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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/41COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports are also available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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NATURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

2. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Sale and lease of public lands for the purposes of development within the property leading to the destruction of mangrove and marine ecosystems.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6208>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1825>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6208>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 140,000: i) USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility for the monitoring of unauthorized activities in the Bladen Nature Reserves which were impacting the property; ii) USD 30,000 for emergency conservation actions in favour of the critically endangered wide sawfish (2010); iii) USD 80,000 in support of public use planning and site financing strategy development for the Blue Hole Natural Monument (2008-2009)

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Technical Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Sale and lease of public lands within the property
- Destruction of fragile ecosystems due to resort / housing development
- Oil concessions within the marine area
- Introduced species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 March 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/documents/> and reports the following progress towards

achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

- In November 2016, a task force was formed to develop concrete regulations based on the Cabinet Decision to ban offshore petroleum exploration within the World Heritage property. It developed a map of the exact areas to be subject to the ban, which included all seven components comprising the property surrounded by a one-kilometre buffer zone. Detailed cartographic description of these areas is still being finalized and the process of legislating the ban will begin as soon as this description becomes available. In addition, the revision of the Petroleum Regulatory Framework was initiated in September 2016 and is expected to be finalized and submitted for approval by the Cabinet by June 2017;
- The implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan has commenced with funding provided through a World Bank project on Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation (MCCAP);
- The voluntary moratorium on the sale and lease of state owned land throughout the property has continued. Maps showing land tenure within the property were provided to the World Heritage Centre in 2016;
- The Draft Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations have been finalized and included provisions for the special protection of mangroves sensitive areas, particularly within the property, as well as an increase of fines and penalties for infractions. Final adoption and legal drafting of the regulations is currently ongoing. Amendments to the Forest Act to accommodate the increase of fines and penalties have already been approved;
- Revision of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations and environmental clearance process is currently underway and will be tentatively submitted to the Attorney General Ministry in 2017;
- Management plans of two component protected areas of the property are being updated;
- A National Lionfish Management Strategy was drafted to address threats from invasive species and its implementation is expected to begin later in 2017. Invasive rats are reported to have been eradicated within the Half Moon Caye National Monument.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress achieved by the State Party towards the achievement of the DSOCR is commendable. Revision of a number of key regulatory instruments, particularly the Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations, has included a special focus on protection of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to finalize the legal drafting of the Mangroves Regulation as a matter of priority and to submit the legal document to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it becomes available. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are ready to assist the State Party with technical advice to help accomplish the respective indicators related to coastal development and mangrove protection under the DSOCR.

The actions undertaken by the State Party to translate the Cabinet Decision banning offshore oil exploration within the property to concrete regulations are noted. While noting the commitment of the State Party to include all components of the property within the areas, which will be subject to the ban, the justification of a one-kilometre buffer zone around those areas remains unclear. Furthermore, it is unclear how the revision of the Petroleum Regulatory Framework is linked to this process. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the exact maps of the areas where oil exploration will be prohibited by the proposed ban, as soon as they become available and prior to completion of the legislation of the ban, and to provide further details regarding the revision of the Framework.

The cartographic information on land tenure within the property provided by the State Party is noted. Considering the high proportion of private land or areas with unknown land tenure within the property, it is crucial that strict and clear restrictions and regulations on development are established in order to ensure that no development can be allowed, which would result in negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The above-mentioned Mangroves Regulation, as well as revised and strengthened EIA regulations can provide the necessary regulatory framework, but it will be essential that the necessary resources are allocated for its enforcement. It is also crucial that a permanent legally binding moratorium on the sale of the remaining nationally held lands is introduced

as a matter of priority and it is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request in this regard.

The commencement of the implementation of the ICZM Plan is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard and to ensure that the necessary resources are available in the long-term for the implementation of the plan.

Finally, while the efforts undertaken by the State Party are welcomed, further efforts are required in order to fully achieve the DSOCR, in particular regarding regulations on oil exploration and exploitation in and surrounding the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 40th Session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the progress achieved with the finalization of the Draft Forest (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations, and requests the State Party to finalize the legal drafting and adoption of the Regulations as a matter of priority and to submit the final legal document to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it becomes available;*
4. *Also welcomes the commencement of the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) and encourages the State Party to continue to ensure that the resources required for the long-term implementation of the Plan are secured;*
5. *Notes the progress achieved towards developing concrete regulations based on the Cabinet Decision to ban offshore petroleum exploration within the property, but reiterates its position that the adequacy of the one-kilometre buffer zone needs revision to secure the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the full implementation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the exact maps of the areas where oil exploration will be prohibited by the proposed ban, as soon as they become available, and prior to completion of the legislation of the ban;*
7. *Taking note of the ongoing revision of the Petroleum Exploration Framework, reiterates its request the State Party to ensure that the protection of the property's OUV is fully integrated into this process;*
8. *Also taking note of the confirmation by the State Party that the voluntary moratorium on sale and lease of lands within the property remains in place, notes with concern that the cartographic information provided by the State Party shows a high proportion of private land within the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a legally binding instrument to ensure a permanent cessation of all sales and leases of state owned land throughout the property;*
9. *Further welcomes the ongoing revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment system and urges the State Party to fully integrate the protection of the property's OUV into this process to ensure that the revised regulations guarantee that no areas within the*

property and in its immediate vicinity can be developed in ways that would negatively impact on its OUV, consistent with the requirements under the DSOCR;

10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
11. ***Decides to retain Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

AFRICA

4. Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Illegal grazing
- Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife and the deteriorating security situation
- Halt to tourism

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2001-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 225,488

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001 and April 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insecurity
- Poaching
- Mining
- Transhumance and illegal grazing
- Illegal fishing
- Illegal occupation of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 March 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>, containing the following information:

- The Fauna Ecosystem project in the North-east region of the Central African Republic (CAR) (ECOFAUNE+), financed by the BEKOU EU Trust Fund, has among its objectives: the reduction of pressure on natural resources exerted by trans-border users through continuous surveillance; the contribution to regional dialogue on cross-border transhumance and to the fight against

poaching; the training of young people with a view to their vocational integration;, and the resumption of tourism activities to revitalize the local economy;

- The Central Africa Biodiversity Conservation Programme – Protecting Central Africa's Elephants (CABPC – PCAE), funded by the African Development Bank, aims at supporting the institutions responsible for the protection of fauna and flora in CAR, to improve the cross-border management in the fight against poaching and to raise awareness on this issue;
- The main activities implemented, in and around the property, are : the rehabilitation of the Manovo base camp and the surveillance trails in the Village Hunting Zones (ZCV) around the property, the acquisition of equipment (vehicles and motor bikes) including surveillance tools for patrols (such as drones and camera traps), the strengthening of human resources and staff training. Thirty-five anti-poaching patrolling missions took place since August 2016. An anti-poaching tripartite agreement was signed between the CAR, Chad and Cameroon. The adoption of a new code for wildlife and protected areas is being finalized. Preliminary bio-monitoring studies were undertaken and an aerial survey was foreseen for March 2017;
- The preparation of a land-use development plan is on-going and will be followed by the establishment of a development and management plan for the property as well as a Management Plan for the hunting zones. The local communities are strongly involved in the management of the protected areas of the North-east of CAR, including those living in the property;
- Insufficient financial, human and logistical resources, porous borders, cross-border transhumance, artisanal mining and insecurity are all evoked as factors likely to have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued efforts of the State Party, with support from the ECOFAUNE+ and CABPC – PCAE projects, to initiate the progressive strengthening of the protection of the fauna and flora in the North-East part of the country, where the property is located, notably to fight against poaching and to tackle cross-border transhumance in cooperation with the neighboring States Parties of Cameroon, Sudan and Chad, must be welcomed. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the Committee note with concern that cross-border transhumance, artisanal mining and insecurity remain serious threats affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It should be recalled that the Committee has expressed its hope that the commitments made during the “Bangui National Forum” in May 2015 would lead to a progressive restoration of peace and an improvement of the security situation in the country, including in the region where the property is located. In this respect, it is recommended that the Committee note with appreciation the activities carried out by the State Party, in and around the property that have also benefitted the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park. It should also be recalled that it takes time to achieve the stabilization of the security situation in and around the property, which remains problematic for the time being.

