



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia), (C 708)

Date of Inscription: 1994

Criteria: (iii)(iv)

City of Mtskheta, Region of Mtskheta-Mtianeti

N41 50 38.004 E44 42 59.004

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

In the framework of the tripartite cooperation agreement between Georgia, World Heritage Centre and World Bank, the WHC continues to assist the State Party in developing adequate instruments for site management, providing methodological guidance for Mtskheta's ULUMP, as well as capacity building actions for town administration, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and other major stakeholders.

The draft ULUMP was finalized in June 2016 by the working team and submitted to the WHC. The evaluation report with the relevant comments from WHC were received in early December 2016. Based on these comments, the local self-government as well as NACHPG continues improving the document in the frame of their competences.

In December 2016 the WHC Technical Assistance expert mission was organized to review the work in progress and to assist in setting up a revised action plan as well as assist the NACHPG team in defining the cultural heritage protection zones for the town of Mtskheta. To follow the work in progress an additional WHC technical assistance mission is expected to be organized in 2017.

The duration of the Moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta (Decree of the Government of Georgia N411, 03.08.2015) has been prolonged until 31 December, 2018 with the condition to elaborate and approve full set of town planning documentation.

Memorandum of Collaboration on Cultural Heritage issues signed between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in 2016 provides an important tool for coordination of actions and cooperation between the two institutions.

In accordance with the recommendations elaborated in the scope of the Georgia/UNESCO agreement, in January 2017, Mtskheta City Municipality Council established the *Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning and the Steering Committee*.

The process of incorporating the Jvari site within the Mtskheta City administrative borders is in progress.

In 2016, in accordance with the WHC recommendations, to ensure the long-term conservation of the WH property, the NACHPG elaborated the guiding document as a basis for Conservation Plans for all the components of the Mtskheta WHS.

The State Party has submitted to the WHC the Minor Boundary Modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, WH property on 05.12.2016.

The National Strategy for Culture incorporating provisions of the World Heritage Strategy elaborated with the assistance of the EU Eastern Partnership Program was adopted by the Government of Georgia in 2016.

The work on the Cultural Heritage Code launched by the NACHPG is still in progress. The Code will incorporate the special chapter dedicated to the protection and management of the World Heritage in Georgia. The document will be submitted to the Georgian Parliament for its consideration and approval after the consultation and review process is finalized with the relevant stakeholders.

NACHPG in close collaboration with ICCROM continues the multi-year project on establishment of the training platform in the field of cultural heritage in Georgia (2015-2017).

In December 2016, the temporary exhibition of the part of the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum's collection arranged at the Georgian National Museum before the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum building is completed.

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission formally invited by the State Party and planned for Spring 2017.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

Decision : 40 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the important work and commitment by the State Party to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) forms the core of the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP);
With the aim to ensure the ULUMP is fully in line with the UNESCO requirements, the 3-year cooperation agreement was signed in October, 2015 between Municipal Development Fund of Georgia and the World Heritage Centre, upon the initiative of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, in scopes of the third Regional Development Project, funded by the World Bank. The co-operation envisages the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party in developing adequate instruments for site management, providing guidance for Mtskheta's ULUMP, as well as capacity building actions for the town administration and other major stakeholders.
4. *Notes the measures taken by the authorities to guarantee protection to the property through the Decree on the Moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization as well as a revised ULUMP which has yet to be finalized and implemented in accordance with World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS recommendations;*

In accordance with the Decree N563 of the Government of Georgia adopted on 22 December, 2016 the duration of the Moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta (Decree N411, 03.08.2015) has been prolonged until 31 December, 2018 with the condition to elaborate and approve full set of town planning documentation including the ULUMP and Historical-Cultural Base Plan for the historic town of Mtskheta.

5. ***Decides to remove the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
6. ***Recommends*** that the State Party take into consideration the recommendations provided by the 2015 and 2016 World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions, and by ICOMOS, notably to:
 - a) *Strengthen the strategic spatial planning vision and ensure 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),*

The tripartite cooperation agreement between the State Party, World Heritage Centre and World Bank aims at technical assistance for *Historical Monuments of Mtskheta* WH property providing methodological guidance in the process of elaboration of the ULUMP. The draft document was finalized in June 2016 by the ULUMP working team (LTD New City Development) and submitted to the WHC together with the NACHPG comments.

The evaluation report with the relevant comments from WHC were received in early December 2016. Based on these comments, the local self-government as well as NACHPG continue improving the document in the frame of their competences.

In December 2016 the WHC Technical Assistance expert mission was organized to review the work in progress and to assist in setting up a revised action plan as well as assist the NACHPG team in defining the cultural heritage protection zones for the town of Mtskheta.

With a view to harmonize the document in accordance with the international standards and ensure the proper preservation and enhancement of the WH property, the document will be further revised based on the recommendations of the experts developed in the scope of the WHC technical assistance missions (*November 2015, February/ March, December 2016*). To follow the work in progress an additional WHC technical assistance mission is expected to be organized in 2017 within the scope of the Georgia/UNESCO agreement.

- b) *Address the governance issue at the local level in order to ensure adequate planning, efficient management and decision making,*

The Memorandum of Collaboration on Cultural Heritage issues was signed between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia in 24.04.2016. Joint Heritage Council of the NACHPG and the Patriarchate of Georgia established by the Memorandum ensures the coordination in decision making on conservation of the religious properties including the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta.

The inter-ministerial Steering Committee at the Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection ensures co-ordination among different government authorities regarding different aspects, including the World Heritage properties.

In January 2017, in accordance with the recommendations elaborated in the framework of the Georgia/UNESCO Agreement (*notably, the technical assistance mission report, July, 2016; as well as the WHC report on the final draft of the LUMP, December, 2016*), Mtskheta City Municipality Council has established the *Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning* in charge of the technical elaboration and implementation of the Urban Land Use Master Plan and the *Steering Committee*. The primary tasks of the Steering Committee are: a) elaboration of a

long-term vision to guide the planning exercise b) define the overall planning policy goals and objectives c) identify the priority issues to be addressed d) validate the proposals elaborated at each stage by the Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning in the process of the LUMP revision. The SC is composed of the representatives of the main stakeholders (Patriarchate, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, NACHGP, etc.). The SC aims to ensure sharing and communication of the information between all the stakeholders as well as the awareness raising to the larger public in order to promote participation and involvement of the population.

- c) *Pursue a stakeholder involvement strategy and methodology, together with communication tools,*

The Georgia/UNESCO agreement aims at the enhancement of the institutional and technical capacity of the national and local authorities *inter alia* to ensure stakeholder coordination, long-term planning and the reinforcement of management mechanisms and capacities required to deal with the integration and sustainable implementation of heritage protection and development needs in the future. The main activities are focusing on the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, WH property.

In January 2017, in accordance with the recommendations elaborated in the framework of the Agreement (*notably, the technical assistance mission report, July, 2016; as well as the WHC report on the final draft of the LUMP, December, 2016*), Mtskheta City Municipality Council has established the *Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning* in charge of the technical elaboration and implementation of the Urban Land Use Master Plan and the *Steering Committee*. The primary tasks of the Steering Committee are: a) elaboration of a long-term vision to guide the planning exercise b) define the overall planning policy goals and objectives c) identify the priority issues to be addressed d) validate the proposals elaborated at each stage by the Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning in the process of the LUMP revision. The SC is composed of the representatives of the main stakeholders (Patriarchate, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, NACHGP, etc.). The SC aims to ensure sharing and communication of the information between all the stakeholders as well as the awareness raising to the larger public in order to promote participation and involvement of the population.

- d) *Review the administrative borders especially in relation to the Jvari site, in order to finalize and implement the ULUMP including supportive land use regulations, and a management plan, and also continue to ensure the long term conservation of monuments and archaeological sites through the development of adequate plans and restoration programmes;*

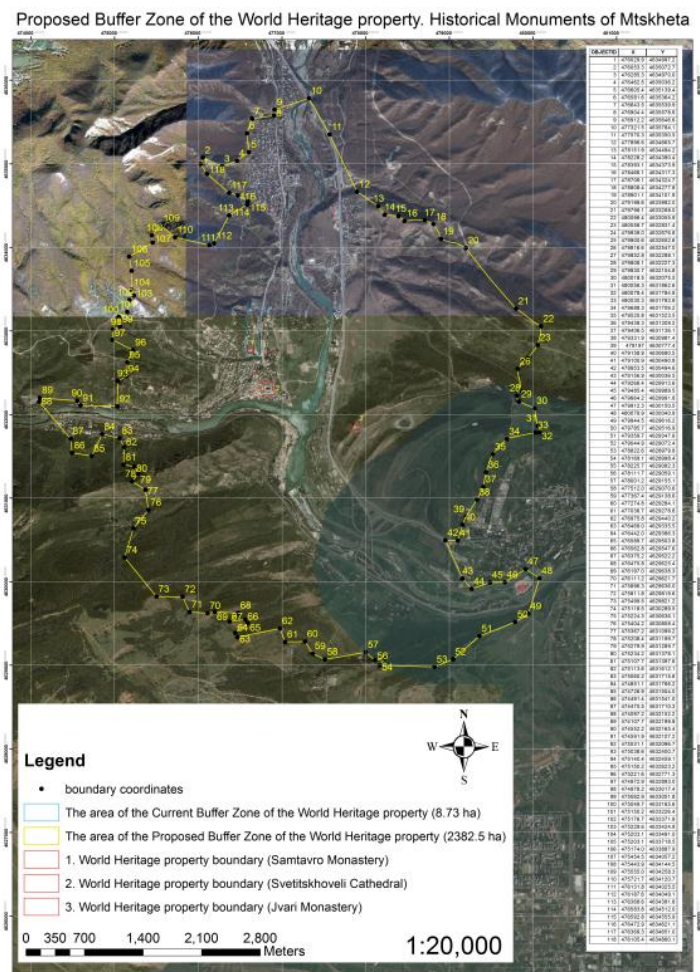
The process of incorporating the Jvari site within the Mtskheta City administrative borders is in progress: the introduction and the first reading of the subject have been already passed during the 2016 spring session of the Parliament of Georgia.

In 2016, in accordance with the WHC recommendations, to ensure the long-term conservation of the WH property, the NACHPG elaborated the guiding document as a basis for Conservation Plans for all the components of the Mtskheta WHS (*see annex I*). The guiding document incorporates: a) an analysis of the existing documentation b) assessment of the implemented conservation and interpretation works c) outline of needs for long-term conservation of the property.

7. Welcomes the establishment of a unified buffer zone, encompassing the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting and requests the State Party to provide this enlarged buffer zone with appropriate protection, and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre;

The unified Buffer Zone covering the landscape surrounding of the WH property, including the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, was adopted by the Decree of the Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia (N03/212, 28.06.2016).

The State Party has submitted to the WHC the Minor Boundary Modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, WH property on 05.12.2016.



8. Also welcomes the initiative of the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations;

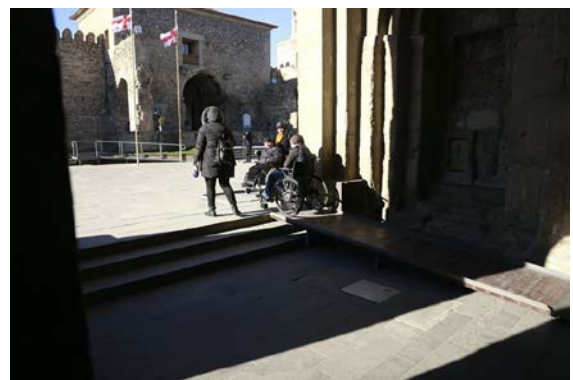
9.

The Mission has been formally invited by the Georgian government and planned in Spring 2017. The detailed timing is being discussed with the WHC.

