

Mont Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

No 80

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: France

Name of property: Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay

Location: Departements of La Manche and of
Ille-et-Vilaine, Regions of Basse-
Normandie and Bretagne

Inscription: 1979

Brief Description:

Perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks exposed to powerful tides between Normandy and Brittany stand the 'Wonder of the West', a Gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael, and the village that grew up in the shadow of its great walls. Built between the 11th and 16th centuries, the abbey is a technical and artistic *tour de force*, having had to adapt to the problems posed by this unique natural site.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

As part of the Periodic Reporting process for Europe, the State Party identified the need to put in place appropriate buffer zones for eight inscribed properties, of which this is one.

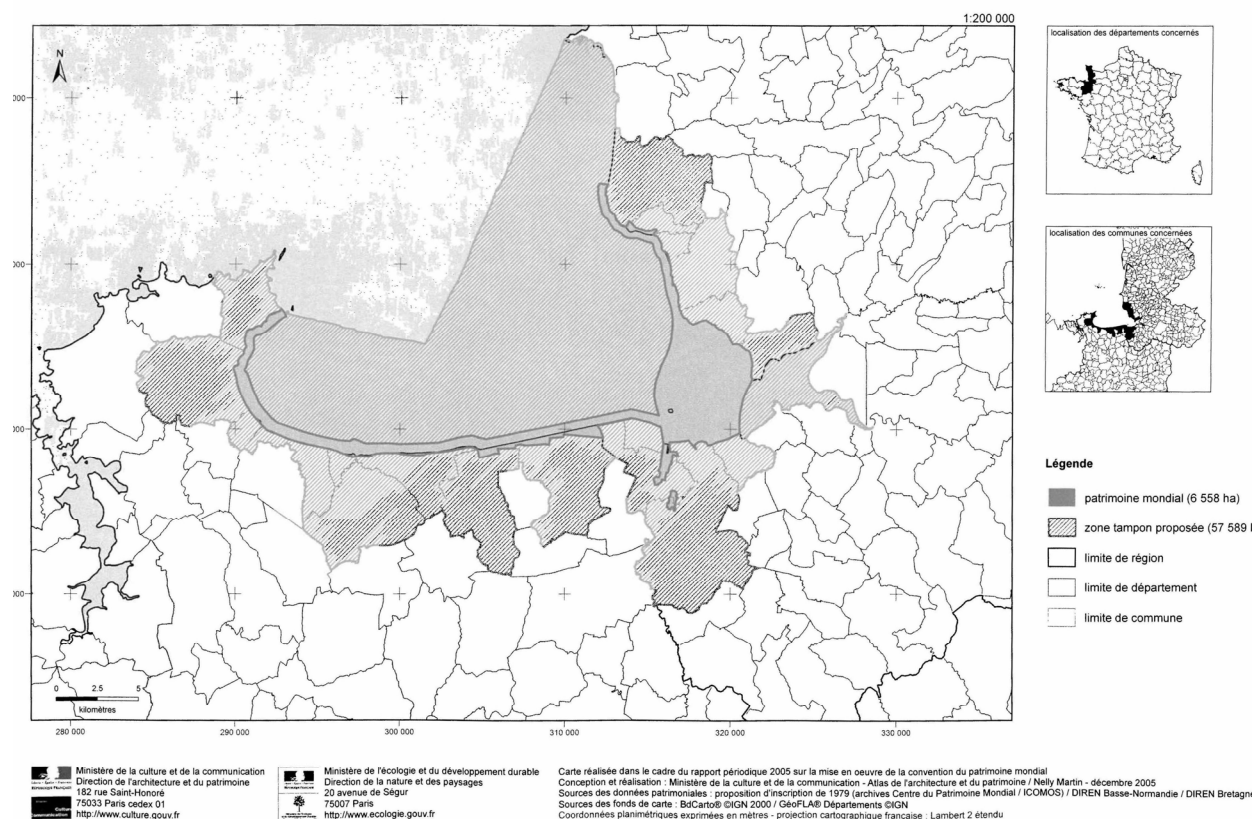
Modification

In the Periodic Report the State party acknowledged that the existing buffer zone was inadequate and now proposes a much enlarged zone which includes part of the bay, a Ramsar site, and the communes abutting the inscribed property. Within this buffer zone the areas immediately next to the main part of the inscribed property, that is the island Benedictine abbey, (as opposed to the narrow shore line either side) are either site *classé*, site *inscrit* or part of the Ramsar site.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the buffer zone for Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France) be approved.

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Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone