provide any details on the implications of the reported legal change. It should be noted that the text of the Order 816-r, available online on the official internet portal of legislative acts (<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/>), not only mentions the Altai gas pipeline, but also states that the project documentation in its sections dealing with environmental impact assessment considers the status of the Golden Mountains of Altai. The official website of Gazprom mentions the signing of a Heads of Agreement with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) for pipeline gas supply from Russia to China via the “Western route” (which is how the Altai route is also referred to) on 8 May 2015. A press release by Gazprom dated 17 December 2015 confirms further discussion and that commercial negotiations would continue in the last two weeks of January 2016.

The World Heritage Centre also received a letter from a group of indigenous peoples who oppose the construction of the pipeline and express their concerns regarding the potential impacts of the project on the Ukok Plateau which is considered a sacred place by the Indigenous peoples of Altai. On 7 April 2016, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarifications on the above-mentioned letter. No response from the State Party has been received at the time of writing this report. While the State Party confirms that no construction works occurred within the property, it does not report on whether a firm decision has been made to abandon the pipeline project.

Similarly, while the State Party reports that there are no construction plans of any linear infrastructure on the part of the Government of the Altai Republic, the State Party did not report on whether the Decree 212 N 202 dated 2 August 2012 of the Altai Republic, which would permit such projects, was revoked, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **39 COM 7B.21**. As the World Heritage Committee has repeatedly noted, a decision to go forward with the project would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to make an unequivocal decision to abandon the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property, as previously requested in its decisions **33 COM 7B.27**, **35 COM 7B.26**, **36 COM 7B.25**, **37 COM 7B.25** and **39 COM 7B.21**.

The renewed commitment of the State Party to follow up on the recommendations of the 2012 mission is welcomed. Further consolidation of the management response to the recommendations is strongly encouraged; in particular as regards the coordination of management among the components of the serial property, adequate staffing, consideration of cultural values, as well as responses to illegal activities and localized impacts of uncontrolled tourism, including from all-terrain vehicles. The intention to nominate a transboundary Biosphere Reserve jointly with Kazakhstan is noted and coordination with the parallel discussion on a possible transboundary World Heritage approach is encouraged.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.21**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to the recommendations of the 2012 mission and the progress made in this regard, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in the implementation of the mission recommendations;*
4. *While noting the information provided by the State Party that no construction works on the Altai gas pipeline have been ongoing, reiterates its utmost concern that no firm decision has been made to abandon the Altai gas pipeline route, which would cross the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to take an unequivocal decision to abandon the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property and urges the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China to consider alternative routes for gas supply projects;*
5. *Reiterates its position that any decision to go forward with the Altai gas pipeline through the property would represent an ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), including assessments of impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for any infrastructure development in or around the property, which could affect its OUV, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also reiterates its concern about Decree 212 N 202 dated 2 August 2012 of the Republic of Altai, which allows the "construction and exploitation of linear objects as well as structures that are an integral part of the process" and therefore weakens the*

legal provisions protecting the property; emphasizes that, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the modification of legal protection status of an area included in a property is considered as a potential danger to its OUV and a reason for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges the State Party to revoke this decree;

8. Commends the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan on further progress in transboundary conservation efforts and strongly encourages all States Parties of the Altai region to consolidate existing transboundary conservation efforts, including under the World Heritage Convention, and to seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as required;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the status of the Altai gas pipeline project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

98. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management Plan (issue resolved)
- Geophysical prospecting in the marine area surrounding the property
- Planned construction of a naval base within the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2015, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents/>.

The report notes that in 2015 a series of measures was carried out within the property aimed at the “provision of the necessary facilities” and cleaning of the territory from the garbage accumulated during past human presence on Wrangel Island “to ensure the security of the Russian Federation”. It is stated that the area where these activities were undertaken is about 20 hectares. Further activities to remove garbage, such as empty old barrels, from the island are planned for 2016-2017. With regards to the facilities, the report also states that most of the territory where “the objects are placed” has no vegetation, and the vegetation that is present does not include rare or endemic species.