10. 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, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Other issues:

- 2013- onwards - The creation of the Unified National GIS Database and Web Portal for Cultural Heritage is under way at the NACHPG, with the support of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with the Cultural Heritage Directorate of Norway. The system is in the testing phase since 2015. It allows the improved online communication between the central and regional offices of the NACHPG, as well as between the different state authorities as well as self-governments. The system also provides for improved access to information on the cultural heritage of Georgia for general public via online GIS portal.
- 2015-2016 - The National Strategy for Culture incorporating provisions of the World Heritage Strategy was elaborated for the first time in post-Soviet Georgia, with the assistance of the EU Eastern Partnership Program and adopted by the Government of Georgia.
- The work on the Cultural Heritage Code launched by the NACHPG in 2015 is still in progress. The Code will incorporate the special chapter dedicated to the protection and management of the World Heritage in Georgia and will provide the platform and respective regulations for elaboration and adoption of Site Management Plans, as well as for the World Heritage Council to be established at the Ministry level. The draft Code was sent to the relevant stakeholders, *inter alia*, to ICOMOS Georgia, for comments in December 2016. After the consultation and review process is finalized, it will be submitted before the Georgian Parliament for its consideration and approval.
- NACHPG in close collaboration with ICCROM continues the multi-year project on establishment of the training platform in the field of cultural heritage in Georgia (2015-2017). The project aims at establishment of the multidisciplinary platform for the development of professional opportunities through improvement of the education and professional system and policies in the field of conservation and management of cultural heritage in Georgia, with the special focus on World Heritage. The project implies the implementation of the feasibility analysis of the professional opportunities, assessments of Georgian educational system in the field, development of the capacity concept paper and curriculum models, and at the last stage setting up of the pilot training program.
- The measures to ensure the proper conservation and maintenance of the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum's collection have been put in place by the NACHPG. Cleaning and conservation works of the collection items at the laboratory of the Georgian National Museum was launched in 2016 and are still in progress. The temporary exhibition of the first part of the collection was arranged at the Georgian National Museum before the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum building is completed.
- In 2016 infrastructure and visitor facilities were arranged at Svetitskhoveli Cathedral providing access to people with disabilities.



- Educational program “Archaeology for kids” at Samtavro Valley has been carried out for last 7 years, aiming at raising children’s interest in history and cultural heritage of the country, archaeology and developing skills of creativity, discussion, investigation and analysis. In 2016 up to 1000 children took part in the program and received special certificates.

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Please also provide detailed information on the following:

- a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee
[Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]
If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified
 - b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.
 - c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)
3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value

[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party submitted to the WHC the project documentation on *the Archeological Museum of Mtskheta WHS* for the consideration of the World Heritage Centre and its Advisory Bodies in November, 2016. The project was developed by the winner company of the competition held by the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia in August, 2016. The project was designed according to the ToR elaborated under the methodological and technical assistance of the World Heritage Centre in the scope of the UNESCO/Georgia cooperation agreement.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

The State Party gives its consent to upload the present SOC Report for public access.

6. **Signature of the Authority**

Nikoloz Antidze

Director General

National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia



Historical Monuments of Mtskheta

World Heirtage Property

Needs Assessment for the Elaboration
of the Conservation Plans



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR
CULTURAL HERITAGE
PRESERVATION OF GEORGIA

Tbilisi
2016

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

2. MAIN GOALS OF THE DOCUMENT

3. HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF MTSKHETA

3.1 Context

- 3.1.1. Statement of Significance
- 3.1.2. Inscription Criteria
- 3.1.3. Brief synthesis

3.2. Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

- 3.2.1. Overview
- 3.2.2. Critical issues observed on-site
- 3.2.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015
- 3.2.4. Further Surveys and Works

3.3. Holy Cross Monastery of Jvari

- 3.3.1. Overview
- 3.3.2. Critical issues observed on-site
- 3.3.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015
- 3.3.4. Further Surveys and Works

3.4. Samtavro Monastery

- 3.4.1. Overview
- 3.4.2 Critical issues observed on-site
- 3.4.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015
- 3.4.4. Further Surveys and Works

3.5. Archaeological Site of Samtavro Valley

- 3.5.1. Overview
- 3.5.2. Critical issues observed on-site
- 3.5.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015
- 3.5.4. Further Surveys and Works

3.6. Archaeological Site of Armaztsikhe-Bagineti

- 3.6.1. Overview
- 3.6.2. Critical issues observed on-site
- 3.6.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015
- 3.6.4. Further Surveys and Works

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. ANNEX

1. Introduction

At its 18 session (Phuket, 1994), Recognizing the Outstanding Universal Value of Mtskheta and its historical monuments, The World Heritage Committee decided *to inscribe the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (initially referred as the City Museum of Mtskheta) on the World Heritage List (18COM XI)*.

Like the other developing countries, which have radically transformed the socio-economic and political system in recent decades, the state party - Georgia has faced number of difficulties in implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The problems persistent in conservation and management of the World Heritage Sites have indispensably been linked to the overall social-economic and political turbulences. It was in this context, that the lack of implementation of the World Heritage Committee recommendations has led to the inscription of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta in the list of the World Heritage in Danger. At its 33 session (Seville, 2009), World Heritage Committee examined the state of conservation of the world heritage property the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta and decided *to inscribe the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta on the List of the World Heritage in Danger*¹. Respectively, the corrective measures, to achieve the desired state of conservation of the property were adopted at World Heritage Committee 34 session (Brasilia, 2010)².

In 2010-2016 the State Party in coordination and collaboration with WH Center and advisory bodies, implemented range of the works that was followed by the WH committee decision at its 40 session (Istanbul, 2016) *to remove the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger*³.

To step forward to the complete implementation of corrective measures and to ensure the improvement of state of conservation of the WH property, the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia decided to elaborate the document below. The document is based on the analyzing the physical condition of monuments and the works and surveys conducted previously, emphasize the critical aspects of condition and includes the recommendations regarding the further works to perform. During 2017-2019, subsequently of this document, it is planned to establish the Conservation Plans for each component of WH property - the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Holy cross monastery of Jvari, Samtavro Monastery, as well as archaeological sites of Samtavro valley and Armaztsikhe-Bagineti).

2. Main Goals of the Document

The main purpose of the document is to:

- **Analyze of the existed documentation** for each component of WH property;
- **Evaluate the** physical condition of each component of WH property;
- **Identify the needs** to ensure the proper state of conservation of each component of WH property.
- **Determine the outlines** for the Conservation and Action Plans for each component of WH property.

¹ Decision 33 COM 7B.102 (provided in annex)

² Decision 34 COM 7B.27 (provided in annex)

³ Decision 40 COM 7A.29 (provided in annex)

3. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta

3.1 Context

3.1.1. Statement of Significance

As provided by State Party in nomination dossier:

City-museum, architectural reserve, Mtskheta is a multi-layered monument, testifying to the great scope of building activity and high culture of the country. Preserved architectural monuments and unearthed archaeological material testify to the high artistic value of building and minor arts in various epochs, beginning from the 2nd mill. B.C. to today. The architectural monuments of Mtskheta, being stage making in the development of Georgian architecture are at the same time extremely significant for the study of the medieval architecture of the whole Christendom. Besides they are striking examples of the unity of architecture with the surrounding landscape. Of special value from the artistic and historical points of view are the monuments of monumental painting (mosaic floor in "Dionysius Maison" in Dzalisa, 2nd c. A.D.) and metalwork (goldsmithery) discovered in Mtskheta. Special place in Semitic epigraphics is occupied by Armagi inscriptions, giving vast valuable data for the study of the written language in general and making it possible to deal with the origin of Georgian written language anew.

5.1.2. Inscription Criteria

The World Heritage property the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta correspond to criteria (iii), (iv).

Criterion (iii): The historical monuments of Mtskheta bear testimony to the high level of art and culture of the vanished Kingdom of Georgia, which played an outstanding role in the medieval history of its region. They express the introduction and diffusion of Christianity to the Caucasian mountain region and bear testimony of the social, political and economic evolution of the region since the late 3rd millennium B.C.

Criterion (iv): The historic churches of Mtskheta, including Jvari Monastery, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Samtavro Monastery, are outstanding examples of medieval ecclesiastical architecture in the Caucasus region, and represent different phases of the development of this building typology, ranging from the 4th to the 18th centuries.

3.1.3. Brief synthesis

The Historical Monuments of Mtskheta are located in the cultural landscape at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari Rivers, in Central-Eastern Georgia, some 20km northwest of Tbilisi in Mtskheta. The property consists of the Jvari Monastery, the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and the Samtavro Monastery.

Mtskheta was the ancient capital of Kartli, the East Georgian Kingdom from the 3rd century B.C. to the 5th century AD, and was also the location where Christianity was proclaimed as the official religion of Georgia in 337. To date, it still remains the headquarters of the Georgian Orthodox and Apostolic Church.

The favorable natural conditions, its strategic location at the intersection of trade routes, and its close relations with the Roman Empire, the Persian Empire, Syria, Palestine, and Byzantium, generated and stimulated the development of Mtskheta and led to the integration of different cultural influences with local cultural traditions. After the 6th century AD, when the capital was transferred to Tbilisi, Mtskheta continued to retain its leading role as one of the important cultural and spiritual centers of the country.

The Holy Cross Monastery of Jvari, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Samtavro Monastery are key monuments of medieval Georgia. The present churches include the remains of earlier buildings on the same sites, as well as the remains of ancient wall paintings. The complex of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral in the center of the town includes the cathedral church, the palace and the gates of the Catholicon Melchizedek that date from the 11th century, built on the site of earlier churches dating back to the 5th century. The cruciform cathedral is crowned with a high cupola over the crossing, and there are remains of important wall paintings in the interior. The rich sculpted decoration of the elevations dates from various periods over its long history. The small domed church of the Samtavro Monastery was originally built in the 4th century and has since been subject to various restorations. The main church of the monastery was built in the early 11th century. It contains the grave of Mirian III, the king of Iberia who established Christianity as official religion in Georgia.

The Historical Monuments of Mtskheta contain archaeological remains of great significance that testify to the high culture in the art of building, masonry crafts, pottery, as well as metal casting and processing, and the social, political, and economic evolution of this mountain kingdom for some four millennia. They also represent associative values with religious figures, such as Saint Nino, whose deeds are documented by Georgian, Armenian, Greek and Roman historians, and the 6th-century church in Jvari Monastery remains the most sacred place in Georgia.

3.2. Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

3.2.1. Overview

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, the most important one in Georgia, is connected to the spread of Christianity in the country (4th century A.D.). It had the main importance as the religious center of Christian Georgia During the centuries.

The cathedral mainly dates to 11th century, but includes different layers' form both the previous and more recent periods. After the restoration works of the '70s the remains of the ancient basilica (5th century) were found which nowadays is exposed in the interior of the Cathedral. The wall paintings dated back to 17th century is preserved in the interior as well. The importance of cathedral increases as there are the tombs of the royalty of Georgia. With the cathedral, complex includes: the main gate of complex – 11th century; Defending walls of cathedral built in 18th century; The remains of the palace of Catholicon Melchizedek – 11th century; The palace of Catholicon Anton II originally built in 18th century, reconstructed in 2000-2002.

With its high artistic quality of performance, the multilayered nature of the structure is what gives more value to the complex.

3.2.2. Critical issues observed on-site

During the last decade, different successful works were performed that led to the improvement of the physical condition of monument and infrastructure as well. Nowadays there are some issues that needs further attention:

- A. Visible water tracks (fig.1), possibly rising from the foundations, on the external walls, the main gate and the Cathedral's southern wall. *It is necessary to continue the monitoring of groundwater and carry out the additional investigations of soils, foundations, building materials and structures to find out the causes of the problem and plan the adequate interventions.*



Fig.1 Water track on the southern wall of the Cathedral and the main gate of complex.