In this respect, the planned workshop for the development of an Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the property, as requested by the Committee on several occasions, must also be welcomed. This workshop should be organized during the second semester of 2017. It should be recalled that the Committee noted that with continued insecurity and extremely significant pressures being faced by the property, and given the lack of data enabling an analysis of the current situation, the perspectives for the restoration of the OUV of the property are, and have been for many years, called into question. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to undertake a feasibility study for the restoration of the OUV of the property prior to the organization of the workshop devoted to developing an Emergency Action Plan.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation permits to assess the state of conservation of the property and determine whether there remain perspectives for the regeneration of the characteristics of the property justifying its OUV.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the list of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.34**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party, with support from the ECOFAUNE+ and Central Africa Biodiversity Conservation Programme – Protecting Central Africa's Elephants (CABPC – PCAE), for the progressive strengthening of the protection of the fauna and flora in the North-east part of the country, where the property is located, in particular as regards the fight against poaching and the mitigation of cross-border transhumance in cooperation with the States Parties of Cameroon, Sudan and Chad;
4. Notes with concern that cross-border transhumance, artisanal mining and insecurity continue to threaten the property;
5. Recalls that due to persistent insecurity and extremely significant pressures faced by the property, and in the absence of data allowing an analysis of the current situation, the perspectives for restoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been called into question for many years;
6. Also welcomes the planned organization of a workshop to develop an Emergency Action Plan for the property, as requested on several occasions by the Committee, and urges the State Party to undertake a feasibility study for the restoration of the OUV of the property before organizing this workshop;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation permits, to assess the state of conservation of the property and to determine whether there remain perspectives for the regeneration of the characteristics of the property justifying its OUV;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;
10. Also decides to retain **Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

5. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Political and military crisis in Côte d'Ivoire from 2002 to 2010
- Poaching of wildlife and fires caused by poachers
- Over-grazing by large cattle herds
- Absence of effective management mechanism

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4981>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4981>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1988-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 97,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme and Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

January 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission; April 2017: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Conflict and political instability
- Lack of management control and accesses to the property
- Poaching
- Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure
- Bush fires

Illustrative material: see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 November 2016, in response to Decision **40 COM 7A.35**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. From 3 to 12 April 2017, a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents>. The State Party report provides the following information:

- In 2016, 162 surveillance missions were carried out, equivalent to a total of 14,933 person-days in the field. This surveillance, which involves village auxiliaries, resulted in the abandonment of numerous gold-panning sites in the southern part of the property. Continuous surveillance on the western flank of the property is now provided, in accordance with the 2015-2024 Planning and Management Plan;

- Two surveillance posts have been rehabilitated at the eastern and northern entrances of the property and are now permanently occupied by park staff. Two office buildings are also rehabilitated or undergoing rehabilitation. The annual maintenance of the trails was carried out with the support of the Village Conservation and Development Associations (AVCD);
- Information, education and communication (IEC) actions for the neighbouring populations were carried out in five villages around the property;
- The need to undertake an environmental assessment of the potential impacts of mining projects close to the property on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is recognized;
- An aerial survey of large and medium-sized mammals was carried out in March 2016. This is the third inventory of the type, the other two having been carried out in 2010 and 2014. The results of these inventories show a stabilization of the animal population and confirm the presence of elephants (estimated at about one hundred individuals) and chimpanzees;
- An analysis of the satellite images of the property and its periphery shows that its integrity is maintained.

The report of the Reactive Monitoring mission provides the following additional information:

- All the corrective measures adopted by the Committee were carried out in an integrated approach and a transversal dynamic with strong involvement of local communities;
- The nine indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) have been implemented:
 - For the three biological indicators, the targets in terms of increase in numbers or kilometric index of abundance (KIA) were met for most species, including the elephant and the chimpanzee;
 - For the three habitat Integrity indicators, the targets were fully met and even exceeded. The work carried out revealed, notably, that less than 1% of the total area of the property is occupied by non-natural formations;
 - As for the three management indicators, the objectives were also fully achieved and a permanent mechanism for financing protection and management activities was put in place;
- Concerns remain, however, owing in particular to the persistence of gold panning, the increase in the encounter rate of livestock and the planned agro-pastoral developments in the periphery of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It should be noted that considerable efforts have been made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures and the DSOCR. Considering the results of the DSOCR indicators, it can be noted that the state of conservation of the fauna and its habitat is changing positively. Indeed, emblematic species of the property such as the elephant and chimpanzee that were thought to have disappeared are regenerating. Habitats have a very good conservation status because less than 1% of the total area of the property is occupied by non-natural formations.

The results thus achieved are very appreciable and often exceed the initial objectives. The strong and sustained involvement of local communities has contributed to this. This must be welcomed as a prerequisite for the sustainable conservation of the property. To this end, it is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for its progress.

These positive results are the fruit of the normalization of the politico-military situation and the return of stability in the country. This situation enabled the State Party to take charge of the management of the property, to benefit from multi-faceted support and to reinforce the dynamics of protection and conservation of the site. The establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism augurs positive prospects.

In the light of all of the above, one can consider that the OUV of the property has been strongly rehabilitated and strengthened. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, it is important to note the persistence of gold panning especially in the southeastern part of the property. These mining activities pose risks of degradation and pollution of the ecosystems. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take all appropriate measures to systematically eradicate gold panning within the property and to monitor its development around the property in collaboration with the technical services in charge of the mining sector. It is also recommended that the Committee take note with appreciation of the State Party's commitment to assess the potential impacts of mining projects in the vicinity of the property on its OUV, and to request the State Party to submit the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before hard-to-reverse decisions are made regarding the licensing of these projects, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

With regard to livestock roaming, it is recommended that the Committee, recognizing the efforts made by the State Party in terms of human and logistical resources to address this problem, urge the State Party to exclude livestock from the property by strengthening surveillance, awareness raising and agro-pastoral development activities.

Concerning the planned agro-pastoral developments around the property, these may bring risks of increased transhumance in the area of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to conduct a preliminary study of the potential impacts of these agro-pastoral developments on the OUV of the property.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts made in the implementation of the corrective measures and the significant progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) since the normalization of the political situation in the country, including the establishment of a functional management body and a sustainable financing mechanism for the conservation of the property;
4. Considers that the DSOCR indicators for the integrity and management of the property have been fully achieved and even surpassed, and that the biological indicators have attained a satisfactory level of achievement;
5. **Decides to remove Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
6. Requests the State Party to continue and to consolidate the ecological monitoring activities and the inventorying of large fauna by strengthening the synergy and consistency of methodological approaches in order to confirm the maintenance of positive trends in the populations of key species;
7. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to assess the potential impacts of the mining projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and also requests the State Party to submit the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before hard-to-reverse decisions are made

regarding the licensing of these projects in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Notes with concern that gold panning persists in the property and further requests the State Party to take all appropriate measures to systematically eradicate this activity within the property and monitor its development around the property in collaboration with the technical services in charge of the mining sector;
9. Recognizing the significant efforts made by the State Party to address the roaming of livestock in the property, notes the increase in this phenomenon in 2016, which appears to be linked to a particularly severe lean period, and urges the State Party to banish livestock from the property by strengthening surveillance, awareness raising and agro-pastoral development activities, and by conducting a preliminary study of the potential impacts of these agro-pastoral developments on the OUV of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the joint UNESCO / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission of 2017;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) need to be read in conjunction with Item 12.

8. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Adverse refugee impact
- Irregular presence of armed militias and settlers at the property
- Increased poaching
- Deforestation

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

A draft has been developed during the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents>), but the biological indicators still need to be quantified based on the results of a census of large mammals available at late 2017.

