
Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica) No 1356 rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Blue and John Crow Mountains

Location

County of Surrey

Parishes of St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary

Jamaica

Brief description

The Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains encompasses a rugged and densely-wooded mountainous region in south-east Jamaica that offered refuge to Maroons (escaped slaves) and the tangible cultural heritage associated with the Maroon story. This includes settlements, trails, viewpoints, hiding places, etc. that form the Nanny Town Heritage Route. The forests and their rich natural resources provided everything that the Maroons needed to survive, to fight for their freedom and to nurture their culture. Maroon communities still hold strong spiritual associations with these mountains, expressed through exceptional intangible manifestations.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

[Note: The property is nominated as a mixed cultural and natural site. IUCN will assess the natural significance, while ICOMOS assesses the cultural significance.]

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

28 August 2006

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

25 February 2009

31 January 2014

Background

This is a deferred nomination (35 COM, Paris, France, 2011).

The World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision (35COM 8B.16):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B, WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Jamaica**, to the World Heritage List under criteria (ix) and (x), to allow the State Party, with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as requested, to consider options for a future revised nomination related to natural criteria in Jamaica;

3. Notes the national and regional biodiversity importance of the nominated property and encourages the State Party to strengthen the management of the site to address threats to its natural values, including agricultural encroachment both for subsistence and commercial purposes, alien invasive species, unregulated non-timber products harvesting, fires and poaching;

4. Encourages the State Party to consider experience elsewhere with environmentally friendly forms of coffee production, including certification schemes and compensation schemes for water provision for industry, drinking water and agriculture;

5. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Jamaica**, to the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria in order to allow the State Party to:

a) Deepen the comparative analysis in order to demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property by examining how, and to what extent, the nominated property bears witness to the associated values in respect to other properties related to other relevant Maroon groups,

b) Revise the nomination dossier so that the values of the property can better present the proposed Justification for inscription and the selected criterion,

c) Modify the boundaries of the nominated property or of the buffer zone to include the cultural resources documented in the additional information, received by ICOMOS on 8 November 2010, as well as those areas with the potential to yield additional information on Maroon culture in future archaeological campaigns,

d) Develop and enforce as soon as possible protective measures, both legal and planning-based, for the cultural heritage of the nominated property,

e) Develop and adequately fund a comprehensive strategy for cultural heritage within the 2011-2016 Management Plan under elaboration, including inventorying, documentation, conservation, maintenance, disaster management, promotion and tourism,

f) Finalize and implement the 2011-2016 Management Plan without delay;

6. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to criterion (iii) in a revised nomination;

7. Also recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

a) Involve representatives of the Maroon community in the management framework,

b) Develop training programmes in cultural heritage for the Park rangers, so that they can be involved in the daily protection of cultural resources;

8. Requests the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre to provide support, if required by the State Party, in order to assist it to identify and prioritise Jamaican sites which have the strongest potential for nomination to the World Heritage List,

including an assessment of the potential of the Cockpit Country Forest Reserve.

On 31 January 2014 the State Party submitted a revised nomination.

In response to the World Heritage recommendations, the State Party changed the name of the property, added criterion (iii), reduced the boundaries of the nominated property and slightly expanded those of the buffer zone (see relevant sections in the dossier).

Consultations

ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committees on Cultural Landscapes and on Intangible Cultural Heritage and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

A joint ICOMOS/IUCN technical evaluation mission visited the property from 27 October to 5 November 2014.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

On 10 October 2014 ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party requesting an expanded comparative analysis, additional information on the legal designation as Protected National Heritage of the nominated property, the integration of cultural heritage into the management system, the role of the Maroon Advisory Committee in relation to management and the state of implementation of the management system. A response was received on 11 November 2014, providing the requested information which has been incorporated into the relevant sections below.

On 23 December 2014, ICOMOS sent a second letter to the State Party, proposing a meeting to discuss aspects of protection and management in need of further clarification. On 16 January 2015, ICOMOS sent a third letter to the State Party proposing a set of activities to be carried out as a matter of urgency accompanied by an implementation calendar to be discussed with the State Party. The State Party responded on 5 January 2015 proposing a video conference with the participation of the professional team set up for the nomination.

On 21 January 2015 the State Party provided further comparative elements and provisional additional documentation on the management of the property as a basis for discussion. A Skype conference with representatives of the State Party and of ICOMOS took place on 22 January 2015, during which a number of points were discussed, and clarifications given and requested.

The State Party formally submitted additional documentation on 26 February 2015 and the information provided has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 The property

Description

The nominated property is located on the eastern side of Jamaica and comprises two different mountain ranges separated by valleys. The Blue Mountains range, or Central Ridge, runs from northwest to southeast and contains several peaks exceeding 2,000m, the average altitude of the ridge being more than 1,800m; and the John Crow, which is separated from the Blue Mountains by the Rio Grande Valley.

The precipitous morphology and lush vegetation of the mountains make the region almost impenetrable. Even today it is only accessible via a few roads and is crossed from north to south by a single route (Papine–Buff Bay via Hardwar Gap).

The remoteness of the region together with its rich natural resources offered ideal conditions for the Maroons to find refuge and develop their own culture.

Maroonage is a phenomenon closely linked to the European colonisation of the New World. It arose in Jamaica almost immediately after the Spanish took over the island. Initially, the word was used to indicate resistance to the enslavement of indigenous people in Nueva Sevilla, but it came to define, more generally, any effort made by groups of people to avoid colonial oppression by fleeing to either inaccessible locations or urban areas where they continued their lives in freedom.

Research has identified three types of Maroonage. Petit Maroonage had a temporary nature and was practised by people who had no intention of escaping slavery indefinitely, but fled temporarily or periodically for personal or family reasons. Grand Maroonage was the most extreme form of resistance and meant fleeing to wild areas to live in freedom, where independent communities eventually developed. Finally, Urban Maroonage implied fleeing to an urban environment where one could pass as a free person. The latter was the least practiced form of Maroonage, as the chance of being discovered was greater.

The first accounts of human occupation in the nominated property date back to around the 10th century AD, during the Taino colonisation of the island, long before the appearance of Maroons.

At the end of the 15th century, following the arrival of the Spaniards, the first Maroon nations were born out of the Taino population in the Nueva Sevilla region, as a reaction against enslavement by the Spanish colonial power.