- B. By the visual examination on some parts of the gate and the cathedral stone deterioration is observed(fig.2). The most spread decays most likely to be delamination and erosion, that are mainly concentrated near the foundations and roofing. *It is necessary to continue with the additional research for the building materials, corresponding to the recommendations provided by the by ICCROM expert Mr. Simon Warrack during the Preliminary assessment of the Svetitskoveli Stone Conservation and subsequently develop the stone conservation project.*



Fig.2 Stone deterioration examples on the walls of cathedral

- C. It is visible minor vegetation on the roofs of the cathedral (western part). Nowadays there are only small plants, but neglecting the problem can cause the roof damage, that will let the water enter in the structure. *The problem should be solved immediately and it is necessary to be elaborated the maintenance guidelines.*
- D. In the interior of the cathedral, the wall paintings on the human height are partially covered with soot and scotch marks (fig.3). The main cause of the problem is that sometimes candles are directly put on the walls by the visitors. *It is necessary to be carried out the survey of original technology and the condition of paintings and determine the suitable methodology of the intervention. This must be followed by the actions to ensure the raising the awareness about*

the artistic value of monument and maintenance among the visitors and among the priests of the monastery as well.



Fig.3 Candle stains on the wall paintings

- E. There are some inappropriate additions in the cathedral that can affect on the artistic unity of the monument (fig.4). For example, decorated elements added recently on the south of altar; the new decorated stone on the grave of King Vakhtang Gorgasali. Both are out of scale and as to the artistic point of view, do not meet the unity of the whole cathedral. *To avoid such kind of intervention it is necessary to determine the detailed guidelines for suitable design in accordance with the church, that should meet to the needs of the monastery. This must be followed by the actions to ensure the raising the awareness about the artistic value of monument and maintenance among the visitors and among the priests of the monastery as well.*



Fig.4 Inappropriate additions in the cathedral

- F. Another issue is the absence of infrastructure or inappropriate mounting of them (fig.5). There is chaotic organization of different kind of infrastructural elements, especially on the exterior of the external walls: different style window guards; air conditioners external units placed directly on the walls; ventilation tubes, water drain tubes made of different material and color and wires crossing the walls disturbing the unity of the view on complex. *It is necessary to*

develop the infrastructural project meeting the needs of the monastery, in which must be given the solutions for such infrastructural problems.



Fig.5 Infrastructural issues in the complex

3.2.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015

In 2009-2015 the following conservation, rehabilitation and monitoring works were conducted:

- ✓ Conservation of the wall paintings on Southern wall;
- ✓ Cleaning and restoration of the roofing of the Cathedral;
- ✓ Improvement of the drainage system;
- ✓ Monitoring of the groundwater level in the foundations;
- ✓ Update of the full graphic documentation with modern technologies with the assistance of international expert (UK) and financial support of the UNESCO Participation programme (2010-2011);
- ✓ 2012-2013 the full structural survey of the Cathedral took place led by prof. Georgio Crocci. The electronic system for monitoring of cracks was installed;
- ✓ In scopes of the two-year project video endoscopy and laboratory analysis of the building material, sonic and micro seismic studies were undertaken and consequently the mathematical model was created;
- ✓ Preliminary assessment of the Svetitskoveli Stone Conservation issues was undertaken by ICCROM expert Mr. Simon Warrack.

3.2.4. Further Surveys and Works

To face the above-mentioned condition challenges and improve the state of conservation of WH property the following actions should be performed:

- Groundwater monitoring and investigations of soils, foundations, building materials and structures to find out the causes of the water tracks. Followed by the planning the adequate interventions;
- Survey for the identification of the different building materials and their Physical properties; Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations and elaborating the proposal for the stone conservation project;
- Survey of the wall painting condition, followed by the proposal for interventions;
- Research of the needs of the church and site; Development of the detailed infrastructural project according it, including the design guidelines for the new elements;
- Elaborating the maintenance guidelines for both short and long term and planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance of the monument.

3.3. Holy Cross Monastery of Jvari

3.3.1. Overview

In the 4th century, after announcing the Christianity as the state religion, the king Mirian built the holy cross on the mountain on the opposite side of the city. After two centuries, between 545-586, on the north of the cross the minor church of the monastery was built. In 586-605 the major church was built including the holy cross in its interior.

The monastery was very important in ancient Georgia, the pilgrims were coming to visit from the whole Georgia as well as from the outside of it. From the architectural point of view, the major church - tetraconch type building influenced the development of the type of the religious architecture called *Holy cross church type*.

Both, major and minor churches reached to the present without significant reconstructions. Though the monastery was damaged during the attacks, especially in the 10th century when it was burnt by the Arabs, that caused the collapse of the eastern part of the dome. It was immediately reconstructed and in the interior the ashlar stones were partially replaced and covered with wall-paintings (not preserved). As to the minor church it was destroyed during the centuries: the vaults of the main and northern spaces are not preserved, and in the previous years for protection the wooden shelter, that recreates the exterior silhouette of the church was built.

The monastery also includes the remains of the remains of the walls from the later (16th-17th c.c.) fortification.

3.3.2. Critical issues observed on-site

Over the last years very important works were performed and started to improve the condition of the monument, one of the most challenging was the conservation of stone reliefs on the eastern facade of major church, which because of the severe condition was sheltered for years. To date the main critical issues observed in the Holy Cross monastery of Jvari are: building materials deterioration and lack of the infrastructure.

- A. By the visual examination, the main problem from the point of view of physical sanity is identified the progressing deterioration of the stones on all the buildings in the monastery. Problem is spread on the whole heights (fig. 6). The local climate – strong wind and change of temperature are constantly affecting the process. *It is urgent to evaluate the degradation quality and necessary to continue the process of research which must become the basis of the subsequent stone conservation project proposal, as it had already performed on the decorative elements of the eastern apse and previously started on the minor church of the complex.*



Fig.6 Stone deterioration process on the major church and on the remains of walls

- B. The medium size dark stain is visible on the small chapel's southern wall near the main church (fig. 7). *It is necessary to monitor it during the time and carry out the additional investigations to find out the causes of the problem and plan the adequate interventions.*



Fig.7 Stain on the wall of the chapel

- D. Apart of the physical condition, there are several infrastructural issues on site that need to be resolved:
1. **Accessibility** – site is not well-adapted for disable persons and it is important to be considered during the development of the infrastructural project;
 2. **Safety** - there are some unsafe places near the cliffs, which are reachable by the visitors (fig. 8) and can cause their physical damage;

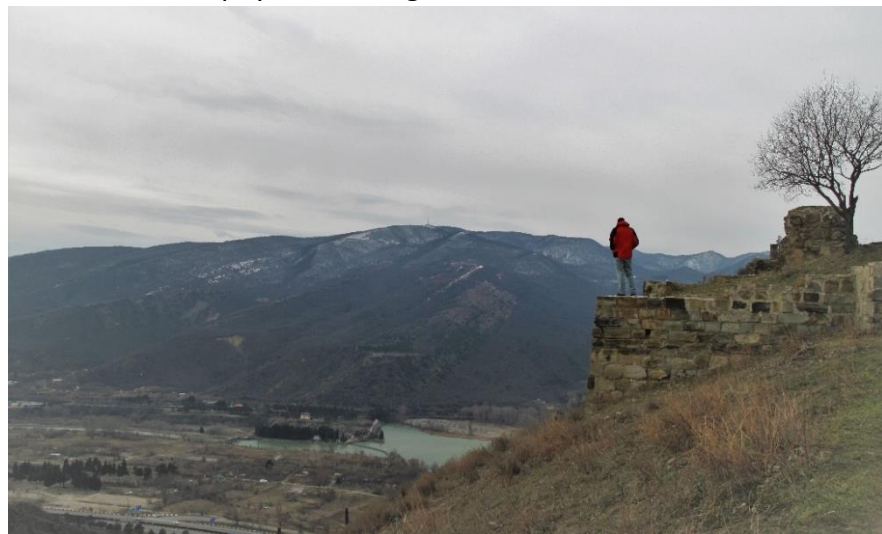


Fig.8 Safety problem

3. **Interpretation** – there is only one “official” informational board, that is providing the general information about monastery

It is necessary to continue the development of detailed infrastructural project meeting the needs of the monastery and the site itself and followed by the implementation of it.

3.3.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015

In 2009-2015 the following conservation, rehabilitation and monitoring works were conducted:

- ✓ The conservation of stone reliefs of Jvari main church was conducted in 2011-2012 under the leadership of ICCROM expert Mr. Simon Warrack. The training of Georgian young specialist also took place in course of the conservation works;
- ✓ The rehabilitation program of Jvari monastery implied replacement of damaged tiles on the roof of the main church and roofing of the small church with removable material for conservation purposes. The stone conservation of the small church is ongoing in co-operation with ICCROM expert Mr. Stefano Volta;
- ✓ The first steps for improvement of visitor infrastructure took place including the fencing of the territory, information panels, pathways, conservation of the ramparts and walls of the monastery;
- ✓ The design for the visitor center prepared in consultation with the WHC and ICOMOS. The project will be realized through the third Regional Development Program funded by the World Bank;

3.3.4. Further Surveys and Works

To face the above-mentioned condition challenges and improve the state of conservation of WH property the following actions should be performed:

- Survey for the identification of the different building materials and their Physical properties; Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations and elaborating the proposal for the stone conservation project;
- Evaluation of structural properties of the buildings consisting the monastery;
- Research of the needs of the church and site; Development of the detailed infrastructural project according it including the design guidelines for the new elements;
- Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term and planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance of the monument.

3.4. Samtavro Monastery

3.4.1. Overview

Samtavro Monastery is located on the northern part of Mtskheta, on the place where St. Nino lived. The monastery was developing and enlarging during the centuries and nowadays it contains the buildings from different period: the main church – 11th century (during the recent restoration works, the fragments of the previous church were found, that by the researchers is considered as the basilica with three naos and apse on the east, mentioned in the historical sources), small church named after St. Nino – early middle ages, bell-tower – 15th-16th centuries, tower – 18th century. Form the 1820 there is the nunnery.

3.4.2 Critical issues observed on-site

After the works conducted during last years the general condition of the Samtavro monastery is satisfactory as from the point of view of infrastructure as to the physical condition. Even though, there are some minor problems to be mentioned:

- A. On the several parts near the foundations of the main church walls, it is visible the stone deterioration (fig.9). *It is necessary to carry out the surveys of the building materials and subsequently develop the stone conservation project.*



Fig.9 Stone deterioration on the walls of the main church

- B. There is visible the darker part on the middle of the eastern wall. Without the certain surveys, it is impossible to say what is the exact problem and its cause. (fig.10). *To identify the problem and its cause it is necessary to carry out further structural investigations and analysis.*



Fig.10 Dark stain in the middle of façade

- C. The wall paintings in the small church are mostly covered with the thin layer of soot. *It is necessary to be carried out the survey of original technology and the condition of paintings and determine the suitable methodology of the intervention. This must be followed by the actions to ensure the raising the awareness about the artistic value of monument and maintenance among the visitors and among the nuns of the monastery as well.*

Also, it is important to mention that the museum was opened previously on the west of the main church. Regardless the small size, it is well organized and very informative for the visitors. Its main concentration is about the history of the monastery itself and small place is dedicated to the ethnographic items too. Such kind of initiatives should always be encouraged and supported by the state party.

3.4.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015

In 2009-2015 the following conservation, rehabilitation and monitoring works were conducted:

- ✓ The rehabilitation of the bell tower of Samtavro monastery as well as improvement of infrastructure within the monastery walls was conducted;

- ✓ In consultation with WHC and ICOMOS the design for the small museum and shop was prepared and is under implementation;
- ✓ Urgent conservation/stabilization works on building materials and wall paintings of the church of the Holy Transfiguration of the Savior at Samtavro monastery implemented;
- ✓ The reliquary of Blessed Father Gabriel and fool-for-Christ at the church of the Holy Transfiguration of the Savior at Samtavro monastery arranged;
- ✓ Rescue archaeology works took place on the western area of the church of the Holy Transfiguration of the Savior at Samtavro monastery.

