
Melaka and George Town (Malaysia)

No 1223

1. Basic data

State Party

Malaysia

Name of property

Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

Location

Melaka, State of Melaka
George Town, State of Penang

Inscription

2008

Brief description

The historic cities of Melaka and George Town have developed over 500 years of trading and cultural exchanges between East and West in the Straits of Malacca. The influences of Asia and Europe have endowed the towns with a specific multicultural heritage that is both tangible and intangible. With its government buildings, churches, squares and fortifications, Melaka demonstrates the early stages of this history, originating in the 15th-century Malay sultanate and the Portuguese and Dutch periods beginning in the early 16th century. Featuring residential and commercial buildings, George Town represents the British era from the end of the 18th century. The two towns constitute a unique architectural and cultural townscape without parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2011

2. Issues raised

Background

In the evaluation of 2008, when the property was inscribed, the ICOMOS report recommended a revision of the buffer zone boundaries at Melaka to include the Butik China cemetery zone.

The inscription decision 32 COM 8B.25 (Quebec City, 2008) asked the State Party to "submit a comprehensive conservation plan dealing with all the buildings and its schedule for implementation in both cities".

Decision 33 COM 7B.78 (Seville, 2009) requested that the State Party should submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1st February 2011, a report on the progress made in the

implementation of the recommendations and the drawing up of a conservation management plan.

Modification

In the general context of the measures taken by the State Party in order to meet the various recommendations concerning the management, protection and conservation of the property, a series of minor modifications are proposed for the urban property of the City of Melaka and its buffer zone. They form chapter 2 of the report on the state of conservation of the property and chapter 2 of the property conservation management plan submitted by the State Party at the end of January 2011.

With respect to the boundaries of the property, the proposal is that they should be brought into line with clearly identified cadastral boundaries in the case of six situations which up to now have been somewhat confused; in five cases, they correspond to an extension of the property, and in one case a reduction. The proposals are as follows:

- N° 8, Melaka Tengah Police Station district, western zone of Jalan Kota: until now, the property has consisted only of the main buildings; it is proposed that the property should be extended up to the district boundaries.
- N° 9, Melaka Tengah Police Station district, eastern zone of Jalan Banda Kaba: this zone, where the former Portuguese fort is located, was mapped very approximately; it is proposed that the property should be extended up to the district boundaries.
The whole of the Melaka Tengah Police Station district will be included in the property.
- N° 10, Kampung Ketek is a residential zone with homogeneous morphological characteristics, of which only one part was inside the property; it is proposed that the property should be extended to include the whole of this quarter, by following the main streets which mark its boundary, and to include a street of shops, Jalan Kampung Hulu.
- N° 11, Kubu Fire Station is adjacent to the previous quarter, on the west side; a simplification of the boundaries is proposed, consisting of extending them up to the main streets which mark the boundary of the quarter, in continuity with the previous quarter.
- N° 12, Dataran Pahlawan Mall; the property included part of the Mall, and cut through various plots; it is reduced to the cadastral boundaries to the north of the Mall, which is excluded from the property.
- N° 13, Jalan Laksamana 5; this is the south-west boundary of a traditional trading zone, Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock, in which attempts had been made to establish the boundaries of the plots of individual properties; this definition has turned out to be inoperative, as a result in changes in land ownership; it is proposed that the property should be extended up to the boundary of the street Jalan Laksamana 5.

For the boundaries of the buffer zone, the proposed modifications are of two types: substantial extensions for purposes of better protection (N° 1 and N° 2) and

rectifications to follow clearly identified cadastral lines, which means limited extensions of area in some cases (N° 3 and N° 4) and limited reductions in other cases (N° 5, N°6 and N°7).

- N° 1, Bukit China cemetery forms a large zone in the north-east of the property which is proposed as an extension, in accordance with the ICOMOS recommendation of 2008.
- N° 2, in front of the outlet of the Melaka river estuary into the straits, an extension is proposed; it forms an angle which extends the buffer zone in a seaward direction, over a distance of 1 km; the aim is to protect the vision cone of the entry of the estuary from the straits, and the view of the straits from the property, against any possible programmes to extend artificial land or construct new buildings.
- N° 3, the buffer zone is extended to include all the land of Malacca High School, following the detection of an error in the cadastral record.
- N° 4, the boundary in the Jalan Tangkera quarter is extended to the north-west so as to include the whole district.
- N° 5, the buffer zone boundary near Hang Tuah stadium and the University of Technology is moved to come into line with the cadastral boundaries, which means the exclusion of a strip of land.
- N° 6, following the cadastral boundaries in the Jalan Merdeka quarter results in the exclusion of a strip of land.
- N° 7, following the cadastral boundaries in the Jalan Munshi Abdullah quarter results in the exclusion of a strip of land.