Corrective measures identified

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 119,270

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,003,900 from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), and the Governments of Italy and Belgium and by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF)

Previous monitoring missions

1996-2006: several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme;

December 2009 and April 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Presence of armed groups, lack of security and political instability rendering a large part of the property inaccessible to the guards
- Attribution of mining permits inside the property (issue resolved)
- Poaching by armed military groups
- Bush meat hunting
- Villages in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the park
- Illegal mining and deforestation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 24 April to 3 May 2017. The two reports are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents>. The State Party reported the following:

- The intervention of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) has resulted in the evacuation and demobilization of some of the armed groups. The improvement in the security situation has enabled the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) to reopen the posts at the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB) in the lowlands (Itebero, Nzovu and Lulingu);
- For 2016, the patrol coverage was about 52% of the property (against 34% in 2015) thanks to funding support from external partners and the recruitment and training of 120 new guards, based in all the posts of the property;
- Ten houses for the guards have been built at Tshivanga and five are foreseen at Itebero for 2017 with financial support from the World Bank and the German Development Bank (KfW – Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau);
- No legal mining concession has been observed in the property. As regards the artisanal quarries, of the fourteen recorded two remain active.
- Concerning the monitoring of the “National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property” (April 2015), a mixed commission, including ICCN and different provincial ministries, has been established to resolve land conflicts in the ecological corridor and to avoid the granting of new titles in the property;
- At the time of submission of the report, the wildlife inventories conducted by ICCN and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have enabled the coverage of four out of seven sectors of the PNKB. The general tendencies concerning the wildlife will be known at the end of the exercise in August 2017. Preliminary results indicate that elephants are almost absent in the lowlands, that gorillas located in the highlands are stable, with even an increase, and the chimpanzee population is stable in the zones visited;
- Control of the National Route 3 is limited to the verification and counting of vehicles. The ICCN envisages setting up a stricter system with support from the provincial authorities and customs.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The evacuation and recovery of control of the lowlands of the property is a commendable progress. However, the question of insecurity remains a major concern: the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission had to limit its visit on the ground to the Tshivanga sector, headquarters of the Park, and the highlands, three guards of the property were killed in 2016. It is recommended that the Committee address its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards and to the ICCN staff.

It is noted that there has been a clear improvement in surveillance efforts enabling the covering of 52% of the property thanks to an increase of staff numbers at ICCN and the deployment of guards at all the stations of the property. Nevertheless, the mission noted that ICCN continues to have limited access to a large part of the lowlands. However, this zone was visited, in 2016, in the framework of the wildlife inventory conducted by the Park team and WCS. Additional efforts are therefore required to increase the frequency of patrol coverage in the lowlands. The ICCN foresees that the recruitment of new guards and the building of dwellings and infrastructure at Tshivanga and in the other posts of the property will lead to an improvement in the situation.

The progress achieved to complete the wildlife inventory, which should terminate in August 2017, is welcomed. The preliminary results, contained in March 2016 in the WCS/ICCN/FFI (Fauna and Flora International) report, indicating an estimated decrease of 77% in Grauer's gorilla since 1994 and thus classifying it as a critically endangered species on the IUCN Red List, appears to be confirmed. Moreover, the data concerning elephants reveals that their presence in the lowlands is rare, if not non-existent.

Although most of the artisanal mines inside the property have been closed down, the mission had access to information indicating that there are operational mines on the periphery of the property and they also are a threat for wildlife. The principal threats for the habitat of the gorillas and the other species are these mines, the presence of armed groups and the illegal commerce and consumption of bush meat. It is recommended that the Committee once again express its deep concern about the preliminary results that show an important decrease in the major species. It is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to undertake all the necessary measures to close down the remaining mines within and around the property and to ensure that they are not reoccupied, and to take urgent measures to halt the consumption and illegal commerce of bush meat, in particular the great apes.

The recommendations resulting from the "National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property" of April 2015 remain pertinent and the efforts undertaken by ICCN to cancel the land titles are commendable. However, the mission did not have access to the ecological corridor to assess the current state of encroachment. Map and photographic information are necessary to assess the situation of the illegal occupations and the deterioration of the ecological corridor between the lowlands and the highlands. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2015 Forum and to undertake the necessary measures to resolve the encroachment issues in order to restore the vegetation of the property and to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement the corrective measures and the timetable (from the present to 2020) developed by the Reactive Monitoring mission of May 2017. The State Party should also be encouraged to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund before 31 October 2017, to prepare indicators for the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), once the final results of the wildlife inventory are available.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the line of duty and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN);
4. Notes with satisfaction the evacuation of the armed groups, the recovery of control of the posts and the deployment of guards in the lowlands, and encourages the State Party to continue its surveillance efforts to combat illegal activities (mines and poaching);
5. Also notes with satisfaction the recruitment and training of new guards and the infrastructures established to strengthen surveillance and, furthermore, also encourages the State Party to deploy personnel in all the sectors of the property to ensure an effective surveillance;
6. Expresses again its utmost concern as regards the conclusions contained in the report of Wildlife Conservation Society/ Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation/Fauna and Flora International report indicating that the Grauer's gorillas population has recorded a decrease of an estimated 77% since 1994 and emphasizes the crucial importance of increasing efforts to protect the great apes, to ensure their survival, as well as the other flagship species of the property, including the elephant and chimpanzee ;
7. Notes with concern that the mining, hunting and associated illegal trade of bush meat are the most serious threats for the habitat of the gorillas and other species and urges the State Party to close down all the remaining mines in and around the property and to ensure that they are not reoccupied, to urgently take measures to halt the consumption and commerce of bush meat and to concentrate its action on the halt of illegal commerce of great apes;
8. Takes note of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that took place in 2017 and requests the State Party to implement the corrective measures, as updated by the mission, from the current date until 2020:
 - a) Pursue the evacuation of armed groups, close down all the artisanal quarry mines both inside and around the property, and terminate the illicit traffic of the natural resources, including wildlife poaching, and more particularly the great apes,
 - b) Strengthen the anti-poaching combat and continue the joint patrols with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and enforce the law in collaboration with the legal authorities,
 - c) Continue recruitment and training of qualified staff, motivated and well equipped and deploy teams in all the posts of the property,
 - d) Pursue efforts to implement the recommendations resulting from the "National Forum for Governance and Enhancement of the Property" (April 2015) to resolve the issues of illegal occupation and evacuate the ecological corridor, and take the necessary measures to limit the impacts of encroachment, restore the vegetation and the connectivity between the lowlands and the highlands,
 - e) Maintain an efficacious surveillance coverage, throughout the year, of at least 60% of the property by increasing the scope and frequency of the patrols and provide the technical and financial resources to the management authority, to attain this objective,
 - f) Continue to develop the infrastructures of the Park and to acquire the necessary equipment to enable an efficient protection and management of the property,

- g) *Continue and strengthen the activities for the economic development of the local communities to reduce their dependence on the resources of the Park and support conservation efforts, including the continued implementation of the “Community Conservation Strategy” and the “local development plans” in all the chiefdoms of the property,*
 - h) *Complete the participative marking process and undertake a socio-economic study in the lowlands (Nzovu sector) to assess human presence in this sector,*
 - i) *Work for the sustainable funding of the management of the Park;*
9. ***Also encourages** the State Party to request International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund **before 31 October 2017**, to develop indicators for the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the final results of the wildlife inventory are available ;*
 10. ***Also requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
 11. ***Decides** to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;*
 12. ***Also decides** to retain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

11. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1994-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Increased poaching of wildlife
- Incapability of staff to patrol the 650 km long boundary of the Park
- Massive influx of 1 million refugees occupying adjacent parts of the Park
- Widespread depletion of forests in the lowlands

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2011, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Revised in 2014, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5979>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1980-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 268,560

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,802,300 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain as well as the Rapid Response Facility (RRF).

Previous monitoring missions

April 1996 - March 2006 - December 2010: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission;

August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reinforced monitoring mission; March 2014: World Heritage Centre / IUCN / Ramsar Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Attribution of a petroleum exploration permit inside the property
- Poaching by the army (issue resolved) and armed groups
- Encroachment
- Extension of illegal fishing areas
- Deforestation, charcoal production and cattle grazing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/>. Progress accomplished is presented below:

- The efforts of the joint patrols of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) continue. About 280 FARDC military intervene in the northern sector of the property with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to combat the armed bands;
- The property is confronted with a number of security issues; several rebel groups have attacked different sectors of the property (the south and west coasts of Lake Edward, the northern and southern sectors of Rutshuru). Five ICCN guards were killed in 2016;
- The extent of the zones invaded remains high but stable, around 25% of the property, thanks to the awareness raising efforts of the ICCN, who envisage in the long-term to make available arable land outside the property to the populations;
- 114 guards have been recruited and trained. The level of coverage of the property was roughly 43% in 2016 and patrols concentrate on the key sectors ;
- The population of mountain gorilla numbers 121 individuals with an increase of 9.25% a year. With the introduction of telemetric collars on elephants, a slight increase in this population has been noted, as with also the hippopotamus. However, poaching of other species (antelope, buffalo, warthog) for consumption of bush meat continues and is closely linked to the presence of armed groups ;
- The ICCN continues its efforts to control the legal fishing activities at Lake Edward;
- The community conservation activities finally continue to pacify relations with the communities. The Park has enabled the creation of direct employment through tourism, and indirect, following the construction of the hydro-electrical central at Matebe;
- Illegal logging activities continue both for charcoal and for timber. Despite the efforts of ICCN to dismantle this traffic, the demand for charcoal remains strong in order to respond to the needs of the population. A second hydro-electrical central is under construction at Lubero, outside the property, due to the efforts of the "Virunga Alliance" and it should be able to partially respond to energy needs.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The insecurity caused by the presence of armed groups in the property and its surroundings continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and functioning of the property. Despite major efforts on the part of the ICCN and the joint interventions with the FARDC, the armed groups regularly attack the property and its staff and engage in diverse illegal activities (poaching, illicit fishing and production of charcoal). This insecurity, which affects most of the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (see General Decision **41 COM 7A.12**), has cost the life of five guards of Virunga in 2016. It is recommended that the Committee address its sincere condolences to the families of the guards who were killed in the exercise of their duties and that it expresses its deepest concern as to the aggravation of the security situation in the property, as well as in most of the other properties located in the eastern part of the DRC. It is also recommended that it reiterates its utmost concern concerning the implication of armed bands in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the property that is affecting its integrity.