With regards to the seismic exploration activities, the report confirms that such activities are prohibited within the waters of the property and that, in the past, vessels only had to enter the buffer zone of the property to seek shelter from storms under permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the administration of the Wrangel Island Strict Nature Reserve. The report also states that no oil production is currently being undertaken nor is planned in the areas surrounding the property.

The State Party also provided a copy of the 2013-2017 management plan for the property, which includes activities on the development of ecotourism, including procedures for issuing permits for visit and application and enforcement of rules of conduct for visitors.

Regarding the oil exploration plans in the Chukchi Sea by the Shell company, no official information has been received by the World Heritage Centre from the State Party of the United States of America. In addition, on 27 September 2015, six weeks after it began exploratory drilling off the Northwest Coast of Alaska, Royal Dutch Shell announced on its website that it “will cease further exploration activity in offshore Alaska for the foreseeable future” (<http://www.shell.com/media/news-and-media-releases/2015/shell-updates-on-alaska-exploration.html>).

Despite the request of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **39 COM 7B.25**) to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, no invitation had been received at the time of writing this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party that activities aimed at removing garbage from past activities on Wrangel Island, as expressed by the Committee at the time of the inscription of the property (Decision **28 COM 14B.14**), is welcome.

The fact that “provision of facilities” is also ongoing, raises concerns. It is regrettable that the State Party did not invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess potential impacts of these facilities, as well as associated current and future human presence, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the property. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as a matter of urgency.

IUCN notes that governmental sources of information confirm the presence of personnel of construction companies on the island, and notes in particular the information available on the website of the official governmental programme on protection of polar bears (<http://programmes.putin.kremlin.ru/bear/news/25256>) also confirms that an incident with a polar bear occurred on Wrangel Island in late 2015, involving one of the employees of the construction company, and reports that the bear was severely, and possibly intentionally, wounded and was later found dead. The Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Chukotka Autonomous region has initiated an investigation of the case. Growing human presence in this highly sensitive environment will be likely to lead to further human-wildlife conflicts. Therefore, it is crucial that any activities and facilities are minimized to the degree possible and that those planned are subject to rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), which should also evaluate potential impacts on the property from any associated human presence.

The information available in the management plan with regards to tourism activities is noted. A figure in the Appendices suggests that additional guest houses are planned within the property; however, no details are provided. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on any planned tourism infrastructure, including EIAs of any such projects.

The information provided by the State Party that oil exploration activities are prohibited within the property and that seismic prospecting vessels only enter the waters within the property in order to avoid storms is noted. However, it is recommended that the Committee regret that the State Party did not provide more detailed information on the current status of the ongoing or planned exploration projects in the vicinity of the property, nor any of the EIAs, which were requested by Decision **39 COM 7B.25**. Therefore, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on any ongoing or planned oil exploration activities in the vicinity of the property and to submit EIAs for such projects. For all of the EIAs mentioned above, it will be crucially important to include specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

It is considered that the continued development of facilities and the associated increase in permanent human presence on Wrangel Island poses a potential danger to the very sensitive arctic ecosystem of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The potential for significant impacts is exemplified by the incident involving the death of a polar bear. It is therefore recommended that, in case there is insufficient progress in addressing the above-mentioned issues, the World Heritage Committee consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 41st session in 2017.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite this mission, as a matter of urgency;
4. Welcomes the information that activities aimed at the removal of garbage from past human presence have been undertaken and that further activities are planned in that regard for 2016-2017;
5. Expresses its utmost concern over the ongoing construction of facilities within the property and the associated increased human presence on the island and the potential impacts thereof on the sensitive arctic environment of Wrangel Island, and considers that this poses a potential danger to the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Urges the State Party to halt the construction of facilities and any associated activities until their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been assessed through rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and requests the State Party to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
7. Notes confirmation that oil exploration and exploitation are prohibited within the property and that in the past, seismic exploration vessels incidentally entered the waters of the property only in order to seek shelter from storms, but also regrets that no information was provided on the current status of the oil exploration projects that are planned or ongoing in the vicinity of the property, nor any EIAs were submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information on the current status of any ongoing and planned oil exploration projects in the vicinity of the property and to submit EIAs for such projects, including specific assessment of their

potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's Advice Note of Environmental Assessment;