From 1513 onwards, Jamaica witnessed the transportation of inhabitants of African origin. They resisted forced labour in the Spanish estates and succeeded partly thanks to alliances with Taino Maroons. This comradeship led to the integration of the two cultures into the Windward or Blue Mountains Maroons.

The nominated property also bears witness to the impact of three centuries of British colonisation, from 1655 to 1962, when Jamaica attained full independence.

However, it is the tangible and intangible legacy that the Maroons left in and around the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park which constitutes its defining component of cultural significance, in particular in the eastern part, where the Maroons found a favourable environment in which to settle.

The tangible Windward Maroon cultural heritage revolves around the routes and places associated with the fighting and the signing of the Nanny Town Treaty with the British in 1739, and forms the cultural core of the nominated property, in combination with the rich natural heritage, which provided refuge to the Maroons and made possible their fight against colonial oppression.

In response to the decision 35COM 8B.16, Item 5. b) and c) the nomination was revised to improve the coherence of the nominated area with the proposed justification for inscription and the selected criteria. In particular, the current proposal has excluded from the nominated property the Port Royal Range, which exhibits a lesser density of known cultural attributes, and so its size is reduced to 26,251.60ha while its buffer zone has been extended to 28,500ha, by covering areas that *"include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection"* (OG WHC 13/01 paragraph 104).

At the core of the Treaty, a tract of land in the Blue and John Crow Mountains was assigned to the Windward Maroons, and until today, they still are the stewards of parts of it and the network of known and secret routes, passes and sacred sites located in the mountains themselves.

This network of trails is collectively termed the Nanny Town Heritage Route and serves as the spiritual memorial and sovereign centre of the Windward Maroons. It includes the Cunha Cunha Pass Trail, which runs across the north-eastern Blue Mountains and was the spine of several other trails leading to settlements, hiding-places or important spots for the Maroons, as well as the Corn Puss Gap Trail, Morant Bay Trail, and Woman's Town Trail. Other trails connecting to sacred sites or used for hunting and gathering are said to exist but their location is not disclosed due to secrecy reasons. A number of other trails opened by Maroons were later used by the British to assault Maroon settlements. At least four have been identified through research: Stony River Trail, Two Clay Ridge Trail, Captain Stoddart's Trail and John's Hall and the Corn Husk River Trail.

These routes also include important nodes such as the settlement of Nanny Town (then called Stony River), Guy Town, Katta-a-Wood (Woman's Town), Pumpkin Hill, Brownsfield and Watch Hill.

Nanny Town was the main settlement connected to the fight for freedom of the Windward Maroons; it lies approximately 32km northeast of Kingston on the northern side of the Blue Mountain ridge at 600m a.s.l. The site was excavated in the 1970's and traces of three different levels of occupation were found: the first by the Taino, who probably used the area as a sacred site, then by the Maroons (from around 1655 to 1734) and finally by the British for less than one year (1734-1735).

Guy's Town was a sort of farming area for the Maroons to support their community: different crops were cultivated and small animals grazed. Katta-a-Wood is located at the foothills of John Crow Mountain Ridge: this was the settlement of the Maroons' ancestors, the Taino people, and it was also a hunting area; after the capture of Nanny Town by the British, the Maroons found refuge here. Brownfields sits on a hill overlooking the modern settlement. It was settled by Maroons after they obtained additional land. Pumpkin Hill is one of the sites where Maroons hid runaway slaves and it is associated with Maroon oral tradition about Queen Nanny and the Maroons.

Further settlements which were founded after the Maroons gained autonomy are Moore and Charles Towns, Scots Hall, and Hayfield.

Several sites within the nominated property and its buffer zone (often with special natural features such as waterfalls, valleys and viewpoints) had a particular importance to the Windward Maroons. These places were usually associated with specific events and oral history or remembered for their usefulness in the Maroons' everyday lives or for their role in Maroon resistance strategy. Look Out on the Cunha Cunha Pass Trail, Nanny Falls, Mammee Hills, Quao Falls, Three Finger Spring, and Pumpkin Hill are all central to Maroon stories about episodes of resistance.

Windward Maroon intangible heritage is deeply connected with the nominated property and exhibits cultural and social elements adapted and transplanted from African society. Among the components of the intangible Maroon legacy, literature identifies historical consciousness, oral traditions, religious rites, traditional medicine, language, music and dance, as well as legal and constitutional systems and food preparation. Some of the above are still practised today. For instance, tradition is embodied in the village government systems under the form of 'kamiti,' or local councils.

The mountains in themselves are held sacred by the Maroons, firstly because they are the burial ground of their ancestors and, according to West African belief, their spirits live close to these sites. Therefore, these places and, by extension the mountains, carry great spiritual importance for the Maroons.

The Windward Maroon religious rites and associated manifestations of culture are very rich. Music, in particular, is associated with important religious ceremonies and

especially with the Kromanti Play, which is a ritual meant to cure sick people. This rite is unique to Jamaican Maroons and is still practiced within the community. Two specific instruments are used during the ritual: the Abeng, a kind of horn made from a cow's horn, which was also used to send messages, and the Kromanti drum, which is made by hollowing a tree trunk and covering it in goatskin.

Language also represents one important element of the intangible heritage of Maroons. Two languages have been retained by Windward Maroons: one is a sort of Creole, which combines words and grammatical forms from different languages, with a structure similar to Jamaican Creole. The second, Kromanti, has been largely influenced by the Twi language from Ghana. The first is still practiced but only during certain community ceremonies. Likewise, Kromanti is only used as a liturgical language.

Cooking methods, hunting, making of implements, and crafts are other intangible components of the Maroons' cultural heritage that evolved under particular conditions and through the maximum exploitation of the rich natural resources offered by the forest environment of the Blue Mountains.

History and development

The first documented human group that occupied Jamaica were the Taino, who settled on the island in the first millennium AD.

The Spaniards arrived in Jamaica in 1494, when they founded Nueva Sevilla. The first surge of resistance to the Europeans started almost immediately after the Spanish occupation began, with Taino groups fleeing into the forests. From 1513, due to the growing need for labourers and the simultaneous decline in the local population, the Spaniards brought convict labourers to Jamaica to work on the plantations. Initially they were Moors that the Spaniards had deported to the West Indies after the Spanish Crown eradicated Islamic control over large parts of Spain, but soon people from African nations were forcibly transported to Jamaica.

According to Maroon oral tradition, transported Africans soon rebelled against the Spaniards and fled into the forest, joining the Taino. However, it was only afterwards, but apparently before the arrival of the British in 1655, that the Maroons moved away from the Nueva Sevilla area to the north-eastern region of the island, where the nominated property is located. Here the Maroons settled, founded villages and farms and developed their own particular culture. The Maroons lived on fishing, poultry-raising, hunting and fruit and vegetable growing. Despite their clandestine life, the Maroons did trade with the Spaniards and established a network of contacts with enslaved Africans in the plantations, from whom they obtained essential goods such as salt, tools, weapons and information.

Open and long-lasting conflicts exploded under British rule, particularly when white settlements started springing

up in the areas under Maroon control. The Maroons chose to fight the British through guerrilla activities rather than open attacks, and the tactics developed by the Maroons caused considerable difficulties for the British, who imported mercenaries to fight this war. Two Maroon communities developed in Jamaica: the Leeward Maroons, who found refuge in the Cockpit Country in the west of the island, and the Windward Maroons, associated with the nominated property. Due to the particular conditions in which these groups found themselves living, Maroons formed with enslaved workers an ambiguous relationship and, at the same time, developed a profound sense of exclusive identity.

The Maroon-English war came to an end in 1739, on the basis of two distinct treaties signed in that same year with the two Maroon communities, when the British authorities agreed to give land, civil autonomy, peaceful coexistence and the possibility for the Maroons to move freely in the forests. From that moment onwards, the Windward Maroons settled in their own villages, maintaining their autonomy and their spiritual linkage with the Blue Mountains.

The protection of the Blue Mountains is closely interwoven with the history of natural heritage protection in Jamaica: the first recommendations are contained in Hooper's report and date back to 1885; a few years later, in 1889, the Mountains and Rivers Reserve Act was passed. It was only in 1927, after a land acquisition campaign, that the Blue and John Crow Mountains were declared forest reserves and in 1993 they were established as a National Park.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

In response to the Decision 35COM 8B.16 Item 5. a), in the submitted revised nomination dossier, the State Party integrated the comparative analysis elaborated for the first nomination proposal by developing an internal comparison with the Leeward Maroon area and experience, by commenting upon the observations on the first comparative analysis contained in the 2010 ICOMOS evaluation, and by underlining that this type of cultural heritage remains underrepresented on the World Heritage List, in terms of density of cultural heritage, associated natural features, and protection status.

According to the State Party, the Windward Maroon experience and related property bears substantial differences to the Leeward Maroons, and Windward heritage has survived to a greater extent.

The nominated property is held to be distinct from the Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius, 2008 (iii) and (vi)) as this does not mention trails or routes. Additionally, the nomination dossier underlines that the values of Maroon communities associated with several properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List are not represented,

as they are not part of the justification for inscription. Additionally no property associated with the Maroon experience is currently on the Tentative Lists of the States Parties.

Finally the nomination dossier claims the Jamaican Treaties were the earliest to be signed, e.g., in respect to the United States or to Haiti.

In its letter of October 2014, ICOMOS requested the State Party to develop further the comparative analysis by considering the Leeward Maroons and other Maroon experiences associated with World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List for their natural values.

The State Party responded in two different stages (November 2014 and January 2015) providing: a) more elaborate arguments to compare the Windward and Leeward Maroons which highlighted the differences between the two groups, mainly related to their political organisation, and culinary and other practices as a response to different environments; b) a deepened comparative analysis with other properties related to Maroon experiences, including some World Heritage properties previously not considered.

ICOMOS recognises that differences do exist between the Leeward and Windward Maroons, but both communities contribute to illustrating the fight for freedom of enslaved people in Jamaica and their success in achieving early formal recognition and autonomy by the British authorities. ICOMOS also notes that the reasons for not considering the Cockpit Country and Leeward Maroonage as a possible component of the proposed mixed property relate mainly to integrity, protection and management issues that concern the natural heritage of the Cockpit Country and appear to be difficult to overcome in the short term.

Overall, ICOMOS considers that the augmented comparative analysis provided by the State Party through the additional information has strengthened the comparison elaborated in the first nomination and its integration presented in the revised dossier.

ICOMOS finally considers that it would be important that a thematic study could be developed for this type of property associated with the Maroon experience, so as to sustain the process of the Global Strategy to achieve a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List.

ICOMOS considers that the augmented comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The Blue and John Crow Mountains became the place of resistance of Maroons, firstly indigenous Tainos and then enslaved Africans who resisted the European colonial system, by establishing a network of trails, hiding places and settlements, by making use of the natural resources to sustain themselves and thus developing a strong link with the mountains and a deep knowledge of it;
- Nanny Town represents the spiritual, political and symbolic centre of the Windward Maroons, as well as their headquarters for the guerrilla actions that forced the British authorities to sign a peace treaty which eventually led to the formation of a Maroon autonomous entity within the British dominion;
- The Maroon war inspired other liberation movements of enslaved people and the Jamaican Maroon experience was influential, serving as an earlier example of the success against slavery exploitation.

ICOMOS considers that the cultural justifications for inscription of the nominated property are based on its association with Jamaica's Windward Maroons, both historically and to the present day.

The tangible cultural heritage represented collectively by the Nanny Town Heritage Route serves as the spiritual, memorial and sovereign centre of the Windward Maroons. The significance of the Nanny Town Heritage Route is reinforced by the associative values of the tangible heritage and by the living traditions of the Windward Maroons. The cultural significance of the natural environment resides in the fact that the Maroons utilised the unique vegetation and animal life borne out of the unique geological and geographic conditions to develop defence and combat strategies to defeat the British. The guerrilla warfare was based on an intimate knowledge of the natural environment, and the landforms and dense forest also served to protect the Maroons from easy detection.

As a result of the 1739 Treaty, a tract of land in the Blue and John Crow Mountains came under the stewardship of the Windward Maroons, and up until today, they still have collective ownership rights over parts of it.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

According to the State Party, the nominated property contains all the tangible elements that are necessary to convey its significance: archaeological deposits remain in-situ and the sacred sites are mostly inaccessible due to the difficult terrain, which also contributes to preserving it from adverse impacts of human activities. The commitment of the State Party to ensuring that the integrity of the nominated property be sustained has led to the formal designation of the nominated property and its buffer zone as Protected National Heritage.

ICOMOS notes that, in terms of physical integrity, the nominated property is relatively intact. There have been

very few adverse effects of human developments such as coffee plantations or other farming or settlement activities and the culturally significant sites related to the Nanny Town Heritage Route have been preserved within the nominated property and in the buffer zone and some, e.g., Charles Town, even outside it. However, the most important among these places, namely Charles Town, Scots Hall, and Bayfield, have all been declared protected national heritage and will be treated as 'satellite sites' related to the nominated property.