The improvement in management efficiency, the recruitment of new guards and the excellent collaboration between ICCN and the FARDC are warmly welcomed. However, the sectors under surveillance only represent 43% of the property and further efforts remain necessary to fully protect its OUV.

With regard to the issue of petroleum exploration and exploitation, the State Party notes that no petroleum activity has been observed in the property. Nevertheless, in its report on the General Decision on the DRC properties, the State Party indicates that it wishes to request officially an IUCN advisory mission to discuss the petroleum issue in the property. As regards the Ngaji petroleum block, located in the Ugandan part of Lake Edward, no new development has been observed in 2016. However, the Ugandan Permanent Delegation to UNESCO addressed a Verbal Note dated 10 February 2017 together with two press articles informing of the desire of the Ugandan authorities to re-advertise a call for tender for this concession. In its response dated 1 March 2017, UNESCO indicated its concern as regards the possible reattribution of the petroleum block and recalled the Committee Decision **40 COM 7A.41**. It is recommended that the Committee urges the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to take a strong position and not authorize any petroleum exploration or exploitation in the Lake Edward region, due to the probable negative impacts of such an activity on the OUV of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its position according to which petroleum exploration and exploitation is not compatible with World Heritage status.

The slight increase in the populations of key species (gorillas, hippopotamus and elephants) and the stabilization of encroachment in certain areas of the property are encouraging results. However, the demographic increase remains important and exercises strong pressure on the natural resources of the property. Further, the illegal exploitation of wood continues despite the alternatives proposed since many years, notably the hydro-electric power stations. Deforestation provoked by the production of charcoal remains one of the major threats to the integrity of the property.

Implementation activities in the framework of the "Virunga Alliance" in response to the economic and social needs of the local populations, and in the long-term to relocate them outside the property, are greatly appreciated.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures, prepare a timetable for their implementation and finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It is further recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the exercise of their duties and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN);
4. Warmly welcomes the joint operations between ICCN and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the increase in the number of guards to ensure an adequate surveillance of the property, but expresses its utmost concern regarding the continued insecurity in some sectors of the property, that has caused a decrease of surveillance coverage over the period under consideration and an increase in illegal activities (poaching, illicit fishing and production of charcoal) threatening the integrity of the property;
5. Regrets that the State Party has not confirmed its commitment to not authorise new petroleum explorations and exploitations within the boundaries of the property and reiterates its position according to which all mining, petroleum and gas exploration and exploitation activities are incompatible with World Heritage status, a policy supported by commitments undertaken by the leaders of industry, such as Shell and Total, not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;
6. Recalling that the importance of Lake Edward is evoked in many instances in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, considers that any activity linked to petrol in the Lake Edward region is highly likely to damage the OUV of the property and including its integrity through negative impacts on the transborder waters;
7. Reiterates its request to the Ugandan State Party not to grant a petroleum exploration permit for the Ngaji block and urges the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to strongly commit to not authorizing any petroleum exploration or exploitation in the Lake Edward region;
8. Notes with satisfaction the progress achieved concerning the combat against encroachment, and that the encouraging results demonstrate an increase in the resident mountain gorilla population, the hippopotamus as well as the stabilization of elephant poaching and welcomes the efforts of the “Virunga Alliance” in carrying out sustainable development activities to improve the life of local communities;
9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures, prepare a timetable for their implementation and finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the, above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism;
12. **Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

12. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the progress made in the implementation of Decision **40 COM 7A.42**. This report is available at the following address http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/41com/documents/#state_of_conservation_reports and contains the information below:

- The Corps responsible for the security of the National Parks (CorPPN) and related natural reserves, created in June 2015, is not operational due to lack of human and financial resources. Nevertheless, in 2016, the State Party made available to the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) arms and ammunitions that has benefitted the National Parks of Garamba and Virunga ;
- No activity linked to petroleum was observed, in 2016, at the Virunga National Park. However, the State Party notes that it wishes to officially request an IUCN advisory mission to discuss the petroleum issue at the property;
- The support programme of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union continues to provide financial and technical support to the National Parks of Virunga, Garamba and Salonga. Through the German Development Bank (KfW - Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau), Germany supports the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, and the National Parks of Salonga and Kahuzi-Biega ;
- The Trust Fund « Okapi Fund for Conservation - FOCON » for a sustainable funding of the protected areas of the DRC now has the status of a charitable organization and an Administrative Council. The World Bank and the KfW have funded the FOCON to the amount of 30 million US dollars. Nevertheless, the report underlines that the decree for the establishment of the FOCON Headquarters in the DRC has not yet been signed by the national authorities. Without the decree, this Fund cannot be operational

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the IUCN

The allocation of arms and ammunitions for the two properties, Garamba and Virunga National Parks, is an important effort on the part of the State Party; however, insecurity persists and is becoming more serious in the four properties located in the eastern part of the DRC. Technical and financial means must be made available to the ICCN to secure all the World Heritage properties and their surroundings.

The years 2016 and 2017 were dramatic for the ICCN staff and FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Eleven guards lost their lives and many others were seriously injured during attacks carried out against the National Parks of Garamba (2 victims), Virunga (5 victims) and Kahuzi Biega (3 victims). A guard was also killed at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in May 2017. It is recommended that the Committee condemn this violence and address its condolences to the families of the guards and the soldiers killed during operations for the protection of the properties.

The delay incurred in the deployment of the CorPPN contingent is unfortunate. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide human and financial means to the CorPPN to render it operational and that it also requests the State Party to do its utmost to implement, in conformity with the Kinshasa Declaration (January 2011), and restore security conditions to enable the ICCN staff to carry out their mission.

With regard to the issue of petroleum exploration and exploitation projects, the State Party notes that no petroleum activity has been observed in the Virunga National Park. No information has been provided as concerns the petroleum interests at the Salonga National Park, expressed by the State Party during the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission (see point 10 of Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A). It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to officially confirm the definite cancellation of the petroleum concession overlapping the Virunga National Park and to clarify the situation as regards its petroleum interest in the Salonga National Park.

The efforts of the State Party to mobilize major funding for the DRC properties are favourably welcomed. Important progress has been achieved in organizing the Trust Fund for the Protected Areas of the DRC. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take legal measures by

adopting the necessary decree to render operational the FOCON Fund; these provisions will enable the properties of the DRC to benefit from substantial financial resources.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.42**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and reiterating the need to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011,
3. Condemns the violence perpetrated against the guards and soldiers killed during operations for the protection of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), addresses its most sincere condolences to their families and expresses its very deep concern as regards the worsening security situation in the properties located in the eastern part of the DRC;
4. Regrets the delay incurred in the establishment of the Corps responsible for security in the National Parks and Protected Areas (CorPPN) and requests the State Party to provide it, rapidly, with human and financial resources to enable the deployment of contingents to establish security within the properties;
5. Expresses again its utmost concern as regards the intention of the State Party to officially address the World Heritage Centre to request an IUCN advisory mission to discuss the petroleum issue in the Virunga National Park;
6. Reiterates with insistence its request to the State Party to cancel the petroleum exploration concession encroaching on the Virunga National Park and to clarify the situation concerning its petroleum interest in Salonga National Park, expressed by the State Party during the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its position according to which all mineral, petroleum and gas exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the commitments made by industry leaders, such as Shell and Total, not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;
7. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts to mobilize sustainable funding and notes with appreciation the substantial support provided to the properties of the DRC by the donors;
8. Also congratulates the State Party for the major progress achieved in finalizing the creation of the Trust Fund for the protected areas in the DRC, entitled « Okapi Fund for Conservation – FOCON » and also requests the State Party to take all the necessary legal provisions to render it operational without delay;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, on the security situation in the properties, on the status of the petroleum exploration and exploitation concessions that overlap the World Heritage properties, for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

13. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2

14. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2

ASIA-PACIFIC

18. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2011-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Road construction
- Mining
- Illegal logging
- Encroachment

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005 to 2012)

Total amount approved: USD 96,600

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) – Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage; USD 35,000 Rapid Response Facility Grant (2007)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2006: UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2007: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2011: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan
- Ground transport infrastructure (Road construction)
- Land conversion (Agricultural encroachment)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging; Poaching)
- Governance (Institutional and governance weaknesses)
- Renewable energy facilities (Geothermal development license adjacent to the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents>, providing a response to Decision **40 COM 7A.48** and an update on progress towards achieving the indicators of the Desired state of

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as follows:

- Confirmation that a preliminary study to explore the possibility of developing geothermal energy extraction will not be conducted in the property;
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for road development plans within the property was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 31 March 2017, for review by IUCN. No new road developments or proposals currently exist inside the property and the road network is routinely monitored;
- Forest loss in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) was 0.24% in total between 2013 and 2015, whereas it was 0.82% in Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) between 2012 and 2015. Data for Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) are being collected in 2016-2017;
- Data are provided on monitoring of four key species (tiger, elephant, rhino, and orangutan) and on signs recorded for these species during SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) patrols;
- The use of SMART in the property has increased, covering 47 out of 61 resorts in 2016 (compared to 41 in 2014), coinciding with an increase in the number of patrol units from 23 in 2013 to 58 in 2016. Patrol effort has likewise increased, with two 7-10 day patrols undertaken monthly in each park, in collaboration with NGOs;
- Recorded incidents of poaching, encroachment, illegal logging and other illegal activities (unsustainable harvesting of Non-timber Forest Products, fishing, mining) have all increased significantly between 2013 and 2016. In GLNP, 42.4ha of illegal palm oil and rubber plantations have been cleared. However, only few offenders have been arrested and the State Party recognizes that law enforcement needs to be improved. It also reiterated that prosecution of encroachers is complicated by human rights considerations;
- No mining concessions exist within the property and mining concessions adjacent to the property have been mapped, their activities monitored, and efforts are being made to engage them in the conservation of the property;
- Boundary demarcation is a routine annual activity;
- Activities undertaken as part of the management of the wider landscape include development of ecosystem services (small-scale hydropower), development and promotion of ecotourism, community empowerment, buffer zone designation, and ecosystem restoration.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee note with appreciation the submission of the SEA for road development plans that could affect the property, which responds to a request made by the Committee since its 35th session in 2011. The SEA concluded that road development within the property would be likely to have a direct negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the conditions of integrity, causing “unacceptable habitat loss and biodiversity conflict”, including by creating physical barriers to natural interactions between sub-populations of species in isolated areas. Noting that the State Party has not permitted the construction of any new roads within the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue ensuring that new roads within the property are not permitted, and that upgrades to existing roads and foot paths are only permitted if these would demonstrably not cause any negative impact on OUV. In that regard, upgrading a footpath into a road for motorized vehicles should be considered a new road development. It is considered that in order to better meet the needs of local communities, better maintenance of existing roads and footpaths should be a priority over new road developments and/or upgrades.

The progress made with the implementation of SMART and increasing patrol effort is welcome. However, it is noted with concern that threats from poaching, encroachment, illegal logging and other illegal activities, including small-scale mining, continue to threaten the property. Forest loss remains a key concern and it is clear that law enforcement should be significantly improved, without which increased patrolling will not be sufficient to halt illegal activities and the erosion of the property’s OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent additional measures to ensure that the applicable laws are fully enforced and offenders prosecuted.

The population data of key species provided by the State Party does not enable an assessment of trends, as the data are not extrapolated to estimate overall populations in the entire property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to strengthen property-wide monitoring of key species, including the Sumatran Tiger, Sumatran Rhino, Sumatran Elephant and Sumatran Orangutan, in collaboration with its conservation partners, as specified in the corrective measures.

The State Party's statement that a preliminary study to explore the possibility of developing geothermal energy extraction within the property will not be conducted is duly noted. However, information from third parties indicates that the proponent of a geothermal project within GLNP has commissioned such a study to Gadjah Mada University, which concluded that part of the core zone of the national park could be converted to a utilization zone in order to legally enable the project to proceed. The third party information further indicates that, in March 2017, a meeting was convened by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to discuss geothermal development in the property. On 18 May 2017, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to seek further information on these matters.

Throughout 2016, IUCN has had several opportunities to discuss the geothermal project with the State Party. It is of significant concern that the location of the proposed geothermal project on the Kappi plateau is within an area of the property that contains critically important habitat for all four of the above-mentioned key species, and its development would therefore have potentially severe negative impacts on the OUV of the property. This location is particularly significant considering that the remaining habitat for these species outside GLNP in the wider Leuser Ecosystem is under significant development pressure. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party (see Decision **38 COM 7A.28**) to ensure that any development of geothermal energy within the property remains prohibited by law, and that it request the State Party to provide further information on measures taken to ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have any negative impact on the property and key areas in the Leuser Ecosystem, in line with the commitment made by the State Party last year.

The State Party indicated to IUCN that it would welcome a mission to provide further advice on these matters. In light of this, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to provide such advice, to assess progress made with the implementation of corrective measures and towards achieving the DSOCR.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.28** and **40 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its 38th (Doha) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes progress made by the State Party with increasing patrols throughout the serial property, including the implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in all of its components;
4. Notes with concern that poaching and forest loss, including as a result of encroachment, illegal logging and other illegal activities such as small-scale mining, continue to threaten the property, and requests the State Party to take urgent additional measures to ensure that the applicable laws are fully enforced and offenders prosecuted;
5. Notes with appreciation that the completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for road development plans that could affect the property, takes note of its conclusion that road development within the property would cause unacceptable habitat loss and biodiversity conflict and have a direct negative impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including the conditions of integrity, and also requests the State Party to:

- a) *Continue ensuring that new roads within the property are not permitted, and consider that upgrading a footpath to a road for motorized vehicles represents a new road development,*
 - b) *Prioritize better maintenance of existing roads and footpaths as a means for better meeting the needs of local communities,*
 - c) *Ensure that any upgrade to existing roads and footpaths shall only be permitted if it would demonstrably not cause any negative impact on the property's OUV;*
6. *Noting the State Party's statement that a preliminary study to explore the possibility of developing geothermal energy extraction will not be conducted within the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any development of geothermal energy within the property remains prohibited by law;*
 7. *Further requests the State Party to provide further information on measures taken to ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have any negative impact on the property and key areas in the Leuser Ecosystem, in line with the commitment made by the State Party in 2016;*
 8. *Urges the State Party to strengthen the property-wide monitoring of key species, including Sumatran Tiger, Sumatran Rhino, Sumatran Elephant and Sumatran Orangutan, in collaboration with its conservation partners, as specified in the corrective measures;*
 9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which shall provide advice on any proposed geothermal development and its likely impacts on the OUV of the property and assess progress made with the implementation of corrective measures towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
 10. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
 11. ***Decides to retain Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

19. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Logging
- Invasive species
- Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources
- Climate change
- Legislation, management planning and administration of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Proposed for adoption by the Committee – see below

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2006 to 2012)

Total amount approved: USD 56,335

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 56,000, UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust: Technical Support to East Rennell; USD 35,000, UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust: Support to East Rennell

Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2005: UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring mission; October 2012: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2015: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes to oceanic waters
- Commercial hunting
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Forestry/wood production, Logging
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Storms
- Mining
- Management systems/management plans (Management planning and administration of the property)
- Legal framework (Legislation)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 March 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/> and indicates the following:

- The declaration of the property under the Protected Areas Act remains a high priority; however, a cautious approach is required to ensure community ownership of this decision. Varying views among landowners groups with regards to the World Heritage status of the property should also be considered;
- The finalisation of the revised Management Plan of the property is a key part of the registration of the property under the Protected Areas Act;
- In September 2016, the Solomon Islands Government adopted a Cabinet Paper which noted the status of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and proposed a number of actions to address the underlying threats. An inter-ministerial Core Team for Heritage was convened to implement this decision. A national Round Table is planned for June 2017 to bring together all stakeholders and decide on future strategies for the conservation of the property, including implementation of the proposed Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).
- The Cabinet also directed the Minister of Forestry and Research to revoke and/or refuse granting of any felling licences for areas within the property;