As a result of these changes, the area of the property is increased from an initial 38.6 hectares to 45.3ha; the buffer zone area is increased from an initial 134.0ha to 242.8ha.

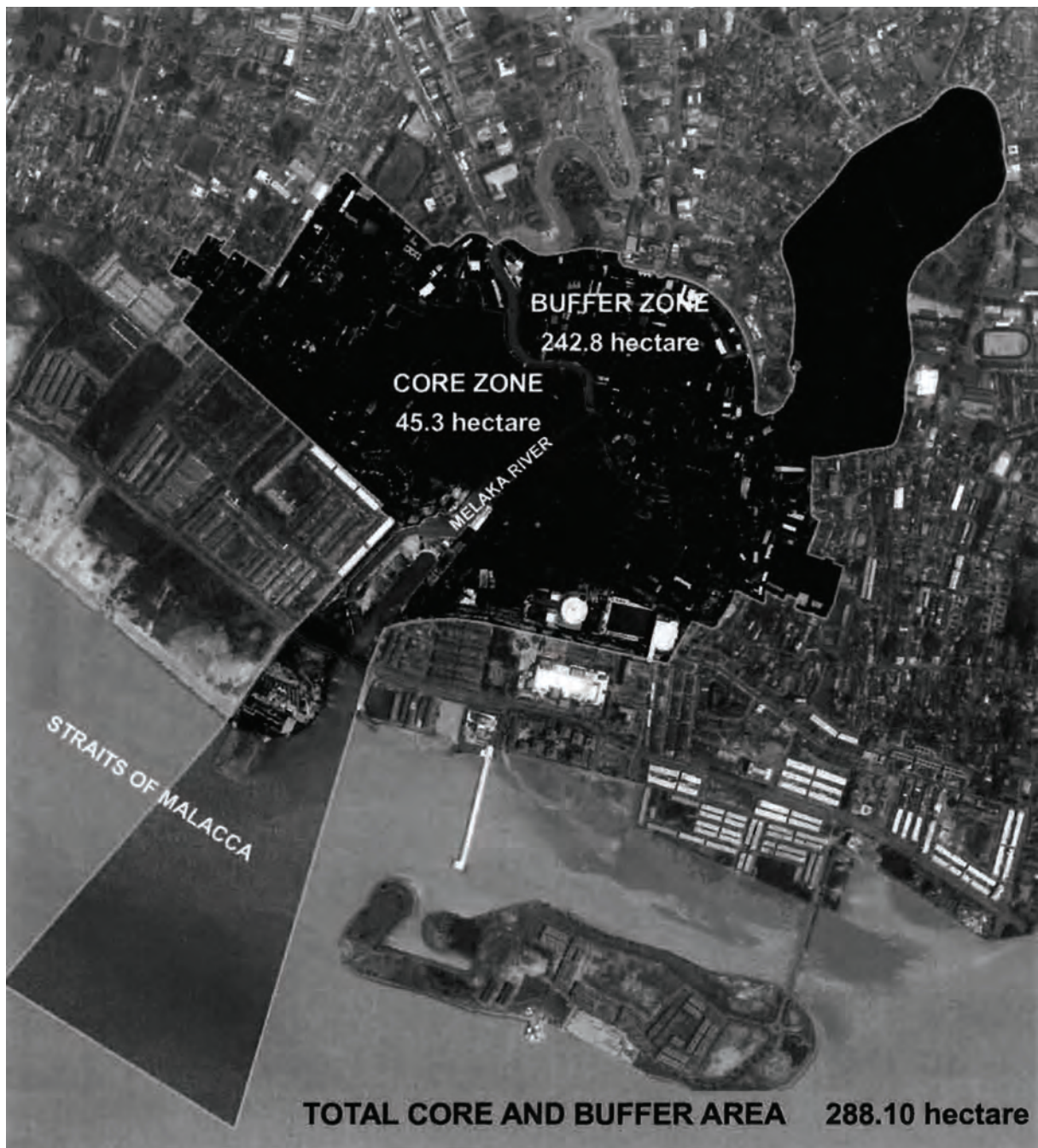
3. ICOMOS recommendations

ICOMOS considers that all the proposed modifications to the boundary of the property, and most of the proposed modifications to the boundary of the buffer zone, are adjustments of limited scope, intended to correct imprecise definitions of boundaries or small mapping errors, and make sure the cadastral boundaries are simple and suitably identified.

The substantial modifications (N° 1 and N° 2) of the buffer zone consist of two fully justified extension proposals: the first takes into account a space with significant cultural value, and the second ensures visual protection when viewed from the sea, at the entrance to the estuary.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia, be **approved**.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property