In terms of functional integrity of the property in relation to the wider context of Jamaican Maroonage, ICOMOS notes that both the Windward and Leeward Maroons have successfully pursued freedom through flight into remote forests, active resistance, and guerrilla tactics, despite differences between the two groups.

The nomination, however, focuses on the Windward Maroons' tangible and intangible heritage, and particularly the Nanny Town Heritage Route, as the Leeward Maroon base is located in the Cockpit Country – a hilly area in western Jamaica separated from the Blue and John Crow Mountains.

Therefore, ICOMOS considers that the majority of elements necessary to express the values of the property as presented in the dossier are included within the boundaries of the nominated property. Additionally, the sites lying outside the nominated property have been protected as national heritage and will be associated with the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that the property is of adequate size to ensure the representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance. A significant proportion of the elements necessary to read and understand the values conveyed by the property survives and is included in the nominated property. The physical fabric of the property and of its significant features is in a fair condition; however maintenance needs to be carried out.

On the other hand, the buffer zone suffers from adverse effects of development and neglect and the impact of deterioration in the buffer zone currently lacks control. The relationships and dynamic functions present in the cultural landscape and the living properties essential to its distinctive character are maintained but require substantial improvements. In summary, the property still satisfies the condition of integrity but requires correct conservation and management measures, and direct mitigation measures are necessary to protect future loss of integrity.

Authenticity

According to the State Party, several tangible and intangible attributes may be considered when assessing the conditions of authenticity. In relation to tangible heritage, permanence of location, continuity of use and function, archaeological evidence and documentary and oral toponymy have been used as the main references to

assess the authenticity of the trails, towns and important places. The surviving practice of religious rites and ceremonies, accompanied by traditional music, songs and dances, attests to the continuity and liveliness of Maroon culture. The wealth of documentary and archaeological evidence as well as oral history confirms the authenticity of the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that the Nanny Town Heritage Route comprises a number of routes and sites which have no physical, tangible manifestation other than the intimate intangible knowledge of the Windward Maroons. This knowledge of the location and spiritual or traditional significance of the sites is passed down from generation to generation. Only a few sites have been mapped and partially documented also due to secrecy requirements. The association of Maroons with their heritage places reveals the sense of place at the most significant sites such as Nanny Town, Quao Pools and Quao Settlement. Traditions, techniques, language and management systems, as part of the Windward Maroon culture, altogether truthfully express the significance of these sites in a variety of forms.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met. However, the property requires conservation, management and direct mitigation measures to protect it from future loss of integrity. Additionally, ICOMOS recommends that 'satellite sites' located outside the nominated property and the buffer zone be included in the narrative to present the values of the nominated property. ICOMOS also considers it desirable that the Leeward Maroon experience is also reflected in the overall presentation/interpretation strategy for the nominated property and for Jamaican Maroonage.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (vi) and natural criteria (ix) and (x).

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Blue and John Crow Mountains bear witness, in an exceptional manner, through the excavated archaeological sites and buried deposits associated with the Nanny Town Cultural Heritage Route, to the efforts made to resist enslavement and to the resilience of the movements for freedom. In these mountain ranges secret trails, settlements and natural resources were intelligently used in the war for liberation against British oppression during the first quarter of the 18th century.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated mountainous region served as a haven for Maroons, escaped enslaved Africans and native people, for hundreds of years. From these mountain strongholds, they developed a self-reliant, free community and waged a successful war of liberation against the European colonizers. These conflicts culminated in the Treaties of 1739 between the Maroons

and the island's English Governor, which granted certain sovereign rights to the Maroon people.

ICOMOS notes that Maroonage is not unique to Jamaica; Maroon communities formed throughout the Western Hemisphere and across the globe in response to enslavement of indigenous people and forced migration of enslaved people, primarily from Africa. However, the Treaties signed in Jamaica in 1739 were among the first formal recognitions of a Maroon autonomous political and territorial entity in the New World. It is of exceptional importance as an early example of a colonial power recognizing the sovereignty of a Maroon community, the autonomy and rights of which have lasted until today.

Archaeological investigations have identified Nanny Town, once the centre of Maroon resistance in the early 18th century. The remains of the site have yielded evidence of multiple levels of Taino, Maroon and British occupation. Different sources of evidence and oral traditions demonstrate that the region's mountains were linked by a defensive network of trails and secret settlements. Today these trails are recognized as the Nanny Town Cultural Heritage Route and are important as a pilgrimage route and a way to experience this cultural tradition.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (vi): *be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Blue and John Crow Mountains are directly and tangibly associated with historical events and the living tradition of Queen Nanny, who was the commander in chief and spiritual icon of Jamaican Maroons who led the community to gain liberation and self-determination rights through the 1739 Treaty. The Jamaican government has designated Nanny of the Maroons as a National Hero.

ICOMOS considers that the World Heritage Convention is a site-based convention, therefore it is sites that are inscribed on the World Heritage List and not ideas or persons.

However, ICOMOS considers that the nominated property is indeed associated with and bears outstanding witness to important historical events and living traditions developed by the Maroon community in their secluded life in an exceptionally rich natural environment.

This is evident in the special status achieved by the Maroons which is still present in the group's semi-autonomous governance structure and the maintenance of traditional common landownership. Also well documented is the merging of the cultural practices of the New World with those of the African Diaspora. This is supported by the language, which includes words from West African languages and religious practices with distinct African roots.

Intangible cultural traditions include outstanding expressions such as the Kromanti Play or "The Maroon Heritage of Moore Town", which was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (iii) and (vi) and conditions of authenticity and integrity. ICOMOS however recommends that the 'satellite sites' be included in the interpretation/communication strategies that will be elaborated to present the values of the nominated property. This also applies to the Leeward Maroon story which represents an integral aspect of Jamaican Maroonage.

Description of the attributes

The precipitous geography, the dense forests and the rich and diverse resources of the natural environment of the Blue and John Crow Mountains bear evident and exceptional witness to the fundamental role played by the natural heritage in providing the ideal conditions for Maroons to survive and to develop their guerrilla strategy which ultimately forced the British rulers to sign a peace treaty that granted Maroons rights over a tract of land, self-determination and autonomy.

The peculiar culture that Maroons developed in isolation and rooted in their search for freedom is embodied both in tangible and intangible heritage. The first is represented by the sites, trails and sacred places that collectively form the Nanny Town Heritage Route, whilst the intangible expressions of Maroon heritage encompass religious rites, music and performing expressions such as the Kromanti Play, traditional languages, cooking methods, and a deep connection with the mountains. The Maroon Heritage of Moore Town was listed in 2003 as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and then relisted in 2008 on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

4 Factors affecting the property

The State Party holds that the nominated property is not under risk from any serious development threats, due to its geomorphological conditions, and the poorness of the soil, to be threatened by agriculture. Additionally, nobody is allowed to inhabit the nominated property and the population of the buffer zone amounts to approximately 30,000 people. All activities are regulated under the Jamaican National Heritage Act (JNHT 1985) through its preservation scheme.

ICOMOS notes that, while not mentioned in the nomination dossier but reported in the management plan, the nominated property is threatened by deforestation

practices due to enlargement of coffee farms on the periphery of the boundaries of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (BJCMNP), thus infringing on the buffer zone and posing a threat to the natural heritage associated with the cultural significance of the property. One further threat is the continued use of chemical pesticides on coffee farms, that may threaten the flora and fauna associated with Maroon cultural values.

Further threats come from overfishing and over-harvesting of shrimp and freshwater snails that will deplete food resources in the BJCMNP. Illegal fishing methods (such as poisoning) are also practiced. Despite the efforts being made, littering still represents a problem along the trails, especially those most used.

Climate change is likely to increase the occurrence and ferocity of hurricanes and tropical storms on the island. They are currently already severely destructive and may result in significant loss of vegetation, landslides and also impact on the lives of the Maroon communities.

ICOMOS considers that there are signs of an increasing pace of change in the nominated property as the population is more and more attracted by modern life. This means that the traditional management system needs to be proactive in understanding change and to provide the most effective form of protection over time.

Tourism is currently limited in the BJCMNP, however in case of a World Heritage listing it is likely to increase with more facilities needed to accommodate larger numbers of visitors. Additionally, there is some interest in opening new trails to currently inaccessible peaks and ridges for tourism purposes, which may threaten the property's heritage.

In this regard, the State Party has clarified that all parties concerned agree that no additional trails will be opened within the nominated property.

ICOMOS notes that the region has mining potential and therefore in its letter of 16 January 2015 requested the State Party to provide a statement on the existence of mining permits which concern the nominated property.

The State Party responded that 5 mining prospection licences have been issued and concern areas outside the nominated property but contiguous with its buffer zone. The State Party also clarified that Jamaican legislation does not allow for mining activities within protected areas (category I and II) nor in national parks, unless mandated by the Cabinet. Environmental Impact Assessments are envisaged for mining activities that are likely to have a negative impact on the environment and that they should fully reflect the economic cost of natural resources and eco-systems of protected areas that may be affected.

ICOMOS considers that the State Party should provide a map of the areas where locations of authorised prospections and identified mining potential are clearly

identified, along with information on the types of ore found and the possible size of mining areas, extraction and duration of possible concessions.

ICOMOS considers that updated information on the results of the licensed prospections should be provided and a Heritage Impact Assessment on the possible mining scenario be carried out and its results submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2015.

ICOMOS considers that the main current threats to the property are encroachment from coffee farming and other agricultural practices, overfishing and over-harvesting of freshwater resources, hurricanes and storms. If not addressed at an early stage, tourism may also become a threat. ICOMOS considers that potentially imminent threats may derive from the decisions concerning mining activity, for which prospection licences have been issued in areas contiguous with the buffer zone. ICOMOS in this regard recommends that a map with details of prospection licenses, types of ore and size of possible mining areas be submitted along with updated information and a Heritage Impact Assessment on the mining scenario by 1 December 2015.

Finally, plans to open new trails to make accessible more areas within the nominated property or its buffer zone should be discouraged; not only will this impact on the integrity of the cultural heritage, but also pose a risk to the natural heritage.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries of the nominated property were reduced in response to the decision 35COM 8B.16. Item 5.c). Originally, the boundaries followed that of the National Park and included a 1 kilometre buffer zone around it, which did not take into account the cultural dimension of the nominated property. At present, the boundary of the nominated property falls within the National Park but does not coincide with it. The outer boundary of the buffer zone now roughly follows that of the National Park, but also includes the Rio Grande Valley. The Port Royal Mountains have been excluded from the nominated property and now fall within the buffer zone. Adequate legal protection based on a cultural perspective has been given to both the nominated property and the buffer zone.

The higher elevations of the Blue and John Crow Mountains, together with a network of trails and a few sacred sites associated with the Windward Maroons, encompasses the nominated property. This area could be seen as the core of the present National Park and has been reduced to cover ~26,250ha (as opposed to ~48,650ha in 2010), with a buffer zone now covering almost 28,500ha. The Management Plan 2011–2016 includes a zoning scheme, although this follows the previous boundaries.

While the maps show clearly and unambiguously the boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone, these are clearly marked only along hiking trails, but they are not clearly recognisable on the ground, especially with regards to the Rio Grande Valley and should be made evident through physical markers.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries have been conceived to include within the key cultural and natural heritage areas of significance, as part of the Nanny Town Heritage Route.

ICOMOS further considers that there is a need for clarification with regard to the extent and number of 'satellite sites' mentioned in the nomination dossier, taking into account that Charles Town, Bayfield and Scots Hall have been considered as such.

In the additional information provided on 26 February 2015, the State Party has clarified the number of satellite sites through cartographic documentation: 14 sites are indicated, 6 are outside both the nominated property and the buffer zone, whilst 8 are encompassed within the buffer zone.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone may be considered adequate for the purpose of the representation of the cultural processes associated with the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Ownership

The land of the nominated property is owned by the Commissioner of Lands (Government of Jamaica). Most of the buffer zone is stated to be publicly-owned, with some privately-owned land. The Rio Grande Valley, part of the buffer zone, but mostly outside of the national park, is an exception, as most of the land here is privately owned, including by members of the local Maroon community. Some conflicts are reported as a result of competing formal and customary land ownership. A particularity of the BJCMNP is leases granted to war veterans by the Forestry Department, some of which remain active.

Protection

The nominated property is at the core of the BJCMNP, an area which the nomination dossier has informed is protected at the national level also for its natural and cultural heritage.

Additional information was requested from the State Party with regard to the updated protection status of the nominated property.

The State Party responded that, in response to the decision 35COM 8B.16 item 5.d), the nominated property and its buffer zone in their entirety have been designated as "Protected National Heritage" under the Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act (1985), along with Satellite Areas, since January 2014. A draft Preservation Scheme

has been elaborated for the property to provide protective measures under this designation.

Most of this area is a National Park, designated under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act (1991) since 1993. In addition, the National Park and some areas around it are designated as Forest Reserve under the Forest Act (1996) and since 1950 under the earlier Forest Act (1937) and its 2001 regulation.

Traditional protection is also provided for the nominated property by the Windward Maroon Community.

While the overlap of designations illustrates the importance granted to the area it also raises questions of legal clarity and harmonization among and between institutions and the Maroon community.

ICOMOS notes that traditional protection by the Maroon Community cannot be really operational within the nominated property, as this area is under the jurisdiction of the BJCMNP management authority.

ICOMOS requested additional information from the State Party, who clarified the whole institutional framework for the protection and conservation of protected cultural heritage and detailed the aims and content of the Preservation Scheme.

The State Party provided the text of the Preservation Scheme and the other official texts concerning legal protection, as well as the cooperative Memorandum of Understanding between the Windward Maroon Community and the JNHT that was signed on 10 November 2014.

ICOMOS considers that the preservation Scheme is crucial to ensure effective protection and conservation of the nominated property from a cultural perspective and therefore it is necessary that it is finalised as soon as possible.

This point was discussed during the Skype conference on 22 January 2015 between ICOMOS and the State Party's representatives. In February 2015, the State Party submitted additional information on the finalisation timeframe of the Scheme, which is expected to be completed and enforced within 12 months.

ICOMOS confirms that its approval is very important for the overall effective protection of the nominated property.

ICOMOS also notes that the National Park Rangers are understaffed and under-equipped to monitor and enforce even the core of the nominated property. They are not trained as cultural officers, not being in association with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT), which does not have any active plan or the means to monitor the integrity of the cultural heritage sites within the nominated property and its buffer zone. At present, they rely on the Maroons to notify them of any misdemeanour related to archaeological or sacred sites.

The Maroon Councils have undertaken active measures to educate the youth on Maroon cultural traditions so as to address the need to strengthen the appropriation of Maroon values by younger generations and the traditional protection and management vis-a-vis the increasing attraction of modern economic systems for the populace. Currently these measures seem effective to conserve the intangible values associated with the nominated property.

ICOMOS therefore considers that to address the urgent issues concerning patrolling it would be useful if training of members of the Maroon community as park rangers be stabilised so that they take an active part in the conservation of the Park and its natural heritage in conjunction with its cultural heritage.

This point was included in the letter sent to the State Party on 16 January 2015 and it has been addressed by the State Party in their 3-year Joint Work-Plan submitted along with the requested additional information in February 2015.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place will be fully adequate when the Draft Preservation Scheme is approved and enforced.

Conservation

The Management Plan 2011–2016 for the nominated property deals with conservation in detail, providing a Conservation Programme for both the natural and cultural aspects of the property. This envisages the conservation and preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Maroons, the promotion of research on and awareness of this heritage, and to establish intellectual property rights for the Maroon heritage.

Human and financial resources are limited, therefore in addition to working with the Maroon communities, the National Park management work with relevant organizations such as the JNHT, the African-Caribbean Institute of Jamaica and the University of the West Indies Archaeological Department. ICOMOS considers that most of the objectives can be met through the relevant education, enforcement and recreation and tourism programmes if the proposed budgets are approved.

Inventory of cultural heritage is centred on the Creative Heritage Project, funded by the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Its goal is to build community capacity to document their own traditions: the project has indeed managed to capture valuable information in the form of audio interviews and video on a variety of Maroon traditions. The information is however not organised spatially and is very general. There is still very little information on the elements of the Nanny Town Heritage Route.

ICOMOS considers it necessary that a proper GIS-based cultural landscape map and inventory be developed as a basis for conservation of the nominated property. This

map should be based on a Geographic Information System, where existing and new data on cultural heritage sites and their associated oral traditions are combined.

Following the January 2015 letter from ICOMOS and the Skype conference, the State Party submitted additional information accompanied by a 3-year Joint Work-Plan which also addresses the aspects concerning the inventory and landscape mapping. Whilst the former is already being carried out and a multi-disciplinary team is already set up, the landscape mapping is planned to be elaborated within 24 months. GIS technologies are already in use and this will facilitate the implementation of the above.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers the conservation programme is realistic but requires strong coordination between all actors, the integration of the Maroon community in pursuing conservation objectives, and the allocation of the necessary budgets.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The nominated property is managed by a pool of bodies: the Jamaican Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT), the Forest Department, and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). The respective tasks and responsibilities are laid out in an agreement and the coordination of management activities is ensured through meetings held at least every three months. This agreement is currently under review. The draft of the 2011-2016 Management Plan envisages the establishment of a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee that will provide guidance for the management of the BJCMNP and promote research and monitoring.

A co-management agreement was signed by NEPA, the Forestry Department and the JCDDT in 2000 to ensure coordination and collaboration with the other agencies responsible for the site. This agreement is currently being updated following the revision of the National Protected Area System Master Plan completed in 2013.

ICOMOS requested additional information from the State Party on the role of the Maroon community within the management system and of the state of implementation of the management system.

The State Party responded in November 2014 clarifying that the Windward Maroon communities of Moore Town, Charles Town and the Rio Grande Valley have traditional roles with respect to managing their sovereign lands and are also involved in the Advisory, Co-management and Maroon Heritage Committees of the National Park.

The lead agency for management of the nominated property is the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT). The JCDDT is a non-government organisation and has had a delegation agreement with the

Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) through NEPA for Park management since 1996.

ICOMOS observes that the protection of the cultural heritage is very recent, therefore joint management is in its initial stages. To ensure the long-term effectiveness of management, this process of integration needs to be sustained by revising the management structure for the property to include a technical unit for the nominated property, within which technically suitable, adequately trained and experienced representatives from the JCDT, JNHT and IOJ (Institute of Jamaica), can jointly plan the management of the property, and ensure proper integration of traditional management and of any state initiatives and processes for natural and cultural heritage.