- The development of alternative income-generating mechanisms is considered the highest priority, which will also require international support, particularly with regards to ecotourism development and small business enterprises;
- The State Party submitted the final draft DSOCR, which was developed in 2015 with technical support from the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission;
- The bauxite mining activities on West Rennell are targeting pocket deposits and using a discontinuous form of mining method which is reported to have lesser environmental impacts;
- A proposal for a rat eradication project was submitted to CEPF, but it was put on hold due to uncertainties regarding governance mechanisms;
- Impacts of climate change on local communities are increasing, the sea level rise and the increasing salinity of Lake Tegano being particularly worrying.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The official submission by the State Party of the DSOCR is welcomed and it is recommended that the Committee adopt it, and that it request the State Party to also develop a corresponding set of corrective measures to guide action towards achieving the DSOCR. An International Assistance Request to support this process has been submitted, and USD 34,500 were granted from the World Heritage Fund to support this process.

A number of important measures have been undertaken by the State Party and should be welcomed. This includes the adoption of a Cabinet Paper which provides a strategic framework for the various measures required to ensure the conservation of the property and the establishment of the inter-ministerial Core Team for Heritage, which will oversee the process. The planned national Round Table is expected to provide an important platform for further consolidation of these efforts and for inclusion of all relevant stakeholders.

The Cabinet decision to revoke and/or refuse granting any felling licences within the property should be noted. While this measure can serve as a temporary solution, in the longer term it will be important to introduce a legal mechanism, such as an application to be submitted by the customary owners, to designate the property under the Protected Areas Act and adopt its Management Plan, which would protect the property from commercial logging.

The information provided by the State Party on bauxite mining activities in Rennell is noted, in particular that the bauxite mining activities on West Rennell are using methods that are reported to have lesser environmental impacts, that no bauxite mining is taking place in the property, and that two companies have been issued mining licenses to extract bauxite pocket soils deposit in West Rennell (15 km outside the property). While the environment technical report that was prepared prior to the approval of mining licences indicates West and East Rennell are separated by a natural geographical barrier, there is an urgent need to scientifically determine the critical forest areas in West Rennell that support the ecological function of the property. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to defer consideration of bauxite mining license applications until a better understanding of the ecological links between East and West Rennell has been achieved.

The development of alternative income-generating activities and prioritization of efforts of different ministries in this regard are welcomed.

The information provided by the State Party concerning the current status of the rat eradication project is noted with concern, and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to take urgent measures to clarify uncertainties about governance, in order to address this threat, in line with the proposed DSOCR. While the sustainable harvest of marine resources has been included as one of indicators in the DSOCR, no information has been provided by the State Party regarding the current situation with the use of marine resources, such as coconut crab.

While important initial steps have been undertaken by the State Party to address threats that lead to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and establish important frameworks for the consolidation of future efforts to ensure the conservation of the property, including through the development of the DSOCR, the adoption of the Cabinet Paper and the establishment of the inter-ministerial Core Team for Heritage, further significant efforts will be required to achieve the proposed DSOCR. It is therefore recommended that the Committee call upon the international community to support the State Party in these efforts. In the meantime, it is also recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

As mentioned above, the following DSOCR has been developed by the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and all stakeholders, and is proposed for adoption by the Committee:

Proposed timeframe for implementation

A timeframe of 4 years is proposed for achieving the DSOCR, starting upon its adoption by the Committee. This timeframe should enable the State Party to commence an extensive rat monitoring and/or eradication program (with international support), as well as to determine baselines for forest cover, as outlined in the indicators and their rationale below.

		Indicator for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger	Rationale	Method of verification
ATTRIBUTES	1	Forest cover in the property is maintained against the 2013 baseline (time of inscription on the Danger List)	<p>Maintaining forest cover is essential for the conservation of the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), especially with regard to the unmodified forest vegetation and avifauna for which the site was inscribed under criterion (ix) on the World Heritage List.</p> <p>Logging and mining reduce forest cover and threaten important forest habitat that is utilized by avifauna, and represent a material loss of natural values and protection within the property, thus directly impacting the reason for inclusion on the World Heritage List.</p>	<p>Satellite images determining the 1998 (time of inscription) and 2013 (time of inscription on Danger List) baseline for forest cover.</p> <p>Periodical analysis of satellite images indicating the current forest cover measured against the baseline.</p> <p>Adoption of a legal mechanism that would provide for application of the Protected Areas Act 2010 and the Rennell-Bellona Province Lake Tegano Heritage Park Ordinance 2009 to East Rennell, thus banning all logging and mining in the property.</p>
INTEGRITY	2	Any extractive activities in West Rennell (logging, mining) are managed in a way that would prevent any negative impact on the OUV of the property and its integrity	<p>Unsustainable logging and mining operations on Rennell Island have the potential to directly and indirectly impact on the OUV of East Rennell through habitat fragmentation and degradation especially near the boundary of the property. Some scientific research suggests that the forests on East Rennell are not large enough to remain ecologically functional without the forests on West Rennell. More scientific research is urgently required to determine the critical forest areas in West Rennell that support the ecological functioning and the integrity of the property and the conservation of its OUV. The results of this research will also help policy makers with the development of a sustainable forest management framework in West Rennell in time and space.</p>	<p>Development of a 1998 (time of inscription) and 2013 (time of inscription on Danger List) baseline for forest cover.</p> <p>Periodical analysis of satellite images indicating the current forest cover measured against the baseline.</p> <p>Critical forest areas in West Rennell that support the ecological functioning of East Rennell are identified based on sound science, and these areas are excluded from ecologically damaging activities, such as logging and mining.</p> <p>Legal mechanism(s) regulating approval processes for any sustainable forest and mining activities in West Rennell and their management have been established, based on the</p>

				<p>ecologically critical areas described above.</p> <p>The Code of Practice is applied to existing logging leases in Rennell Island until their completion and no activity that has the potential to impact the OUV of the property is permitted, unless ESIA has indicated that it will not create a negative impact on the property, and the necessary actions specified in the ESIA to prevent such damage are implemented.</p>
	3	<p>Threats to the OUV of the property from already introduced invasive species have been identified and minimized and biosecurity measures have been established to prevent new introductions</p>	<p>The black rat is among the most widespread invasive vertebrates on islands and continents (Shiels et al., 2013). It survives well in human dominated environments, natural areas, and islands where humans are not present. <i>Rattus rattus</i> is typically the most common invasive rodent in insular forests (Shiels et al., 2013). Few vertebrates are more problematic to island biota and human livelihoods than <i>R. rattus</i>; it is well known to damage crops and stored foods, kill native species, and serve as a vector for human diseases (Shiels et al., 2013). The black rat is an omnivore, yet fruit and seed generally dominate their diet, and prey items (including eggs and hatchlings) from the ground to the canopy are commonly at risk and exploited as a result of the prominent arboreal activity of black rats. It is likely that there have been multiple introductions of black rats (and potentially other species) into West Rennell via the ocean-going barges that originally came from China and now process logs through Honiara Port, where black rats are common. Rats have been observed by local communities inside the World Heritage property.</p> <p>The accidental introduction of the Giant African Land Snail (<i>Achatina spp.</i>) into Rennell Island is considered to be a serious potential threat to the OUV of the East Rennell World Heritage site and also to food security on the island. Considered one of the 100 world's worst invasive alien species, intense concern is raised due to its adverse impact on agriculture, human health and native fauna (Vogler et al., 2013); moreover, once established this snail is impossible to eradicate.</p> <p>More research is urgently required to understand the population dynamics of invasive rats (presence, population density, current distribution, rate of spread) and its impact on the OUV of the</p>	<p>Assessment on the impact and extent of the distribution of invasive rats (<i>Rattus rattus</i>) on Rennell Island, and in particular on the OUV of the property.</p> <p>Effective activities to minimize the impact of already introduced invasive species, especially via the eradication of rats, are underway, adequately funded and showing positive results (eg., rat eradication program with international support and working closely with local people and relevant state and provincial government personnel, ...).</p> <p>Effective biosecurity measures are fully operational at places of disembarkation on Rennell Island (airport, seaport, log ponds) to prevent the accidental introduction of invasive species (eg., rats, snails, ants, plants) on Rennell island.</p>