3.4.4. Further Surveys and Works

To face the above-mentioned condition challenges and improve the state of conservation of WH property the following actions should be performed:

- Survey for the identification of the different building materials and their Physical properties; Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations and elaborating the proposal for the stone conservation project;
- Survey of the wall paintings condition followed by the proposal for interventions;
- Monitoring and Evaluation of structural properties of the building to find out the causes of the water track;
- Elaborating the design guidelines for the new elements;
- Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term and planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance of the monument.

3.5. Archaeological Site of Samtavro Valley

3.5.1. Overview

Samtavro Valley - the archaeological monument dated from mid. 3rd millennium B.C. – until the 10th century A.D. is located to the north of Mtskheta, near the Samtavro monastery. The site is spread on approx. 18 ha and includes the cemetery represented as barrows, hole-tombs, tiled-tomb, clay and stone sarcophagus and the settlement represented in terraces. The monument is very important sample in Georgia and its excavations have enabled the scientists to establish historical-chronological scheme of Mtskheta and the whole East Georgia.

Since the late 19th century the tombs and settlements were being excavated. Nowadays excavated areas are sheltered and exposed for the visitors. Recently the educational space(sheltered) for children was created to let kids get knowledge about the archaeology and enable them to experience.

3.5.2. Critical issues observed on-site

Currently the main problems visible on site are the grave condition of the building materials and the lack of maintenance:

- A. The building materials - stones and the ceramics as well are very deteriorated (fig. 11). The main visible decay is delamination and erosion that are still progressing. *It is urgent to evaluate the degradation quality and necessary to begin the research of the materials and their degradation process which must become the basis of the subsequent proposal for the conservation project.*



Fig.11 deteriorated materials

- B. With the physical condition, the absence of infrastructure is another problem: the shelters are damaged; there are some information boards but altered and out of condition (fig.12). *It is necessary to develop the masterplan and detailed infrastructural project meeting the needs of the site, determining the places for parking, educational spaces, information centers, etc. It should also be containing the design of the modular system shelters that enable the enlargement if it is needed (included in in scopes of the third Regional Development program, funded by the World Bank in 2016-2019). This must be followed by the detailed guidelines for maintenance and the actions to ensure the raising the awareness about the value of the monument and maintenance among the staff and the visitors as well.*



Fig.12 Sheltering; altered information board

3.5.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015

In 2009-2015 the following conservation, rehabilitation and monitoring works were conducted:

- ✓ The first stage of scanning and virtual reconstruction of the artifacts from Samtavro burial ground, stored in the Mtskheta museum took place in 2014;
- ✓ The archaeological survey of the territories of Samtavro burial ground and the settlement was launched in 2014;
- ✓ The visitor infrastructure for archaeological sites of Mtskheta, including Armaztsikhe, Samtavro, Armazi, Dzalisa will take place in scopes of the third Regional Development program, funded by the World Bank in 2016-2019.

3.5.4. Further Surveys and Works

To face the above-mentioned condition challenges and improve the state of conservation of WH property the following actions should be performed:

- Survey for the identification of the different building materials and their Physical properties; Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations and elaborating the proposal for the stone conservation project;
- Development of the detailed infrastructural project according the needs of the site, including the modular system sheltering and design guidelines for the new elements;
- Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term and planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance of the monument.

3.6. Archaeological Site of Armaztsikhe-Bagineti

3.6.1. Overview

Near the city of Mtskheta, on the hill on the right bank of the river Mtkvari the ancient historic town, nowadays archaeological site of Armazthsikhe-Bagineti is located. The site dates from the 4th century B.C. until the 8th century A.C. The site is spread on approximately 30ha and includes the following structures: Gateway and guard chamber; Queen's Bath House; Ruins east of queen's Bath house; King's Bath House; Temple and courtyard; Tower cistern; Colonnaded Hall; Apsidal structure. The excavations at Armaztsikhe-Bagineti archaeological site was started at the end of the 19th century.

3.6.2. Critical issues observed on-site

The main issues that needs to be improved on the Armaztsikhe-Bagineti Archaeological site is the same as on the Samtavro valley: the condition of building materials and infrastructure.

- A. On some walls the building materials – stones and some places plaster are deteriorated (fig. 13). The main visible decay is powdering, delamination and erosion that are progressive. *It is necessary to evaluate the degradation quality and carry out the research of the materials and their decay process which must became the basis of the subsequent conservation program.*



Fig.13 deteriorated materials

- B. With the physical condition, the lack of maintenance and absence of some infrastructure is another problem: The shelters, in some places paths, information boards are damaged. Also, there are some dangerous places that are reachable by the visitors (fig.14).



Fig.14 Damaged sheltering and information board

It is necessary to re-evaluate the infrastructure, define the needs of the site and develop the further design project for the infrastructure (included in in scopes of the third Regional Development program, funded by the World Bank in 2016-2019). This must be followed by the detailed guidelines for maintenance and the actions to ensure the raising the awareness about the value of the monument and maintenance among the staff and the visitors as well.

3.6.3. Surveys and Work performed in 2009-2015

In 2009-2015 the following conservation, rehabilitation and monitoring works were conducted:

- ✓ Conservation of Armaztsikhe-Bagineti archaeological site took place with the co-funding of the US Ambassadors Fund. The visitor infrastructure, including paths, signage and information panels were installed in consultation with Norwegian partners;
- ✓ The National Museum of Georgia implemented the archaeological excavations at Armaztsikhe-Bagineti archaeological site;
- ✓ *The visitor infrastructure for archaeological sites of Mtskheta, including Armaztsikhe, Samtavro, Armazi, Dzalisa will take place in scopes of the third Regional Development program, funded by the World Bank in 2016-2019.*

3.6.4. Further Surveys and Works

To face the above-mentioned condition challenges and improve the state of conservation of WH property the following actions should be performed:

- Survey for the identification of the different kind building materials and their Physical properties; Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations and elaborating the proposal for the stone conservation project;
- Development of the detailed infrastructural project according the needs of the site, including the design guidelines for the new elements;
- Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term and planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance of the monument.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The aim of the document was the understanding condition of each component of WH property, emphasis the critical aspects of physical conservation and interpretation of sites and elaborating the outlines for the future surveys and works. To achieve the aim, the existed documentation (the surveys already performed; reports on the works conducted; the recommendations and reports provided by the advisory bodies as well as the previous reports on the state of conservations provided by the state party) was analyzed and on-site observations were performed.

The problems are mostly common for each monument. From the point of view of the state of conservation the main problem observed is the building materials' deterioration, but the degree varies according the monuments: the condition of the building materials at Holy cross monastery of Jvari is more serious respecting the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Samtavro monastery, while on the both archaeological sites the condition of materials is similar. Another important issue is the absence of the proper infrastructure, that makes difficult the adequate interpretation of the monuments. It needs to be mentioned that the projecting phase of infrastructure has already completed or is ongoing on the monuments and in the followingly is planned the implementation.

It is important to contain the detailed guidelines for the maintenance for both short and long term in the Conservation and Action Plans and be defined the responsible parties for maintenance. To ensure the implementation of the guidelines the trainings and additional activities should be planned.

The general recommendations regarding the further works to be performed are provided below.

Component of WH property	Actions	Note
Svetitskhoveli Cathedral	Groundwater monitoring and investigations of soils, foundations, building materials and structures to find out the causes of the water tracks. Followed by the planning the adequate interventions.	ongoing
	Survey for the identification of the different kind building materials and their Physical properties	
	Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations	
	Development of the stone conservation project	
	Survey of the wall painting condition followed by the proposal for interventions	
	Research of the needs of the church and site and Development of the detailed infrastructural project according it	
	Establishment of design guidelines for new elements	
	Develop a monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation	
	Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term	
	Planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance	
Holy Cross Monastery of Jvari	Survey for the identification of the different kind building materials and their Physical properties	Urgent
	Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations	Urgent
	Development of the stone conservation project	Urgent
	Structural investigation of the monastery	
	Research of the needs of the church and site and development of the detailed infrastructural project according it	Ongoing
	Establishment of design guidelines for new elements	Ongoing

	Develop a monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation	
	Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term	
	Planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance	
Samtavro Monastery	Survey for the identification of the different kind building materials and their Physical properties	
	Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations	
	Development of the stone conservation project	
	Survey of the wall painting condition followed by the conservation program	
	Monitoring and further investigations of structures to find out the causes of the water track.	
	Establishment of design guidelines for new elements	
	Develop a monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation	
	Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term	
	Planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance	
Archaeological Site of Samtavro Valley	Survey for the identification of the different kind building materials and their Physical properties	Urgent
	Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations	Urgent
	Development of the stone conservation project	Urgent
	Development of the detailed infrastructural project	Ongoing
	Establishment of design guidelines for new elements	Ongoing
	Develop a monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation	
	Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term	
	Planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance	
Archaeological Site of Armaztsikhe-Bagineti	Survey for the identification of the different kind building materials and their Physical properties	
	Detailed mapping of the different type materials and degradations	
	Development of the stone conservation project	
	Development of the detailed infrastructural project	Ongoing
	Establishment of design guidelines for new elements	Ongoing
	Develop a monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation	
	Elaborating the maintenance guidelines, for both short and long term	
	Planning the actions to raise the awareness of the value and the maintenance	

Note:

The conservation plan should be prepared in accordance with the general requirements published in the different WHS-related documents, including the following:

- Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites (Fielden and Jokilehto, 1998);
- Management Plans for World Heritage Sites, A practical guide (Birgitta Ringbeck, 2008)
- Managing cultural World Heritage (UNESCO, 2013)
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO 2012)

- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS, 1964)
- Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (ICOMOS 1987)
- Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage (ICOMOS 1990)
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972)
- Nara Declaration on Authenticity (UNESCO 1994)

5. Annex

40 Session of the World Heritage Committee, Istanbul, Turkey. July, 2016.

Conser-

vation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2016

On 29 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>, providing updated information on the implementation of the corrective measures, as well as details on conservation efforts and archaeological excavations at the property as follows:

- Progress has been reported on the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP), expected to be finalized by 2016. Further work on the Master Plan is required following the recommendations made by the National Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NACHPG) and the World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions in November 2015 and February 2016. Until the official adoption of the ULUMP, the August 2015 adopted Decree on the Enactment of Special Regime of Urban Development Regulation in the Cultural Heritage Zone of Mtskheta imposes a strong moratorium on new constructions;
- The Draft Code on Cultural Heritage is in its finalization stage and expected to be submitted to the Georgian Parliament for approval in the first quarter of 2016;
- A special chapter on protection and management of World Heritage in Georgia is included in the Draft Code on Cultural Heritage and will serve as a basis for the official approval of the Management Plan. The Draft Code was prepared in the framework of the EU-funded Twinning programme. No further progress was reported by the State Party;
- The new Archaeological Museum project is one of the activities to be implemented under the third Regional Development Project (RDP III) by the Government of Georgia with World Bank funding. The new museum should allow for the proper conservation and presentation of the archaeological collection of the former Mtskheta museum, which is currently in storage. The new museum will reuse the former cinema, built during the Soviet period, designed as a cultural building with two functions, a showcase for the archaeological site and a cinema theatre. This project was submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre in June 2015 and submitted to ICOMOS for a technical review as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. ICOMOS' main recommendations were to further define the museographic functional programme and to respect the modern heritage values of the former cinema building.

The State Party reports that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NACHPG and ICCROM in December 2015 concerning the creation of a training platform in the field of cultural heritage in Georgia.

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

It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the important work and commitment by the State Party to ensure that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) forms the core of the development of the ULUMP. Although the ULUMP has yet to be finalized and adopted, the State Party has advanced its contents and taken measures through the Decree on Urban Development to provide further protection to the property. This Decree halts building activities in the sensitive areas along the banks of the river, particularly those on the side of the Jvari monastery.