This point was addressed in the January 2015 ICOMOS letter, and in the additional information provided, the State Party presented a comprehensive and updated management structure that clarifies the roles of the JNHT, which will be part of the Cultural Heritage Office and of the Education and Community Outreach, and of the Maroon community, which is involved in the Advisory and Co-management Committees.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The nominated property was initially protected under its National Park status, and the main institutions involved in planning and management under this are: Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) through its agent, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT), Forestry Department (FD), and Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT).

Since 2011, cultural heritage preservation has become a formal component of the management of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and as such the JNHT became the newest member of the agreement. In line with the mixed nomination approach, the current Management Plan 2011–2016 establishes the conservation of both cultural and natural heritage as the overarching goal with a mission statement calling for a *“balance between biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development”*.

Tourism is managed by the JCDT at the ecotourism initiatives Holywell and Portland Gap/Peak Trail. The Cunha Cunha Pass and Corn Puss Gap Trails with the associated Ambassabeth Eco-Tourism accommodation and interpretation centre are managed by the Bowden Pen Farmers Association.

ICOMOS notes that the Management Plan is not sufficiently developed to identify possible threats and resultant mitigation measures for increased tourism in the area, and needs to be substantially reinforced.

The funding for the management of the nominated property comes from several sources but mainly derives from grants and fundraising activities by the JCDT.

ICOMOS notes that financial resources allocated to conservation and management of the area are very limited and need to be increased: a clear funding commitment is necessary if the objectives included in the management plan are to be achieved.

Additional support in terms of resources should also be allocated to Maroon Councils to sustain the already activated measures to educate youngsters on Maroon cultural traditions.

ICOMOS notes that a robust and multifaceted expertise is needed to manage the property: a capacity-building strategy and a training programme should be formulated and included in the management plan and its operational action plans. Relevant training areas concern World Heritage management, recording, analysis, conservation practice, monitoring and reporting, fund-raising, as well as theoretical and practical knowledge of integrated Cultural Landscape management.

Finally, ICOMOS notes that the Management Plan does not explain how tradition is maintained or change is to be managed, how the relationship between local communities and the property management system will be sustained, and how local communities will direct the future of the property through various participatory decision-making processes and a participatory forum.

In particular, the current Management Plan should include a detailed definition of the traditional management system, and how it will relate to the property and protection of its proposed Outstanding Universal Value; what the desired state of conservation should be; and what the critical objectives are to achieve that. These elements should be integrated into the management plan and its action plan.

These issues were mentioned in the January 2015 ICOMOS letter to the State Party, in which ICOMOS also proposed a number of actions with different levels of urgency. This was also discussed during the Skype conference and finally the State Party submitted on 26 February 2015 additional information and a 3-year Joint Work-Plan covering the activities necessary to address the identified issues.

ICOMOS considers that the concerned authorities show a substantial commitment to building an effective management system to ensure that the nominated property be preserved, protected and managed according to adequate principles.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that important steps have been undertaken to ensure management of both natural and cultural heritage and these need to be continued. In particular, it is important that the 3-year

Joint Work-Plan be progressively implemented according to the envisaged timeframe.

6 Monitoring

ICOMOS considers that monitoring focuses on natural resources and does not consider cultural heritage.

ICOMOS observes that building a sensible monitoring system for the tangible cultural heritage of the nominated property requires baseline data, which does not seem to be currently available. As for intangible heritage, ICOMOS considers that any monitoring and monitoring indicators should be set up in conjunction with the Maroon communities that hold the necessary knowledge of its manifestations.

ICOMOS recommends that monitoring be applied also to the 3-year Joint Work-Plan, for which indicators have already been identified within the Plan itself. Indicators related to intangible heritage may need to be developed in conjunction with the Maroon Community.

7 Conclusions

The revised nomination dossier and the work done by the State Party to fulfil the recommendations of the 2010 World Heritage Committee bear witness to the commitment of the State Party in improving the understanding, protection and management of the nominated property.

The cultural heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains, specifically residing in the Nanny Town Heritage Route and its associated satellite sites and living traditions, bears witness to the distinct Windward Maroon culture that was able to develop thanks to the rich natural environment and the difficult morphology of the area.

The cultural heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains is now entirely protected as National Heritage since January 2014 and this represents a crucial step in ensuring the protection of the cultural heritage encompassed within the nominated property, the effectiveness of which requires that the Preservation Scheme be finalised and implemented.

Other sites related to the values of the nominated property but not encompassed within it have been equally protected and are associated with it as satellite sites. In this regard, it is important that they be integrated into the presentation and communication strategy, as well as a complete depiction of the overall Maroon story in Jamaica.

The tangible and intangible cultural heritage and related archaeological and anthropological evidence exhibit sufficient integrity and authenticity; however changes have been occurring both to the physical attributes and

to the social dimensions of Maroon communities: they should be carefully monitored and controlled.

The management and conservation of the nominated property, however, needs to be substantially improved, refined and resourced to ensure that the current level of integrity and authenticity is not lost and will be sustained into the future.

To assist the State Party in strengthening the management system for the nominated property from a cultural heritage perspective, ICOMOS entered into close dialogue with the State Party and proposed two sets of actions to be implemented according to a calendar with two separate timelines (a six–twelve months horizon for urgent issues and an 18–24 months horizon for other, important, but less urgent issues).

The State Party elaborated a first draft that has been discussed with ICOMOS during a Skype conference.

The definitive roadmap with the associated implementation calendar was submitted by the State Party on 26 February 2015.

ICOMOS considers that the State Party has elaborated a coherent and comprehensive roadmap that covers objectives and related activities relevant to addressing the identified needs and to achieve the overall goal of the equitable, participated conservation and promotion of the nominated property, at least from a cultural perspective. The plan of actions appears realistic, and the identification of responsible and funding agencies reassures also in its operational nature.

ICOMOS finally considers that the revision of the Management Plan for the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, the validity of which will expire in 2016, is a unique opportunity to integrate within the new version of the BJCMNP management plan and related action plans the scope and objectives of the protection, sustenance and promotion of the cultural values of the nominated property. The 3-year Joint Work-Plan will assist the State Party and all entities concerned in this task.

However, it remains a matter of profound concern that mining prospection licenses have been issued in areas contiguous with the buffer zone and, therefore, the possibility of future mining close to the nominated property remains open, with adverse impacts unknown at this stage.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Blue and John Crow Mountains, Jamaica, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **cultural criteria (iii) and (vi)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains encompasses a rugged and densely-wooded mountainous region in south-east Jamaica that offered refuge to Maroons (escaped indigenous slaves) and the tangible cultural heritage associated with the Maroon story. This includes settlements, trails, viewpoints, hiding places, etc. that form the Nanny Town Heritage Route. The forests and their rich natural resources provided everything the Maroons needed to survive, to fight for their freedom, and to nurture their culture. Maroon communities still hold strong spiritual associations with these mountains, expressed through exceptional intangible manifestations.