			property. A full eradication of black rats on Rennell Island will be very difficult because of its large size (Shiels et al., 2013), therefore research will help to identify next steps and potential international support.	
	4	Coconut crab and other marine resources are harvested in a sustainable manner based on traditional resource use regimes	<p>The people of East Rennell harvest crayfish, giant clam, trochus (sea snail) and reef fish for consumption and for sale. Beche-de-mer (sea cucumber) was a key resource for income generation until a national ban on its export was imposed in 2005, which shifted the pressure to trochus. Coconut crabs, which are important for subsistence use and as a source of cash income, are harvested year-round. Crabs have disappeared from the western part of Rennell Island, and within the property the harvesting success rate is dropping, raising concerns that increased harvesting pressure may lead to localised extinction of the species. Harvesting of marine resources is essentially unregulated and traditional conservation measures have been supplanted by a more commercial approach. For coconut crab there are no community-based controls on target animals or on harvesting levels, times or durations (IUCN mission report, 2012).</p> <p>Controls on harvesting of marine resources and coconut crabs are urgently required, including restrictions on the number and size of animals harvested, prohibition of taking pregnant females or eggs, and imposition of seasonal limits and no-take zones. A return to traditional conservation measures should be encouraged. This should be accompanied by research, survey and monitoring along with training and awareness-raising in the local community (IUCN mission report, 2012).</p>	<p>Adoption and enforcement of restrictions on harvesting levels for coconut crab (number and size of animals allowed to be harvested), establishment of no-take zones and imposition of seasonal restrictions, through the revised Management Plan for the property or another mechanism.</p> <p>Population data for coconut crab and other key indicator species (to define) compared to baseline data (to be collected, relative to a date as close as possible to the date of inscription on the World Heritage List).</p>
MANAGEMENT	5	The management plan for the sustainable management of the property has been officially adopted and is being implemented	<p>A management plan would integrate the development needs of the local communities with the priorities of protecting the OUV of the property. Completing and adopting the management plan, with consent of the customary owners, will strengthen the actions and rules of the management plan, especially those that relate directly to the Protected Area Regulations and as such would be enforced through the Protected Areas Act.</p> <p>Without continuous financial and technical support, the decisions made by the Lake Tegano World</p>	<p>The new management plan has been endorsed by the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association.</p> <p>The Solomon Islands Government has allocated funding for the implementation of the management plan.</p> <p>The Solomon Islands Government has adopted an Action Plan to prioritize East Rennell and its local communities, and to develop</p>

		<p>Heritage Site Association and the objectives of the management plan cannot be implemented on the ground. Once continuous support is available for basic activities, extra sources of funding for specific projects could be more easily attracted from a wide variety of sources.</p> <p>Without a viable income-generating alternative for mining and logging, it could be difficult for local communities to continue to support the sustainable conservation of the World Heritage property. Climate change has already resulted in decreased food security and increased dependency on imported food for which cash money is necessary thus increasing the need for cash income even more in the short term.</p>	<p>alternative income generating mechanisms that derive benefits from the conservation of the property's OUV.</p>
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Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.49, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Adopts the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) submitted by the State Party (see Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add) and requests the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a set of corrective measures to guide action towards achieving the DSOCR;*
4. *Calls upon the international community to provide support to the State Party in its efforts to implement the DSOCR and to develop sustainable livelihoods for the customary owners of the property;*
5. *Commends the State Party for undertaking important steps aimed at consolidating the conservation and management of the property, including the adoption of the Cabinet Paper which provides a strategic framework for the various measures required to ensure the conservation of the property and the establishment of the inter-ministerial Core Team for Heritage which will oversee the process;*
6. *Welcomes the State Party's decision to organize a national Round Table to discuss future strategies for the property and the State Party's commitment to ensuring the inclusion of all stakeholders in the process;*
7. *Notes the Cabinet decision to revoke and/or refuse granting any felling licences for areas within the property, but considers that a permanent legal mechanism should be put in place to ensure that no commercial logging can be permitted within the property in the future, and therefore urges the State Party to expedite the designation of the property*

under the Protected Areas Act and the finalization of the Management Plan, with the consent of the customary owners;

8. *Also notes the information provided by the State Party that no bauxite mining activities in the property take place and also urges the State Party to defer consideration of bauxite mining license applications until a better understanding of the ecological links between East and West Rennell is available;*
9. *Notes with concern that a proposal for a rat eradication project has been put on hold due to uncertainties about governance mechanisms and further urges the State Party to take urgent measures to clarify these uncertainties, in order to address the threat of invasive species, in line with the DSOCR, including by seeking international support from States Parties with significant expertise in eradication of invasive species;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
11. ***Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

23. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 420)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii) (iv) (vi)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Instability and imminent risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico's summit
- Lack of conservation policy of integral character which considers all the components of the property
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage
- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation
- Threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Drafted, proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Corrective Measures for the property

Identified, proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Identified, proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5

Total amount approved: USD 83,777

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10,000 for a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission in 2005 financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

May 1995 and November 2009: World Heritage Centre technical mission; November 2005 and February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical missions; December 2013 and January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May 2017: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Instability and risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage

- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation
- Environmental impacts on the hydraulic complex which in turn affects historic fabric and local population

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/>

Current conservation issues

In March 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The technical responsibility for controlling the collapse of the peak of the mountain Cerro de Potosí was assumed by the Inter-institutional Committee for the Preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí;
- Succeeding the 2012-2014 works of lightweight concrete pumping and the 2015-first phase of application of dry filler, the Inter-institutional Committee has determined in 2016 the implementation of its second phase. This last stabilization work financed by the Departmental Autonomous Government of Potosí and by the Bolivian Mining Corporation (COMIBOL) refilled with dry filler 95% of the 132 sinking areas of the peak of the mountain previously identified by the SERGEOMIN (Bolivian Geological and Mining Service);
- Due to socio-economic difficulties of the region, only partial progress was achieved in the implementation of the Ministerial Resolution N 135/2014, which regulates all mining operations in the Cerro Rico de Potosí;
- The follow-up and inspection of mining cooperatives operating in the Cerro Rico are conducted and continued by COMIBOL. A reinforced control over some type of mineral extractions was applied for the mining companies operating over the altitude of 4,400 metres of Cerro Rico and the cessation of activities of one Mining Company (Manquiri S.A) over this altitude was reported;
- As per request of the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy and the Departmental Federation of Mineral Cooperatives (Federación Departamental de Cooperativas Mineras - FEDECOMIN), the COMIBOL defined new areas for the future relocation of miners working over the altitude 4,400 metres, which will be located in different provinces: José María Linares, Cornelio Saavedra, Tomas Frías and Antonio Quijarro. This new proposal was agreed with the mining companies;
- Following the process of formalization into law of the former Municipal Regulations for the Preservation of Historic zones of City of Potosí (Municipal Law 055/2014), undertaken in 2015, the Municipality of Potosí continued restoration works in many churches and streets of the Historic Centre;
- A workshop for capacity building on heritage management and conservation was delivered by the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism to technical staff of the Municipal and Departmental Autonomous Governments of Potosí;
- The First International Conference of Historians and Numismatists was held in Potosí in 2016 and had as outcome 12 action lines for the increase of the touristic and historical image of the City, such as the promotion of town-twinning programmes with other mining historic cities.

More recently, a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission, funded by International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund, visited the property from 8 to 11 May 2017. As one of the main outcomes, an agreement was reached with the State Party on a final proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a timeframed set of corrective measures to be submitted for approval by the Committee (see below). The mission also provided guidelines for the definition of the buffer zone and for the establishment of an Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS

The report on the state of conservation of the property did not provide detailed information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee to fully assess the current situation of the property. However, the May 2017 technical mission noticed significant efforts and progress made by the State Party to develop coordinated actions for the conservation of the property.

The State Party had previously reported on a number of actions launched in view of the development of a new legislation to solve the issues regarding the relocation of miners and the moratorium for all

exploration between altitudes 4,400m and 4,700m, as well as about the inventory and analysis of mining cooperatives above 4,400m and legal actions against Supreme Decree 27787. Some of these actions, which were under negotiation process in 2015, have been partially implemented.