9. *Notes with concern that additional tourism infrastructure is planned within the property and also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on any planned tourism infrastructure, including EIAs of any such projects;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, 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 41st session in 2017, with a view to consider, in the case of a lack of significant progress in addressing the above-mentioned issues, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

99. Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation) (N 719)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (pending evaluation of a significant boundary modification initially submitted, but withdrawn)

100. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996, extension 2001

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: IUCN fact-finding mission; May 2004, August 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal salmon fishing
- Gold mining
- Gas pipeline
- Development of a geothermal power station
- Forest fires
- Boundary changes
- Construction of the Esso-Palana road

- Need for the development of a comprehensive national legal framework for the protection and management of natural properties
- Decline in populations of wild reindeer and snow sheep
- Lack of management structure and coordination system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/> and reports as follows:

- With regards to the hydropower projects on the Zhupanova River, no hydropower plants are planned within the property or in the adjacent areas and that the President of the Russian Federation commissioned the regional Government of Kamchatka to consider alternative sources for providing electricity to the region;
- There have been no changes to the boundaries of the nature parks and their total area is 2,475,036 ha. The report further notes that the maps of the property provided by the State Party in its report in 2014 are up-to-date;
- Although no management plan has been prepared for the entire property, cooperation exists between the organizations managing its component protected areas;
- The report provides information on ongoing monitoring activities and their key results, including for the wild northern reindeer for which the monitoring activities are aimed at identifying the reasons for population decrease in Kronotsky State Nature Reserve. Reported activities also include monitoring of the populations of the Sockeye salmon and other fish species in Kronotsky and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky Strict Nature Reserves;
- Concerns are raised regarding a number of potential threats to the values of the property from illegal fishing and hunting. It is likely that the property is affected by poaching, given the reduction of game stock in the areas surrounding the property. Species with a wide geographical distribution or long migration routes are particularly threatened by hunting that may occur outside the property. The presence of fishing vessels within the marine area of the property has also been registered. The State Party notes the need to increase anti-poaching activities within the property and to strengthen protection of the coastal areas. The areas of the four nature parks are also threatened by hunting and fishing sites within their boundaries.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party that no hydropower projects are planned within the property or in adjacent areas and that the Government of Kamchatka has been requested to consider alternative power sources is welcomed.

With regards to the boundaries of the property and specifically its four components Nalychevo, South Kamchatka, Bystrinsky and Kluchevskoy Regional Nature Parks, the clarifications of the State Party that their boundaries have not been changed and the cartographic material submitted in its report are noted. The State Party reports that the total area of the four nature parks is 2,475,036 ha which differs from the area of 2,526,150 ha reported in the 2014 Periodic Report to which the State Party is referring. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to clarify again the total area of each of the four nature parks, and to explain any discrepancies.

The measures undertaken by the State Party in the field of species monitoring are noted. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts, particularly with regards to the monitoring of the wild northern reindeer population for which declines have been reported.

Information that cooperation is ongoing between the authorities managing the different components of the property is welcome. However, it is regrettable that no significant progress has been achieved by the State Party in the implementation of the 2007 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to develop a joint management plan and a joint management framework for the entire property.

The concerns expressed by the State Party with regards to potential threats to the property, particularly from increasing poaching, are alarming. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee also request the State Party to increase anti-poaching activities within the entire property

and to provide the necessary resources for these activities. The information that the four nature parks appear to be threatened by hunting and fishing sites within their boundaries also raises serious concern. It should be recalled that the 2007 mission recommended strengthening the protection regime of the four nature parks either by upgrading them to national parks or by revising their zoning. It is crucial that the protection regime of all components of the property is sufficient to ensure the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its integrity. It is therefore recommended that the State Party be requested to consider strengthening the protection regime of the four nature parks through appropriate mechanisms and to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information about the current zoning regime of each of the nature parks and the allowed activities in each zone. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that no activities are permitted within the boundaries of the property which could negatively affect its OUV.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.100