The signature in October 2015 of the Georgia/UNESCO agreement project *Cultural heritage advisory service to the NACHP to be implemented under the Third Regional Development Project*

(RDP III) should also be acknowledged. This project mainly focuses on technical and upstream assistance, including assisting the elaboration of the Mtskheta ULUMP.

The guiding principles and primary goals of the ULUMP are strongly supported. However, as highlighted by the November 2015 World Heritage Centre technical assistance mission and the ICOMOS technical review, there is a need to strengthen the strategic spatial planning vision for the whole of the City of Mtskheta and revise the methodology used to establish the ULUMP and refer to international standards as recommended by the technical mission.

In terms of governance and decision-making, the technical mission recommended that the governance issue at the local level needs to be addressed in order to ensure adequate planning, efficient management and decision making.

Capacity building should be provided to the local government. The local authorities with the support of the national authorities should also be encouraged to develop a stakeholder involvement strategy and methodology, together with communication tools. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for setting up a stakeholder committee for the ULUMP and encourage the creation of a technical working committee to ensure that a shared and integrated approach is used for the ULUMP. In addition, it is recommended 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).

With respect to the administrative borders of the self-governing city of Mtskheta, the mission noted that the existing municipal borders are inadequate for correct planning and management of the World Heritage property, as the Jvari church, one of the components of the property, which is included in the national park, lies beyond the Mtskheta town borders. Furthermore, the property remains without an adequate buffer zone encompassing the landscape surrounding the heritage components. Therefore the Committee's request for a minor boundary modification of the unified buffer zone of the property remains crucial and needs to be addressed by the authorities in conjunction with the further development of the ULUMP.

The 2015 technical assistance mission recommended, in line with the ICOMOS technical review, that the museum project should respect the archaeological site, meet the requirements of the museum collection currently in storage and preserve the architectural integrity of the modern building. The State Party has decided to undertake a specific urban landscape study concerning the integration of the museum project within the surrounding urban context and in connexion with all components of the World Heritage property.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to take into consideration the recommendations provided by the World Heritage Centre technical assistance mission and by ICOMOS and that it retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Decision: **40 COM 7A.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Welcomes the important work and commitment by the State Party to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) forms the core of the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP);
4. Notes the measures taken by the authorities to guarantee protection to the property through the Decree on the Moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization as well as a revised ULUMP which has yet to be finalized and implemented in accordance with World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS recommendations;
5. **Decides to remove the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
6. Recommends that the State Party take into consideration the recommendations provided by the 2015 and 2016 World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions, and by ICOMOS, notably to:
 1. Strengthen the strategic spatial planning vision and ensure 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),
 2. Address the governance issue at the local level in order to ensure adequate planning, efficient management and decision making,
 3. Pursue a stakeholder involvement strategy and methodology, together with communication tools,
 4. Review the administrative borders especially in relation to the Jvari site, in order to finalize and implement the ULUMP including supportive land use regulations, and a management plan, and also continue to ensure the long term conservation of monuments and archaeological sites through the development of adequate plans and restoration programmes;
7. Welcomes the establishment of a unified buffer zone, encompassing the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting and requests the State Party to provide this enlarged buffer zone with appropriate protection, and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Also welcomes the initiative of the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations;
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, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

39 Session of the World Heritage Committee, Bonn, Germany. June, 2015

Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

On 30 January 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents>. It provides information on archaeological excavation and conservation works, and the progress made with the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), as follows:

- *Urban Land-Use Master Plan*: The proposed tripartite co-operation agreement with the World Bank, UNESCO and Georgia, shall provide further assistance in the development of this Master Plan, as well as address the remaining corrective measures.
- *Zoning regulations*: Recommendations regarding the modification of the boundaries of the cultural heritage protection zones and the buffer zones of the World Heritage property were transmitted to the town administration and shall be taken into consideration in the Urban Land-Use Master Plan.
- *Management plan*: The management plan, completed in 2012, has to date not been formally adopted. The State Party expects that the national Law on World Heritage in Georgia will provide the necessary legal basis for its adoption. In addition, the management framework for Mtskheta has been improved by the 2014 adopted Local Self-Government Code, which bestows the city administration with its own funding and decision making rights. Improved cooperation is foreseen through the memorandum of cooperation signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Representative of the Patriarchate of Georgia.
- *Development projects*: The Third Regional Development Project, funded by the World Bank, includes numerous rehabilitation, construction and archaeological works, such as, among others, construction of a visitor centre at Jvari Church. Two projects “The Mtskheta Jvari (Holy Cross) infrastructure project (II stage)” and “The church of Holy Transfiguration of the Saviour, Tomb of Holy Father St. Gabriel and Fool for Christ, Samtavro Monastery in Mtskheta” were submitted by the authorities for ICOMOS review.

In November 2014, a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property assessed its state of conservation, as well as the progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures, in view of the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission has made a number of observations and recommendations which are essential for implementing the remaining corrective measures.

Moreover, a joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission to the property defined the priorities for development of a project on Sustainable Development of the World Heritage City of Mtskheta within the framework of the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendations. Both mission reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents>.

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

The State Party’s efforts to address the corrective measures and to develop a range of legal measures and protection mechanisms are acknowledged. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to address all remaining measures, such as the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan, to increase the levels of protection to the property. The property has neither appropriate buffer zone nor conservation master plan. These tools have been discussed during the recent missions and are part of the Georgian authority’s commitment.

The mission noted that the Committee’s decisions regarding the cultural landscape setting have not been addressed and no attempt has been made to prevent inappropriate constructions on

the Aragvi and Mtgvvari rivers banks which have an impact on the setting of the property. Due to the absence of master plan, new developments have resulted in numerous heterogeneous buildings being constructed which, in terms of morphology, volume and layout, reflect patchy city-planning in this most sensitive site area of the city.

The mission recommended that a more effective monitoring mechanism should be developed in the Urban Master Plan regarding the location, density, control of volumes, heights and views of any new town buildings, in order to maintain the dominating presence of the historical monuments over the Mtskheta City. The mission further recommended including zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, clearly detailed and outlined development zones and a conservation master plan which should take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, its specific landscape setting, as well as important views and visual connection lines.

Work on the new Justice House had started but has been stopped at the request of the Committee as the new building had negative impact on one of the components of the property. A new proposal for the House of Justice was reviewed by the mission. A new location has been chosen by the authorities and the design has been reviewed after taking on board comments by ICOMOS. The mission agreed that the new location is more suitable but at the same time the mission report notes that some minor changes to the design are recommended, such as breaking up the mass. It is also recommended that the space next to the river should not be built upon and developed, as it ensures visual connection between the property components and has an important cultural significance. The State Party is invited to develop a project for the recreation area along the Aragvi river bank which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment is made. The recommendations and suggestions made by the mission should be addressed by the State Party.

A proposal for a modification of the boundaries of the buffer zones of the World Heritage property should be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, prior to any further works being completed on the Urban Land-Use Master Plan.

It is hoped that the planned tripartite cooperation between the State Party, the World Bank and the World Heritage Centre can assist the State Party in implementing the remaining corrective measures.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to suspend any construction in the zone next to the Aragvi and Mtgvvari rivers banks and promote the adoption of a non *aedificandi* zone as long as the Urban Master Plan and unified buffer zone are not approved and implemented to curb uncontrolled development.

Finally, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the examination of its state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

Decision: **39 COM 7A.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and, more particularly, introducing a moratorium on any development in the zone next to the Aragvi and Mgtvari rivers banks declared as a non aedificandi zone until the Urban Land-Use Master Plan and unified buffer zone are approved and implemented to curb uncontrolled development;
4. Notes with appreciation that an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism has been established with the purpose to ensure that the conservation of World Heritage properties receive priority consideration within the governmental decision-making processes and that a Heritage Code and a World Heritage law are currently in the last stages of approval by the respective authorities and encourages the State Party to sustain these efforts and to secure that all necessary resources and regulatory regimes are in place;
5. Acknowledges the steps taken in addressing the corrective measures through training and capacity building activities, as well as the development, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and partnership with the World Bank, of a project towards the completion of the Urban Master Plan, as well as strengthening the management system through the self-governing status bestowed to the City of Mtskheta and the cooperation agreement with the Patriarchate of Georgia, ensuring co-management of protection and conservation of historical churches;
6. Takes note of the findings and recommendations made by the joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and the joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank Advisory mission, carried out to the property in November 2014;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a unified buffer zone, to encompass the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, and provide this enlarged buffer zone with appropriate protection, and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre, prior to any further works being completed on the Urban Land-Use Master Plan;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments, for all proposed projects that may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
10. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to examine the implementation of the corrective measures at its 40th session in 2016, in view of the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

38 Session of the World Heritage Committee, Doha, Qatar. 2014.

Conser-

vation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

On 31 January 2014, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>.

The report includes final report of the investigations in Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, and a report of the project Conservation of Armaztsikhe Archaeological Site, that addresses the progress made with the implementation of the corrective measures.

The State Party reported that the project for the Waste Water Treatment Plan has been cancelled by the local municipality, in accordance with the Decision of the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party highlighted that the main factor affecting the property still remains the lack of legal management instruments, and informed that a national Law on World Heritage properties is under development by the authorities, which will offer the possibility to adopt efficient protection and management instruments.

The State Party also informed that work is continuing on the Urban Land-Use Master Plan, including zoning regulations with no-construction zones, and strict limits on development rights, and it is planned to complete this by the end of 2014. The buffer zone will be defined as part of this zoning plan.

The State Party also submitted a draft of a World Heritage State Programme, prepared in conformity with the World Heritage Committee Decisions **36 COM 7A.31**, **37 COM 7A.33** and based on the Strategic Objectives for the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* (5Cs), and requested comments from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

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

There has been progress in implementing the corrective measures, including the Land Use Plan, the implementation of the multi component conservation programme, and improvements to the legal framework and the Management Plan for Mtskheta, are in progress.

ICOMOS has provided comments to the State Party on the draft Management Plan which stress the need to clearly identify the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as the basis for the Management Plan, as well as the need for legal and planning protection.

In relation to the proposed Urban Land Use Master Plan and zoning regulations, ICOMOS provided to the State Party its comment on proposed development within a zone situated between the Samtavro Monastery and Samtavro burial ground. It concluded that any development within this zone could have a highly adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and that the entire zone should be declared a zone of “absolute protection”. It was further recommended that the concept of the development zones should be re-thought on the basis of a full understanding of the extent of archaeological areas, and a survey of the relationship between the sites and their landscape setting which has fundamentally shaped their development.

The State Party has also informed that all inappropriate developments within the property and its setting have been halted, including the waste water treatment plant.

It should also be noted that the State Party plans to implement all corrective measures by the end of 2014 and to submit in 2015 a proposal for a minor boundary modification of Mtskheta to allow the establishment of a unified buffer zone.