Criterion (iii): The Blue and John Crow Mountains in combination with its cultural heritage, materialised by the Nanny Town Heritage Route and associated remains, i.e. secret trails, settlements, archaeological remains, look-outs, hiding places etc., bear exceptional witness to Windward Maroon culture which, in the search for freedom from colonial enslavement, developed a profound knowledge of, and attachment to, their environment, that sustained and helped them to achieve autonomy and recognition.

Criterion (vi): Blue and John Crow Mountains is directly associated with events that led to the liberation, and continuing freedom and survival, of groups of fugitive enslaved Africans that found their refuge in the Blue and John Crow Mountains. The property conveys outstandingly its association with living traditions, ideas and beliefs that have ensured that survival, and the specificity and uniqueness of which was recognised by UNESCO in 2008 through its inscription in the Representative List of Intangible Heritage.

Integrity

The Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains encompasses the core cultural properties, sites and vestiges that support its significance as the refuge of the Windward Maroons. Its physical fabric is in a fair condition. The relationships and dynamic functions present in the landscape and the living properties essential to its distinctive character are maintained but require strengthening. The effective protection of the buffer zone is essential in order to sustain the integrity of the property.

Authenticity

The cultural heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains related to the story of the Windward Maroons exhibits a high degree of authenticity in terms of location and setting. The rugged topography and the impenetrable vegetation convey the function as refuge played by the area. Continuity of names of specific places and stories associated with them contribute to sustaining their authenticity. However, the most important aspect of authenticity for this cultural heritage is the meaning and significance attributed by Maroons to their heritage, and the strength and depth of linkages established by them to it. The mountains are also home to Maroon ancestors' spirits and therefore provide a link for Maroons to their past and preceding generations.

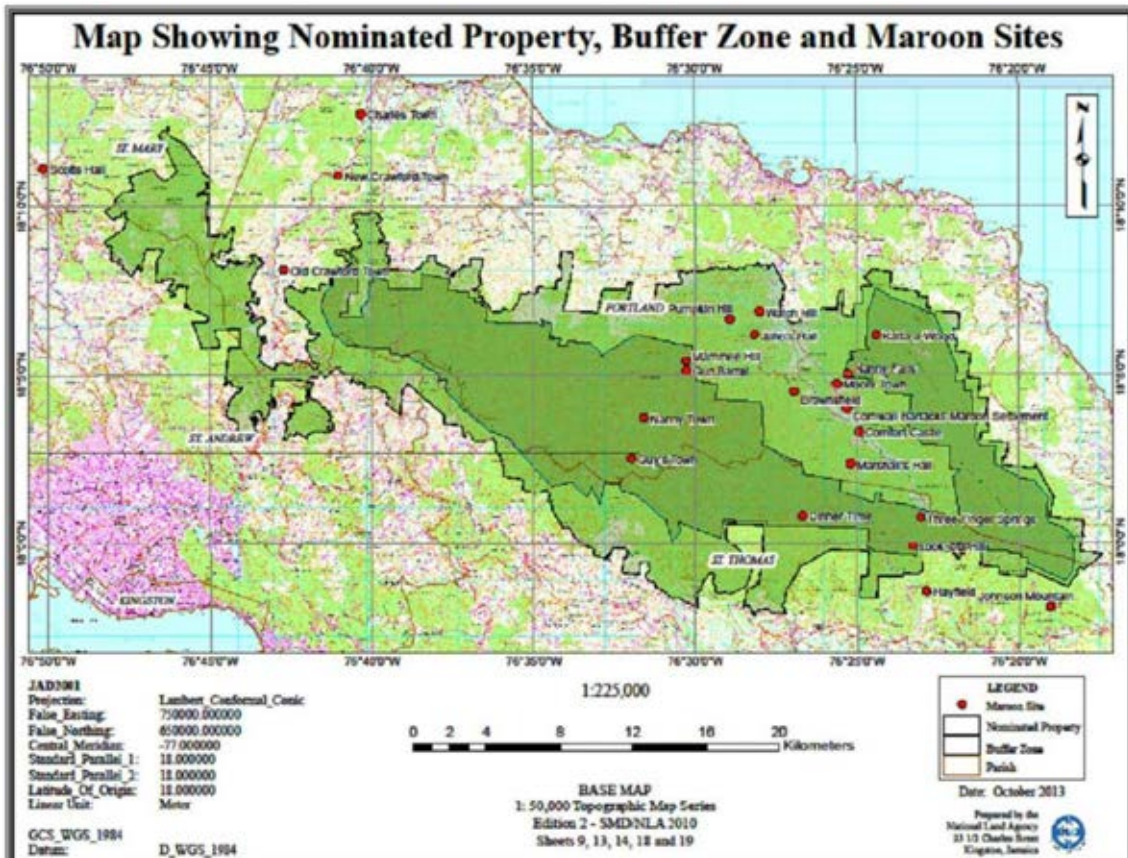
Management and protection requirements

The property and its buffer zone are protected both for their natural and cultural values according to different pieces of legislation and under the responsibilities of different agencies. This requires coordination and a spirit of cooperation among all actors. The integration in protection and management activities of Maroon community members helps sustain their links with their heritage and the state agencies to achieve their mandates for the safeguarding of the property. Stringent monitoring of activities carried out within the nominated property and its buffer zone is fundamental. Accurate and comprehensive assessments of the consequences to the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value of possible mining activity in the vicinity of the nominated property are also needed.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Submitting a map with details of prospection licenses, types of ore and size of possible mining areas, along with updated information and a Heritage Impact Assessment on the possible mining scenario, to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2015, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th Session in 2016;
- Integrating the satellite sites outside the nominated property or its buffer zone into the interpretation and presentation programme of its cultural values as well as of the Jamaican Maroonage phenomenon at large;
- Providing a periodic updated state of implementation of the 3-year Joint Work-Plan proposed in February 2015 to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2015 and 1 December 2017, with a final report and the revised management plan 2016-2021, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd Session in 2018.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Quaq Falls Sacred Site



Remains of the old road connecting the relic settlement of Contingent



Nanny Town excavation