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.20**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the confirmation that no hydropower projects are planned within the property or in adjacent areas and that the Government of Kamchatka has been requested to consider alternative power sources;*
4. *Acknowledges the measures undertaken by the State Party in the field of species monitoring and requests the State Party to continue its efforts;*
5. *Also welcomes the information provided by the State Party that there have been no changes to the boundaries of the four components of the property which are regional nature parks, as well as the provided cartographic material, but notes however that there continues to be some discrepancy between the total area of the four nature parks reported by the State Party in its state of conservation report and in its 2014 Periodic Report, and also requests the State Party to clarify the total area of each component of the property and explain any discrepancies;*
6. *Notes with concern the conclusion of the State Party that the property might be threatened in the future by increasing illegal hunting and fishing, and urges the State Party to increase anti-poaching activities in the entire property and to provide the necessary resources for these activities;*
7. *Notes with utmost concern that the areas of the four nature parks are also threatened by hunting and fishing within their boundaries, and further requests the State Party to consider strengthening the protection regime of the four regional nature parks of the property, as recommended by the 2007 mission, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as a matter of urgency, detailed information on the current zoning regime of each nature park and on the allowed activities in each zone;*
8. *Also urges the State Party to ensure that no activities, that could negatively affect its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity, are permitted within the boundaries of the property;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, 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 42nd session in 2018.

101. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (pending evaluation of a significant boundary modification initially submitted, but withdrawn)

102. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (N 369)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/369/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/369/assistance>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2003: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2013: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Buildings and development; Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure: Development of a golf resort
- Physical resource extraction; oil and gas: Petroleum exploration license overlapping with the boundaries of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/369/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available online at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/369/documents/>. The State Party also submitted a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, which will be examined by the Committee under item 8B of the Agenda. The State Party provides updates on the issues raised by the Committee at its 38th session as follows:

- It is reiterated that the golf resort development proposal took full consideration of its potential adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which concluded that there will be no such impact, and this was confirmed by the High Court in Northern Ireland;
- The land associated with the golf resort development project has been sold to a new owner, but the State Party has not received any indication on construction activities, nor received any

modifications or alternatives to the existing project. Should no development work start, the consent will expire on 29 March 2017;

- In October 2015, Rathlin Energy Limited gave notice to terminate the licence for the petroleum exploration project, which overlapped with the boundaries of the property.

The State Party is also in the process of reviewing a revised proposal for an extension to a listed building within the “Distinctive Landscape Setting” of the property, but it anticipates that any impact on OUV will be unlikely.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the State Party’s intentions to notify it, should the new owner of the land associated with the golf resort development submit any development proposal which may affect the OUV of the property. The State Party’s reaffirmation that the existing consent will not have any impact on the OUV of the property is noted. However it is proposed that the Committee recall that the development as was initially proposed and consented remains of concern regarding its impact. It is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that any new proposals submitted by the new land owner are assessed in terms of their potential impact on the OUV of the property, in accordance with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

It is noted that the petroleum licence has been withdrawn by the licensee, Rathlin Energy Limited, for the area that overlapped with the boundaries of the property and that no exploration work has been conducted or is proposed within the property or in its vicinity. It is acknowledged that the State Party will take the *Operational Guidelines* into account when granting future licences. Whilst this is welcomed, it is considered that tighter measures to prevent licences from being awarded in future for areas that overlap with the World Heritage property should be assured.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed of progress made.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.80, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Notes the updated information regarding the planned golf resort development project that may affect the property, requests the State Party to ensure that the World Heritage Centre is informed if this development begins to be implemented, and welcomes the State Party’s intentions to notify the Committee if any new proposal is submitted;*
4. *Urges the State Party to ensure that any new proposal submitted by the new land owner is assessed in terms of their potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in accordance with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environment Assessment;*
5. *Also notes that Rathlin Energy Limited has terminated the petroleum exploration licence, which overlapped with the boundaries of the property, and acknowledges that the State Party will apply Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines when considering future licences;*
6. *Reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total to not undertake such activities within World Heritage properties, and also requests the State Party to ensure that such activities will not be*

permitted to take place within World Heritage properties, and that any such activities taking place outside a World Heritage property do not result in negative impacts on its OUV;