The World Heritage Committee is recommended to request the State Party to invite a ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in early 2015 to assess the progress achieved in implementing all corrective measures in order to reach the Desired State of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee is also recommended to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the examination of its state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

Decision: **38 COM 7A.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7A.27**, **35 COM 7A.30**, **36 COM 7A.31** and **37 COM 7A.33** adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the detailed information provided by the State Party on the progress made to implement the corrective measures and urges the State Party to finalise its work on all the corrective measures adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) by the end of 2014, including to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, the Urban Land-Use Master Plan, including zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, strict limits to development rights and a conservation master plan and which should take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, its specific landscape setting, as well as important views and connection lines;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress achieved in implementing all corrective measures in order to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide advice to the State Party in finalising the Management Plan and the World Heritage State Programme;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of all corrective measures, as well as a minor boundary modification proposal for a unified buffer zone of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
7. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

37 Session of the World Heritage Committee, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. 2013.

Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

On 31 January 2013, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report that addresses the progress made with the implementation of the corrective measures in view of the future removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

a) Boundary issues

The draft Management plan elaborated in 2012 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2012 envisages a definition of the management area which is also a proposed buffer zone of the property. No minor boundary modification has been submitted yet as the draft management plan is under review by the Advisory Bodies. The National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia plans to continue the topographic and archaeological surface surveys.

b) Management Plan

The elaboration of the draft management plan has been piloted by a Steering Committee and elaborated with the participation of a large number of stakeholders. The authorities envisage signing an agreement between the stakeholders to assign specific responsibilities concerning the implementation of the Management Plan. The State Party underlined in the report that the new government of Georgia, in place since October 2012, considers the possibility of the development of a national law for World Heritage. The State Party also envisages the inclusion of the Management Plan in the respective Georgian legislation and making it a mandatory instrument for management of the World Heritage properties in Georgia.

ICOMOS has provided comments on the Plan which stress the need to clearly identify the attributes of outstanding universal value as the basis for the Plan, as well as the need for legal and planning protection. The plan underlines the importance of the 'natural', 'cultural' and 'urban' environment but, if these are to be protected and sustained, a clearer understanding of their scope and relationship to Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is needed, and of the proposed legislative and planning tools.

c) Urban development pressure and Urban Land Use Master Plan

The State Party report informs that the developments within the property and its setting have been halted and that different possibilities are explored to mitigate the impact of already implemented interventions. Possibilities are also being explored to stop all development works in the vicinity of the property within the sensitive area of the river Mtkvari bank, between the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari church. The system of cultural heritage protection zones, introduced in 2006, was amended on 17 September 2012 by the decree of the Prime Minister of Georgia, to allow controlled developments in certain parts of the town. The State Party also informs that the elaboration of a Land Use Master Plan, which has been temporarily suspended in 2012, will be finalized in 2013.

On 21 February 2013, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, an Environmental Impact Assessment for the project of a waste water treatment plant for the town of Mtskheta, proposed to be located in a sensitive area on the right bank of the river Aragvi.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed plant would have a very high negative impact on the whole panorama of the area between Jvari Church and the city of Mtskheta. The plant would be sited in the open flat area, between the Svetitskhoveli church and one of the most respected religious monuments in Georgia, Jvari Church, and the third important monumental element in Mtskheta, namely the Armaztikhe acropolis. If built, the view of it from Jvari church, the highest point of the area, would be practically impossible to conceal, regardless of its height or of the planned 400 trees, because the tanks would appear directly in the view. The significance of the chosen site is further reinforced by the "A Heritage and Tourism Master Plan for Mtskheta, Georgia, UNESCO/UNDP Pilot Project, Final report, 2003, Paris", which describes the site as significant for

its connection between the natural environment and the monumental components of the property, and by the Management Plan.

d) Long-term consolidation, conservation and monitoring measures

Jvari Monastery

The State Party reported that the two year stone conservation programme of this monument was completed in 2012 by ICCROM. The conservation of the stone relief of Jvari main church as well as other important fragments is completed according to highest international standards. The project implied (a) conservation of the relief depicting angels bearing up the Holy Cross above the entrance to the church, (b) conservation work on the hood moulds above the windows on the eastern façade of the church, (c) evaluation of the efficiency of the conservation of the reliefs on the apse of the Church.

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

The State Party informed that a long term stone conservation programme is planned for Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. In 2012 the preliminary assessment and stone types survey was carried out. The conservation of most urgent parts will take place in 2013 and will continue further according to the set schedule. International experts, including an ICCROM expert, have been contracted to elaborate short and long-term action plans for different conservation issues of the Cathedral. The conclusions of the 2012 preliminary assessment mission were submitted by the State Party, as part of the report. A safety assessment is planned for 2013. The emergency consolidation works of endangered stone parts (the upper part of the Western façade) is planned to be implemented in 2013 by the ICCROM expert.

Armaztsikhe-Bagineti archaeological site

The National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, with financial support from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, implemented conservation and rehabilitation of this archeological site that included: (a) conservation of the “King’s bathhouse”, (b) conservation of the gymnasium, (c) cleaning of the site, (d) development of infrastructure of the site.

e) State Programme for Cultural Heritage in Georgia - towards a strategic World Heritage country programming

The State Party report highlights the interest of the new government to develop, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a “5C” Strategic World Heritage Programme.

f) Other issues

With a view of obtaining Enhanced Protection of Mtskheta in compliance with the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the State authorities also prepared a dossier on the World Heritage property of Mtskheta as part of the project “War Free World Heritage cities” within the programme “Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue” (CIUDAD).

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures, including the elaboration of a Management Plan

and the implementation of the multi component conservation programme. They take note that the definition of the buffer zone will be put forward for approval, once the Management Plan has been adopted.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies point out that while the State Party has halted the developments within the property and its setting and that different possibilities are explored to mitigate the impact of already implemented interventions, it should also, in conformity with the adopted corrective measures: (a) Establish clear operating plans and strict limits to development rights and management regulations within the property and its buffer zone to ensure long term protection and conservation of the property; (b) Ensure that development rights on existing private or leased lands are clearly defined and strictly controlled; (c) Adopt and implement the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including all aspects of infrastructure rehabilitation, zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones; (d) Make publicly available the information on land-use for all lands within the property and its buffer zone, in easily accessible format, to ensure transparency in land-use and allocations.

They also note the potential high negative impact of the proposed water treatment plant on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and consider that notwithstanding the desirability of building such a plant, a new location needs to be chosen that does not impact on the extremely important links between the religious monuments and the riverside landscape that provides their essential context, as is identified in the Management Plan.

Taking into account that the property is an ensemble of religious monuments within a very sensitive historical environment, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that the World Heritage Committee retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the adoption of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan which takes into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, its specific landscape setting, as well as important views and connection lines.

Decision: **37 COM 7A.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7A.27**, **35 COM 7A.30** and **36 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the detailed information provided by the State Party on the progress made to implement the corrective measures and urges the State Party to continue its work on all the corrective measures adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010);
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal for a unified buffer zone of the property to enhance the protection of the property and to allow a clear understanding of the archaeological and visually sensitive areas around the property;

5. Notes that a draft Management Plan was submitted by the State Party and encourages the State Party to strengthen the Plan by clearly identifying the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value as the basis for legal protection, planning processes and management;
6. Also notes that the State Party has halted inappropriate developments within the property and its setting and also urges the State Party to finalize the Urban Land-Use Master Plan, including zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, strict limits to development rights and a conservation master plan and which should take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, its specific landscape setting, as well as important views and connection lines;
7. Encourages the State Party to adopt as a matter of urgency the Urban Land-Use Master Plan as a major step towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Notes with concern that the proposed location of the waste water treatment plant would have a highly negative impact on the sensitive river landscape that forms the setting for the monuments, and requests the State Party as a matter of urgency to re-locate the plant to a position that does not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
9. Takes note that the State Party plans to develop a national law for World Heritage properties in Georgia, as well as a “5C World Heritage Programming Approach”;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014** , an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014;
11. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

36 Session of the World Heritage Committee, Saint-Petersburg, Russia. 2012.

Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

On 31 January 2012 the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report that addresses progress with the implementation of the corrective measures, including conservation work at Jvari Monastery, surveys of Svctitskhoveli Cathedral, clarification of boundaries and progress with the Management Plan. Details are also provided regarding a proposed visitor centre at Jvari Monastery.

A joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property between 23 and 28 April 2012, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011).

a) Boundaries issues

The State Party has submitted to the World Heritage Centre updated retrospective cartographic documentation clarifying the boundaries of the property. However, the mission reported that there has not yet been any definition of the buffer zone. This work is seen as a pre-condition for the development of the Management Plan and for possible minor boundary modification of the property.

b) Management Plan

The State Party reported that the drafting of the Management Plan will take place during 2012 within the framework of an approved International Assistance Request and with the support of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation. This project will also consider the management system for the property and the possibility of establishing working groups to allow for the participation of representatives of the church authorities, NGOs and the Mtskheta civil society. The mission stressed the need for the Management Plan to acknowledge that the property is an ensemble of religious monuments within a very sensitive historical environment and thus needs to be managed as a cultural landscape.

c) Long-term consolidation, conservation and monitoring measures

The State Party reported that during 2012, a comprehensive conservation assessment of archaeological components of the property was undertaken and recommendations set out for their management. Conservation work was carried out on the roof, walls and stone plaques of the Jvari monastery, with the participation of an ICCROM expert, and of the wall paintings in the southern part of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. At the Cathedral, another capacity-training project headed by an international expert addressed the production of up to date measured drawings during 2010-2011. This resulted in a full set of measured drawings for the Cathedral that will form the basis for developing a comprehensive conservation plan. At Samtavro nunnery, a project is being prepared to strengthen the southern support wall taking into account the 2010 mission recommendations.

The State Party reported that in 2011 the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation had allocated a special budget for monitoring of the property. In addition, a special project was implemented for monitoring the groundwater fluctuations around Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. It is anticipated that by the end of 2012, additional monitoring mechanisms will be proposed for all elements of the property.

d) Proposal for a Visitor Centre at Jvari Monastery

The State Party included in its report revised plans for the visitor centre at Jvari Monastery. These are said to take into account the comments made by ICOMOS on the initial plans in 2011. These plans will now be reviewed by ICOMOS and comments sent to the State Party.

e) Urban Land-Use Master Plan

At the initiative of the local authorities, work has begun on a systematic data collection of the urban topology, related development and other studies. This data will form the basis for an Urban Master Plan of the town which is being prepared and is due to be completed by the end of the year.

f) Urban development pressure

The 2010 mission report highlighted the need for special care to be given to the sensitive area extending along the river Mtkvari bank, between the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari church. It recommended that the area where the rivers converge should not be developed and that the historic landscape be restored. However, the 2012 mission noted that the State departments, in cooperation with the local authorities have proceeded with the construction of new administrative buildings (Police and Courts buildings and Conference Hall) in this area. The 2012 mission was also informed that a new Museum building is to be erected on the same area, the plans of which have already been approved, as well as a hotel complex. The mission also saw a new tourist information building in front of the entrance of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, constructed in inappropriate style without any respect of the property's value.

The 2012 mission noted that these considerable developments have been undertaken within one of the most sensitive areas of the property, in the visual corridor between the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and the Jvari hill, is currently being assessed independently of the directions that may be developed by the Urban Master Plan and the Management Plan that are both under preparation. The mission further noted that although all these interventions have an immediate impact on the property, they have not been notified to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

g) State Programme for Cultural Heritage in Georgia - towards a strategic World Heritage country programming

The World Heritage Centre has been informed by the World Bank that a "Regional Development Program: An Integrated Approach to Urban Regeneration, Cultural and Natural Heritage for Economic Growth and Job Creation" is under implementation in Georgia. On 23 April 2012, the Minister of Finance of Georgia presented an "Innovative Approach to Regional Development" during a meeting organised by the Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Thematic Group, the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Sustainable Development Department and the South Caucasus Regional Management Unit at the World Bank Headquarters.

The 2012 mission has been informed that the Governor of Mtskheta discussed with the World Bank representative the possibility to extend this project to Mtskheta. The mission recommended to the authorities to establish, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a global approach for all projects and activities which could be developed for the World Heritage properties in Georgia.

During the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the National Commission of Georgia for UNESCO, the mission underlined the urgency to develop this global approach towards a strategic World Heritage country programming in coherence and alignment with the State Programme for the protection of Georgian cultural heritage prepared by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation. It was discussed that this country-based approach could be developed using the 5C Strategic Objectives in order to achieve greater coherence, efficiency and effectiveness at country level of all activities related to the protection, management and use of the World Heritage properties, and to avoid fragmentation and duplication of projects and activities.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the detailed report from the State Party which includes and assessment of what has so far been achieved – identified as strengths, and

its conclusion that the main weakness is the lack of a Management Plan and of a consolidated vision for the development of the property, both of which will be addressed this year.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies wish to highlight to the Committee their concern that despite the 2010 mission recommendation regarding the sensitive area extending along the river Mtkvari bank, between the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari church, the State Party authorised new constructions in this area and plans new developments which will impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, without any submission of these projects to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review and comments prior to any approval.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies underscore the fact that Mtskheta is an ensemble of religious monuments within a very sensitive historical environment. Taking into account that the most sensitive areas of Mtskheta's landscape are being compromised by new buildings, they recommend that the World Heritage Committee retains the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies suggest that the World Heritage Committee might recommend that the State Party develop a national law for all World Heritage properties in Georgia, as well as initiate a "5C strategic World Heritage country programme" proposal. This could serve as a consolidated basis for cooperation within the country to enhance the implementation of its commitments within the framework of the *World Heritage Convention* and take into account the need for a more sustainable longer-term approach. It could be developed on the basis of the analysis of the challenges, corrective measures and the national priorities and strategies as set out in the Periodic Report.

Decision: **36 COM 7A.31**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.30** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Acknowledges the detailed information provided by the State Party on the progress made to implement the corrective measures and urges the State Party to continue its work on all the corrective measures adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010);
4. Also urges the State Party to define the buffer zone of the property to allow a clear understanding of the archaeological and visually sensitive areas around the property and to submit this proposal as a minor boundary modification of the property;
5. Expresses its great concern regarding developments being undertaken by the State Party in the vicinity of the property within the area of the river Mtkvari bank, between the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari church, and further urges the State Party to halt developments within the property and its setting until details of proposed developments, together with Heritage Impact

Assessments, have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review and comments by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions have been made;

6. Notes that the State Party intends to complete a Management Plan for the property by the end of 2012, requests the State Party to ensure that this Plan recognises that the property is an ensemble of religious monuments within a very sensitive historical environment, and also requests it to submit the draft of this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Invites the State Party to consider the development of a national law for all World Heritage properties in Georgia;

8. Further requests the State Party, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to develop a “5C strategic World Heritage country programme” proposal, based on the State Programme for the protection of Georgian cultural heritage, to serve as a consolidated basis for cooperation within the State Party to enhance the implementation of its commitments within the framework of the World Heritage Convention;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;

10. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

35 Session of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO. 2011.
--

Conser-

vation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

On 2 February 2011 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report addressing the issues identified by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). While this report provides updated information on progress towards removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party notes slow progress.

a) Topographic and archaeological surface surveys

The State Party report does not note any progress in undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys.

b) Boundary issues

The State Party report notes that cartographic documentation using modern technologies to define the boundaries of the nominated property has been updated. Similar efforts for the buffer zone were less successful as conditions and land ownership have changed since inscription. On 4 March 2011, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the boundaries of all three

components of the serial property (the Sveti Tskhoveli Church, the Samtavro Church and Monastery, and the Mtskheta Jvari), have been recently clarified. Thus the first option proposed by the 2010 reactive monitoring mission, which does not involve a re-nomination, has been chosen by the authorities. However, the State Party notes that a possible modification of the boundary of the property might be proposed in the future, in order to include additional components of great archaeological importance. The State Party states that the clarified boundaries of the buffer zone will be submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

c) Training programme for the conservation and management of the site

The State Party reports that it is developing a long term training programme for conservation specialists and heritage managers with the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at Leuven (Belgium).

d) Monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation of the buildings and archaeological sites

The State Party reports that monitoring of cultural heritage sites in Georgia is carried out by means of annual visits to sites to determine priorities for prevention, conservation or rehabilitation and repair, and that no additional monitoring mechanism has been put in place for the property.

e) Long-term conservation and consolidation measures

The State Party indicates that its priorities for conservation are those of the joint reactive monitoring mission of March 2010, although these are not spelled out. The report further notes that priorities include the rehabilitation of the Jvari monastery, the conservation of wall paintings of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, and the rehabilitation of the Samtavro nunnery bell tower.

Specific details are provided for individual sites. At Jvari Monastery, urgent measures have been taken to assess the condition of the western part of the main church and discussions on the problems of stone conservation have been held with an ICCROM stone conservation expert, who has developed a project proposal for the conservation of Jvari bas-reliefs. The project proposal for the conservation of the Minor Jvari church will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre shortly along with a proposal for rehabilitation of visitor infrastructure.

Concerning the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, UNESCO supported financially a project to prepare a full set of up-to-date measured drawings. In 2010 a project was carried out to estimate the annual fluctuation of the groundwater level in the area of the Cathedral. Plans for 2011 include the conservation of the wall paintings on the southern wall of the Cathedral, minor repair works for the roof and the replacement of gutters and drainpipes. The conservation of the wall paintings has been included in the 2011 priorities as well as in the Action Plan of the National agency.

In 2010, a project for the rehabilitation of the bell tower at the Samtavro nunnery was prepared and its implementation included in the 2011 Action Plan of the National Agency.

f) Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

In 2010 the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation prepared a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta. This proposal needs to be redrafted by the State Party in response to comments by ICOMOS.

g) Management plan

The preparation of a management plan for the property is partially financially supported by the World Heritage Fund. The project, co-funded by the national authorities, will be implemented in 2011 as soon as the detailed updated action plan has been finalised. It is proposed that national and local authorities be assisted by an international expert team in designing a scheme for improved management of the property.

h) Institutional framework

According to the Constitutional agreement between the State and the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia, all Georgian monuments connected to Orthodox Christianity (even in ruins) as well as their land and archaeological remains, which include the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Jvari church ensemble and Samtavro nunnery, are under the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church.

The State Party report mentions that consensus with the local authorities has not yet been achieved with regard to preventing inappropriate land use and land privatisation in the vicinity of the property. The means to achieve the desired consensus includes continued discussion, awareness-raising and exchange of information.

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

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the State Party's efforts to implement the World Heritage Committee's decision of the 34th session and in particular the approved corrective measures. The authorities plan to improve in 2011 the coordination among the institutional stakeholders through the completion of the Management Plan, as well as to develop scientific research and study of individual monuments.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the information concerning clarification of the boundaries of the property and that the boundaries of the buffer zone will be submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012. They note that any extension of the property in order to include additional components situated in the City of Mtskheta, and perhaps in Great Mtskheta and its surroundings, would represent a significant modification and thus require a re-nomination. They suggest that the buffer zone should include the landscape surrounding all components; in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, or that alternative means of protection should be put in place for the wider setting beyond the buffer zone.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the lack of consensus around conservation priorities among the local and national authorities. They regret that the State Party did not provide the detailed information that had been requested regarding the development and implementation of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including its operating plans and conservation master plan. This Master Plan should address all aspects of infrastructure rehabilitation, zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, institutional reform and capacity building, community relations, and tourism development. While the tram system mentioned in the report might be a positive development for the city, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that such a project cannot be considered outside the provisions of the Urban Master Plan. Moreover, impact assessment studies should be undertaken to address the effects of this project, such as the displacement of traffic to historic and residential areas.

Decision: **35 COM 7A.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7B.27** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions with regard to the corrective measures aimed at future removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
4. Urges the State Party to submit proposals for a buffer zone as a minor boundary modification, as well as to develop and finalize the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta;
5. Also urges the State Party to adopt legislation that ensures adequate protection of the property and of any defined buffer zone and wider setting so as to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Encourages the State Party to continue developing strategies to enhance awareness of World Heritage among stakeholders and developers;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress in the implementation of the corrective measures;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a detailed state of conservation report, including a progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;
9. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

34 Session of the World Heritage Committee, Brasilia, Brazil. 2010.

Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session expressed its serious concern about the state of conservation of the different components of the property and “noted with regret that some components have lost their authenticity due to restoration works conducted with unacceptable methods”. The Committee further regretted that the State Party report did not adequately address the preparation of legal and technical provisions to address the various threats, the aspect of land privatization, the development of an integrated management plan and the development of a special programme on the protection of all archaeological components, as well as documents clarifying the exact boundaries of the protected area of the property and its buffer zone. The Committee decided to inscribe the Historic Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger and urged the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and a proposed desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

On 29 January 2010, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which addresses point by point the requests made by the Committee during its 32nd session, but does not address the additional requests made by the Committee during its 33rd session. The report contains supplementary observations on progress towards removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, success factors and difficulties in implementing necessary corrective measures and observations on other conservation issues, including celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, progress in rehabilitating the Mtskheta Museum, and organisation of a Donor's Conference.

The State Party reports that it is studying the issue concerning the land privatization in order to reach consensus, that the development of an integrated management plan is in process, that it has been working on the project of boundary clarification, as well as that a Special State Commission on World Heritage has been established by decree on 14 July 2009. The State Party also reports on projects for roofing some excavated archaeological areas, on further excavations in the Samtavro necropolis, and efforts to fundraise for further archaeological conservation. Concerning the Committee's request to implement a multi-stakeholder approach to the conservation of Jvari Church, the State Party reports technical progress on a proposed wooden roof to prevent further damage to the interior of this church and ongoing research to identify methodologies which will prevent further decay.

The State Party acknowledges the importance of "corrective measures" and notes that it would use the budget allocated to the property in 2010 to attempt to carry out necessary corrective measures.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS / ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property was undertaken from 11 to 17 March 2010, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session.

The mission expressed its serious concern about the state of conservation of the components of the World Heritage property monuments. Although partial positive measures have been taken by the State Party, the main threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property that resulted in the property being placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger continue to exist. The mission noted with concern structural problems, lack of conservation, lack of consolidation of excavated remains, uncontrolled development, and lack of collaboration with the monastic community.

The mission noted that the land privatization process has been stopped. However, the mission expressed its concern about the projects which the Municipality plans to develop on the river bank in the vicinity of the World Heritage property. The mission recommends stopping any development before the boundary clarification is completed, as well as before the preparation and legal approval of the "Special Statement on protection of World Heritage properties in Georgia" defining the World Heritage property's status, the World Heritage property's strict protected areas and its buffer zones with all necessary restrictive regulations. The mission recommended that any development projects (including a project for the recreation area) should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment has been made.

The mission recommended that a constant collaboration be established between the Patriarchate Technical office and the monastic communities in the functioning monasteries. In parallel, a constant collaboration should be established between the Patriarchate Technical office and the

National Agency for Cultural Heritage Protection. The mission noted that it was essential that the appropriate functions, in the context of the various liturgical and non-liturgical possibilities for the continuing use of buildings of religious significance, inside the monumental religious buildings and ensembles of the World Heritage property should be clarified by the *“Special Statement on protection of the World Heritage properties in Georgia”* and reflected in the Integrated management plan

The mission noted that many of the conservation issues cited in the mission report could be addressed through the implementation of a long term regional training programme which would be aimed at a broad spectrum of target groups and would cover an equally broad range of conservation issues. It recommended, therefore, that any training activities initiated in the field of Cultural Heritage Conservation should from now on always include members of the Clergy, in order that they develop an understanding as to how to approach the conservation of ancient religious buildings.

The mission report also included specific recommendations for the three component parts of the property and also for key monuments and sites in its buffer zone.

Following numerous consultations with the national and local authorities and site visits, the mission prepared a draft desired state of conservation for the property, for its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the necessary corrective measures and the timeframe for their implementation.

One of the corrective measures recommended is the "Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones" to be effected within one year. The mission recommended that the State Party consider possible options for boundary clarification/modification of the component parts of the property:

- to clarify the existing boundaries of the three components of the serial property, that is the Sveti Tskhoveli Church, the Samtavro Church and Monastery, and the Mtskhedis Jvari (The Church of the Holy Cross-Mtskheta), as well as the overall buffer zone which corresponds to the limits of the City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta and the protected area of Great Mtskheta, as inscribed in 1994. This option would not need a re-nomination;
- to consider extending the serial property, in the light of the development of a Statement of Outstanding Universal value for the property, in order to include an area as defined by a triangle of the churches of Jvari, Samtavro and Armatsikhe, as recommended in previous missions (this option would be a minor modification);
- or to extend the property in order to include additional components situated in the City of Mtskheta, and perhaps in Great Mtskheta and its surroundings that relate to the existing components and their setting and context.(this would be a major modification and need a re-nomination).