7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

103. Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (N 740bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

104. Grand Canyon National Park (United States of America) (N 75)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add (request for supplementary information)

II. OMNIBUS

As part of its functions and within the Reactive Monitoring process, each year the World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of a number of selected properties, inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and those that are under threats (see Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*). To this effect, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prepare detailed reports on the state of conservation (“SOC reports”) of those properties which are presented for examination to the Committee (see Documents WHC/16/40.COM/7A, 7A.Add, 7B and 7B.Add).

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

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

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

With Draft Decision **40 COM 7B.105** proposed below, the World Heritage Committee is therefore invited to note with satisfaction that its requests have been addressed by the States Parties concerned and that in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties listed below is no longer under threat.

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

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 10 December 2015, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958/documents/>. The report provides information on measures implemented by the Administration of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” (SHAHAR) in response to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- Formulating and adopting guidance for a consistent conservation and maintenance approach to the buildings within the property through development and adoption of relevant rules and guidelines;
- Improvement of the management model and development of the Integrated Area Management Action Plan (IAMAP) and General Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historical Centre of

Baku (CMP), thereby maintaining the adequate state of conservation of historical-architectural monuments. SHAHAR is collaborating with other state agencies on the “Greater Baku Regional Development Plan” project, which is informed by the Historic-Urban Landscape approach;

- Strengthening of the effective implementation of the moratorium on further construction, elevation and inappropriate transformation of historical buildings within the property by undertaking regular inspections and monitoring, as well as by upgrading 24/7 CCTV control and security service on the territory. SHAHAR is also working closely with local residents to facilitate voluntarily removal of illegal constructions;
- The “Living City” approach has successfully been applied to improve and maintain better living conditions within the Walled City of Baku, and necessary actions to initiate and support rehabilitation of decayed historic buildings are being taken.

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

Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex (Russian Federation) (C 981rev)

On 30 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/981/documents/>, and addresses the progress made in the implementation of the Decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014).

The report provides information on measures implemented in response to the decisions of the Committee as follows:

- *The development of the management plan* has been carried out on the basis of the concept as presented in the nomination dossier. On 15 February 2016, the State Party submitted the management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. It includes strategic objectives for the integrated plan of preservation and management of the Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex and highlights some gaps in legal and regulatory protection for parts of the property (the Island) and for the buffer zone;
- *A system of monitoring has been developed* on the assumption of the main objective of preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex. This system includes precise indications to observe and document the state of conservation of the property;
- *The relocation of the tent village set up for pilgrims was completed* in 2014. As from summer 2015, the camp has been functioning on its new location;
- *In 2015, the work has begun to establish a comprehensive site archive and store* in order to collect all data, reports and archaeological finds, in a centralized facility in the vicinity of the property;
- *The treatment of surfaces of historical materials has been reduced and minimized* in order to make a clear distinction between historic and added materials. Newly revealed archaeological objects undergo consolidation after their excavation in order to provide constructive stability of the elements of the ruins.

On 11 November 2015, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre of the intention to develop the Bolgar Islamic Academy as a spiritual and educational centre to serve the increasing number of pilgrims to the property following its inscription on World Heritage List. The letter also announces the possibility to build additional training facilities and a dormitory 300-400m away from the White Mosque.

Taking into account ICOMOS recommendations regarding this project, on 14 March 2016, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre the Heritage Impact Assessment of the project for review by ICOMOS.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the Committee's recommendations are being addressed continuously by the State Party and no further reporting is required in the short term. The State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of the measures requested by the Committee and with those envisaged in the Management Plan, notably the establishment and enforcement of legal and regulatory protection measures for the part of the property not yet protected and for the buffer zone, in order to ensure an appropriate state of conservation and to prevent threats from affecting its Outstanding Universal Value, in particular from activities outside the boundaries of the World Heritage property.

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

On 10 December 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/429/documents>), which addresses progress made in the implementation of World Heritage Committee Decision **38 COM 7B.37**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) regarding the potential adverse impacts of the Hyndford Quarry extension and Pleasance Housing projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its buffer zone.

The State Party responded that on the Hyndford Quarry, following a Public Inquiry, the proposed extension of the quarry within the buffer zone of the property was referred to Scottish Ministers and has been turned down. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that following the negative outcome of the Inquiry, the CEMEX company, which had submitted the application, announced a new commitment related to all World Heritage sites. This commitment specifically mentions this property in addition to its general commitment to World Heritage, which states that *“CEMEX unequivocally recognizes that World Heritage sites are no go areas for extractive activities, and nothing in either the sites or their Buffer Zones must interfere with their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) nor impinge in any way on their setting), notes specifically that “Regarding the New Lanark World Heritage site, CEMEX acknowledges the recent decision of Scottish Ministers and is committed to working together with the Ministers, the local authority, relevant NGOs and other interested parties to ensure the ongoing best interests of the World Heritage site, its OUV and setting.”* The stopping of the Hyndford Quarry development in the buffer zone and the unequivocal above-mentioned new commitment given by the developer are to be welcomed.

Regarding the Pleasance Housing development, the State Party responded that approval in principle was given for this development in 2012. Although the local council has stipulated that detailed plans will be scrutinized by Historic Environment Scotland, these may not come forward as formal planning applications. If they do, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be carried out before final approval is given, in which event the State Party will submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party further noted that funding recently awarded to New Lanark Trust will go towards restoration works within the property that address key conservation issues identified in the management plan.

The setting of the property is however still vulnerable as the Pleasance Housing development has been given approval in principle on a landscape site visible from the property without a detailed HIA being undertaken. It is noted that HIAs will not necessarily be required for the detailed plans for this development, unless they are submitted for full planning.

The outcome of these two developments suggests that the setting of the property needs to be more adequately defined, particularly in relation to how it supports the OUV of the property, so that HIAs are undertaken well in advance of development projects in the setting being considered for approval.

Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point (United States of America) (C 1435)

On 24 November 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1435/documents/> and addresses the progress made in the implementation of World Heritage Committee Decision **38 COM 8B.39**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), when Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (iii). The Committee recommended the State Party to pay attention to the following matters:

- Continuing its policy of land acquisition in parallel with scientific investigations with a view to establishing favorable conditions to enlarge the limits of the property in case research results would suggest doing so;
- Continuing to implement and assess best management practices that have been successful in minimizing the impact of Highway 577 on the visitor experience at the site;
- Continuing to build capacity and expertise within the management system to profit from the existing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) approach.

The State Party reported on all three items. Following initial research covering about 12% of the Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone (PPCUZ) which was established in 2014 in a 5km radius around the property, acquisition of the privately owned land is not envisaged as research has not identified any significant attributes that enhance the Outstanding Universal Value. Some research is ongoing and some land acquisitions are envisaged for future visitor facilities. Furthermore, measures have been taken in terms of road signage, speed limits and traffic monitoring to minimize the impacts of the Highway 577 on the site visitors' overall experience. Finally, the State Party expanded the use of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) as a tool for site management.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the Committee's recommendations are being addressed continuously by the State Party and no further reporting is required in the short term. The State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of the measures requested by the Committee, in order to ensure an appropriate state of conservation and to prevent threats from affecting its Outstanding Universal Value, in particular from activities outside the boundaries of the World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.105

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,*
2. *Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties:*
 - ***Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan),***
 - ***Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex (Russian Federation),***
 - ***New Lanark (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland),***
 - ***Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point (United States of America);***
3. *Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;*
4. *Recalling the benefits to States Parties of systematically utilizing Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in the review of*

development projects, encourages States Parties to integrate the EIA/HIA processes into legislation, planning mechanisms and management plans, and reiterates its recommendation to States Parties to use these tools in assessing projects, including assessment of cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of properties, as early as possible and before any final decision is taken;

5. Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.