The mission also recommended that the buffer zones be established to include the landscape surrounding all components, in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting. The mission recommended that all relevant documents (legal instruments, management plan, Master Plan, Conservation Master Plan) should be developed and approved.

The mission assessed the state of conservation of property and proposed a large number of recommendations, related to conservation, management and presentation of the property and its buffer zone.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies acknowledge the positive response of the State Party to the Committee's requests to take greater responsibility for this World Heritage property.

However, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies do not consider that enough is yet being done on an urgent basis to address critical issues. The archaeological areas need an intensive conservation effort, not additional excavation. Many of the buildings need conservation and maintenance; there is a need to control development. The management regime must allow the authorities to intervene to address the threats to Outstanding Universal Value as a matter of urgency, and to co-ordinate action in all sectors in this respect without the need for further prolonged discussion or study.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the State Party should implement the defined corrective measures as a matter of urgency.

Decision: **34 COM 7A.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.102**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Notes the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Commission to ensure co-ordination of all World Heritage matters;
4. Also notes the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in March 2010;
5. Reiterates its serious concern about the state of conservation of the different components of the property, and the slow rate of progress made by the State Party in addressing urgent issues;
6. Adopts the following Desired State of Conservation for the property, for its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) The World Heritage property with clearly marked boundaries and buffer zone precisely identified,
 - b) The Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including land-use regulations and conservation master plan approved,
 - c) A comprehensive management system, including an Integrated Management Plan of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, approved,
 - d) Long-term consolidation and conservation of the historical monuments in Mtskheta ensured;
7. Adopts the following corrective measures and the timeframe for their implementation:
 - a) Changes to be effected within one year - Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by the following actions:

- Prepare adequate maps showing clear limits of all components of the property,
- Undertake topographic and archaeological surface surveys including the archaeological remains, important historical monuments and landscapes,
- Define the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys,
- Develop a 5-year training programme for the conservation and management of the site, possibly with participation at sub-regional/regional level,
- Develop a monitoring mechanism for the physical conservation of the buildings and archaeological sites,
- Define and prioritize the long-term conservation and consolidation measures within the World Heritage property;

b) Changes to be effected within one/two years - Implementation of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including operating plans and conservation master plan by the following actions:

- Establish complete cadastral information (land ownership), in publicly available and easily accessible format, for all land within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone,
- Establish clear operating plans and strict limits to development rights and management regulations within the property and its buffer zone, to ensure the long-term protection and conservation of the World Heritage property,
- Ensure that development rights on existing private or leased lands within the property are clearly defined and strictly controlled,
- Adopt and implement the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including all aspects of infrastructure rehabilitation, zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, the institutional reform and capacity building, community relations, and tourism development,
- Make publicly available the information on land-use for all lands within the property and its buffer zone, in easily accessible format, to ensure transparency in land use and allocations;

c) Changes to be effected within two/three years - Ensured site management by the following actions:

- Adopt legislation that assures the protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the whole of the World Heritage property and its component parts,
- Adopt the necessary priority for the conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets, and take pro-active measures to solicit donor support for property management and conservation,
- Develop and implement an Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, including:

a tourism strategy,

strategic guidelines for the integrated multi-stakeholder approach to the conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings,

design guidelines for new constructions and the street furniture,

clear guidelines for the type of management, religious or visitor infrastructure that can be built within the World Heritage property,

- Develop and implement a management system,
- Undertake appropriate training in conservation and management for the staff in charge of the preservation of the property,
- Establish a clear institutional coordination mechanism ensuring that the conservation of the property receives priority consideration within relevant governmental decision-making processes,
- Develop a state programme for the protection of World Heritage religious properties in Georgia, as a legal framework for co-management under which the respective responsibilities of the State Party and the Georgian Patriarchate are effectively established, monitored and evaluated in relation to the protection and conservation of the property,

d) Changes to be effected within five years (after possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2 - 3 years) - Long-term protection and conservation of the historical monuments and the archaeological remains in Mtskheta by the following actions:

- Complete the documentation and recording of all historical monuments and archaeological remains in a digitized information database for management, conservation and planning purposes,
- Establish a full inventory of paintings including digitalization and reference system for all historical monuments in Mtskheta,
- Implement restoration of the paintings,
- Develop a special programme on the protection of all archaeological components of the City of Mtskheta;

8. Urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;

9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed state of conservation report, including a progress report relevant to the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;

10. Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee, at its 32nd session (Quebec City, July 2008), expressed its serious concern about the privatization processes of land situated in the vicinity of the property, and urged the State Party to immediately halt these before the boundary clarification and the preparation of a "Special Statement on protection of World Heritage properties in Georgia" are completed. The World Heritage Committee reiterated its request to give highest priority to development of an integrated management plan for the property, and invited the State Party to establish a Special State Commission on World Heritage. Expressing its serious concern about the state of conservation of the archaeological components of the property, the World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to develop a special programme on protection of all archaeological components and indicated that, in the absence of substantial progress, it would consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The State Party state of conservation report was received on 29 January 2009 and covered:

a) Conservation

The main Church, the northern small Church, parekklession and southern building of the Jvari Monastery: Damaging impact of aggressive natural conditions on stones is still a problem during 2008. Parts of the bas-reliefs have completely disappeared. Construction issues are still the same: the damaged cupola pillars, threshold stress and cracks in the carrier structures. Some building stones around the eastern arches and around the foundation of the main church are damaged - mould, sooty walls, and cracked building stones are reported. The tiles of cupola's roofing needs immediate renovation. The small Church remains without roofing. The report underlines that the small Church has partially lost its authenticity due to the use of inappropriate materials during the "restoration" works. The conservation project for the small Jvari Church has been prepared. These existing damages are only planned to be addressed in 2009. The joint ICCROM project on conservation of the Saint Cross Monastery is still under implementation. In 2008, the Small Jvari Church Site Development Plan was completed and works were started to develop a conservation plan.

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, the Bell Tower, Catholicos-Patriarch Melchisedec Palace, Catholicos-Patriarch Antony Palace, The Defence Wall: The report noted that parts of the Cathedral walls are disintegrating and in a wrecking state, some building stones of the northern façade are partially demolished, the tiles of roof are partially cracked, the increased humidity damaged the frescoes. The state of conservation of wall paintings should be studied. The XVIIth century Bell Tower was demolished; the gates of Catholicos- Patriarch Melchisedec Palace urgently need rehabilitation-works. The State Party is monitoring Svetitskhoveli Cathedral to assess its structural state and develop a detailed plan to ensure conservation of the frescos. The report states that the Palace of Catholicos - Patriarch Anton II in the South-Eastern part of a courtyard, reconstructed between 2001 – 2004 has partially lost its authenticity.

Samtavro Nunnery: The report informed that the problem of roofing of the Cathedral still remains unresolved. The original tiled roofing should be restored. In the Cathedral, archaeological research has not been completed. The northern and southern annexes of the Cathedral need archaeological research, as well as the territory inside the defence wall. The Bell tower significantly bended to the Cathedral needs comprehensive research and conservation works should be implemented on the remains of the King Mirian Palace. In 2008, the restoration works were concluded, which aimed at restoring the bearing wall adjacent to the Tower of Gabriel the Monk and

damaged by natural conditions. As the project design had stipulated, a cobble-stone wall with regular sandstone quartz was constructed in front of the concrete wall. In order to prevent accumulation of water in the rear of the wall, drainage of plastic pipe work was arranged in the wall. In order to prepare for conservation of the Samtavro St. Nino Church existing damages were studied and assessed, which led to a plan to construct a new roof to the church.

Armaztsikhe-Bagineti, The roman-type bathes, the "Column Hall", Fortification system: The report also noted that the six-Apse Church has lost its authenticity due to the reconstruction works conducted with unacceptable methods. The roman-type bathes and the "Column Hall" need conservation. There is a risk of destruction of the building due to the aggressive influence of climatic conditions. Conservation works on the Fortification system should include different construction periods and layers and a conservation and rehabilitation plan should be developed. In September 2008 a competition was announced, aiming at drafting a development concept of Armaztsikhe-Bagineti. Its results are to be announced in spring 2009. Recommendations have been prepared on issues comprising site development, monument conservation and planning of tourist infrastructure.

b) Boundaries

Concerning the boundary issues, the State Party underlined that the Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage has defined a special protection area for all components of the property of a 1 km radius and that the protection zones such as Construction Regulation Zone, Archaeological Heritage Zone, Landscape Protection Zone are currently being adjusted and expanded based on the requirements. The protection zones also regulate new constructions. As a result, there were no incompliant buildings constructed during 2008.

In 2008, the development plan process aiming at restoring the geographic and historical connection between the Jvari Church and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral started, including the rehabilitation of historic routes.

c) Inventories

The State Party also mentioned that the Ministry of Culture, established a regular monitoring exercise for all World Heritage properties, as well as recorded a full inventory of archaeological and architectural monuments in Mtskheta. The creation of the data base of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta was initiated by the National Agency. Monitoring missions are regularly visiting all properties and are producing summary state of conservation report every year.

d) Management

The State Party created in 2008 an *ad-hoc* "Committee of World Cultural Heritage" established under the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation to be in charge to define functions and liabilities of state agencies, regulate national, local and religious rights in order to ensure a protection and management of the World Heritage properties. This *ad-hoc* Committee shall deal with issues existing in the usage of monuments between private owners, the state and the Patriarchate as well as with privatization-related problems. The Mtskheta Museum-Reserve was re-organized and transformed into the Greater Mtskheta State Archaeological Museum-Reserve and affiliated, in 2008, with the aforementioned National Agency.

The State Party informed that the *Mtskheta Heritage and Tourism Master Plan* developed in collaboration with UNESCO and UNDP is under examination for formal approval by the Ministry of Culture.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS remain greatly concerned by the state of conservation of this property and that some monuments may no longer be authentic.

The report provides very limited information concerning the preparation of a legal and technical basis to address the threats. The State Party did not provide any detailed responses to the World Heritage Committee's key requests such as the land privatization issues, development of an integrated management plan for the property, establishment of a Special State Commission on World Heritage issues, development of a special programme on protection of all archaeological components, monitoring of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. No document clarifying the exact boundaries of protected areas of the property and its buffer zones, or any boundary modification proposal, has been provided by the State Party. The State Party did not provide any comments concerning the eventual inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that the State Party has been unable to take into account the World Heritage Committee's decisions or to carry out the necessary preparatory activities to address existing and any new potential threats.

Considering Paragraphs 177 – 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS note the absence of substantial progress, which could lead to the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. They furthermore consider that the progress, if exist, cannot be evaluated on the basis of the report submitted by the State Party, and therefore suggest a reactive monitoring mission to the property.

Decision: 33 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Expresses its serious concern about the state of conservation of the different components of the property;
4. Regrets that the State Party report did not adequately address the preparation of legal and technical provisions to address the various threats, the aspect of land privatization, the development of an integrated management plan and the development of a special programme on the protection of all archaeological components;
5. Further regrets that the State Party did not submit documents clarifying the exact boundaries of the protected area of the property and its buffer zone;
6. Notes with regrets that some components have lost their authenticity due to restoration works conducted with unacceptable methods;
- 7. Decides to inscribe the Historic Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of the World Heritage in Danger;**

8. Urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value a proposed desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission to the property in early 2010 to assess the state of conservation of the property;
10. Also requests to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendation contained in Decision **32 COM 7B.90**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.