A joint project of survey and exploration of new areas with mining potential was developed by the Departmental Autonomous Government of Potosí and COMIBOL to continue the process of relocation of miners working over the altitude 4,400 metres. The first phase took place in 2015 and the second phase in 2016, but the final results are still pending.

On the other hand, even if the State Party had previously considered the impossibility to fully address the collapse of the summit of the Cerro as long as the mining activities above 4,400 meters were not halted, progresses were noticed in its stabilization. The finalization of phase two of application of dry filler in the crater of the mountain is noted. However, the report lacks specific information on the results and impact of this stabilization work, and the current situation of the summit of Cerro Rico seems to remain unresolved as a final assessment was not reported. The longstanding instability and vulnerability of Cerro Rico should be noted with regret by the Committee.

Efforts previously reported in the development of coordinated actions for the conservation of Cerro Rico, in particular by the creation of a Management Committee for Cerro Rico along with its operational regulations, seem to have concluded in the establishment of the Inter-institutional Committee for the Preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí, who is now responsible for resuming the stabilization works.

It is recommended that the Committee, while welcoming the creation of the Inter-institutional Committee, the resuming of stabilization works, and the continuation of restoration works in line with the Municipal Regulations for the Preservation of Historic zones, request the State Party to harmonize and integrate those actions with the creation of an unified management unit and an IPMP that cover all the components of the inscribed property, and ensure the integral protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

These initiatives will need a close follow-up by the Committee in line of the agreed DSOCR and the set of corrective measures (see below).

In this regard, the technical mission of May 2017 noticed with satisfaction the commitment of the State Party to use the International Assistance to achieve a positive outcome that will contribute to meet the corrective measures and the indicators contained in the DSOCR.

Moreover, taking into account the technical assistance provided during the mission, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to complete the definition of the buffer zone and to submit a final proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines* together with the development of the IPMP for the property, and submission to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

As mentioned above, the following DSOCR has been developed by the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and all stakeholders, and is proposed for adoption by the Committee:

I. Desired state of conservation for the removal of the City of Potosi from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

The desired state of conservation can be defined as follows:

- **Collapse at the summit of Cerro Rico stabilized**
- **Miners working above 4,400 meters relocated**
- **Scope and extent of works on Cerro Rico's summit and underground defined and agreed**
- **Comprehensive Strategy for stabilisation and monitoring fully in place**
- **Kari Kari Lagoons conserved and its surface and water pollution controlled**
- **Integrated and Participatory Management and governance systems approved and in place**
- **Disaster Risk management included in the Integrated and Participatory Management of the property**

II. Corrective measures

Based on the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) of the property, on Decision **38 COM 7B.38**, on the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party in 2016 and on the results of the May 2017 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical mission, several measures were identified to ensure that the threats affecting the property are systematically and holistically addressed. To achieve the DSOCR, the following four corrective measures will need to be undertaken:

- a) **Productive Mining Heritage:** Development of measures to stabilize the collapse at the summit of Cerro Rico. Evaluation of preliminary results to define a revised strategy and timeframe for completion of the stabilization project. The current situation of high risk of collapse affects and threatens miners working above 4,400 meters. Proposing the relocation of miners working above that coordinates is hence, needed and urgent.
- b) **Environmental Heritage:** Development of a conservation system of the Kari Kari Lagoons, and control of surface and water pollution.
- c) **Archaeological, Architectural and Urban Heritage:** Development of an improved database for the attributes of OUV for the Historical City and the Ribera de los Ingenios and documentation of their deterioration and alterations as a basis for the development of a conservation strategy.
- d) **Management and governance systems:** Development of an Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) for the property and compliance with regulatory measures, especially with regard to strengthening the Inter-Institutional Committee and the Cerro Rico Management Committee to broaden its political framework beyond topics related to Cerro Rico and include all the components of the property; to include a Risk Management Plan and clarification of limits to achieve a final proposal for a buffer zone.

III. Timeframe

Based on discussions with the site managers and the national, regional and municipal authorities, and in view of the existing resources and capacities, it is proposed that the identified corrective measures could be implemented within a **five-year period (2017/2022)**.

IV. Indicators

The City of Potosí has a territorial scale formed by a wide group of diverse and varied components interconnected and interdependent such as the **Cerro Rico and its mines, the system of artificial lagoons of Kari Kari, the urban area of the mining settlement, the Ribera de los Ingenios, the indigenous neighbourhoods or the immovable property of architectural value**. The property presents diverse levels of conservation according to the social and economic dynamics of each of its components. Each component shows distinct **conservation issues in terms of authenticity and integrity** that have been approached in an isolated rather than integrated manner.

Taking into account the great diversity of the property, it is desirable that the State Party establishes an IPMP for the property, based on thematic components that encompass conservation and development issues. The six following thematic components are therefore proposed: **Productive Mining Heritage, Environmental Heritage, Architectural Heritage, Urban Heritage, Archaeological Heritage and Management and governance systems**. Specific diagnosis, management actions and monitoring for each of these should be foreseen. To be meaningful, the IPMP should also ensure community engagement among its clear objectives, taking into account that concerted action and participation are essential for the preservation of authenticity and integrity.

The thematic components should be considered as an interrelated and interdependent. Furthermore, the IPMP should adopt the most recent methodologies and experiences of management plans related to World Heritage properties of a territorial scale, as well as for cultural landscapes. The IPMP should also establish general preservation policies accompanied by generic strategies and action lines for each of the defined six thematic components.

The following table sets out **indicators defined to reflect each of the four the corrective measures** aimed at achieving the DSOCR:

a) **Productive Mining Heritage: Stabilization of the collapse at the top of Cerro Rico**

		INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME (Completion)	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
ATTRIBUTES	1	Architectural, photographic and topographic survey of Cerro Rico del Potosí	July-2017	Cerro Rico is the articulating element of all the property's attributes therefore, it is necessary to redefine its morphological characteristics by identifying the affectations or modifications provoked by the recent collapse using the new technologies.	Update of photographic information showing major deteriorations and recent affectations. Production of detailed mapping of the components of the property and its buffer zone.	COMIBOL <i>Through the Directorate of Heritage, Ministry of Cultures</i>
	2	Upgrading information of the 5 high risk areas of collapse at the summit of Cerro Rico , identified in the technical studies and that can potentially affect the miners; Diagnosis of the state of conservation of the geological structures in Cerro Rico and execution of the stabilization projects	July-2019 (elaboration) July-2022 (execution)	It is necessary to make a diagnosis about the current state of Cerro Rico and develop stabilization projects to guarantee the authenticity and integrity of this component of the property. For the stabilization of the summit, it is necessary to define alternative and complementary proposals to the project partially implemented so far.	Update of information, diagnosis and stabilization project carried out	COMIBOL Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy
INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY	3	Implementation of the relocation program of miners working on coordinates 4,400. Development and implementation of sustainable development projects for mining operations in the property, including workers' safety programs	July-2019 (updating) July-2022 (execution)	It is considered urgent for humanitarian issues, due to the risk of collapse of the summit of Cerro Rico, and to improve the safety conditions for the miners to carry out sustainable development projects in the medium and long term.	Implementation of the Miners Relocation Program. Implementation of the program for sustainable development and for the safety of workers. Report of completion of the relocation program for miners	COMIBOL Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy <i>Potosí's Government and Mayor's Office, Tomas Frías University and FEDECOMIN as adjuvants</i> <i>Legislative bodies and national, departmental and municipal inspectors</i>
	4	After the relocation of miners, establish a monitoring system to control deformations and modifications in Cerro Rico.	July-2022	Control and prevent further deformations in the future	Creation and implementation of the monitoring system	Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy COMIBOL Cerro Rico's inter-institutional committee

b) Environmental Heritage: Conservation of the Kari Kari Lagoon System.

	N	INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME (Completion)	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
ATTRIBUTES	5	Inventory and catalogue of environmental components of the property, including topographic and photographic survey (flora, fauna, lagoons, environment, etc.) and diagnosis of the conservation status of each environmental element	July-2019	For the proper conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the property's environmental components , it is necessary to identify its main components through inventory and catalogue works of the Kari Kari lagoon complex (22) and its natural environment.	Catalogue of Environmental Heritage , showing major deteriorations and recent affectations. Finalised Diagnostic document on the state of conservation of the property	AAPOS <i>Governorate and Mayor of Potosí</i> <i>Other City Halls</i> <i>Ministry of the Environment and Waters</i> <i>University Tomas Frías (To assist)</i>
INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY	6	Development and implementation of preventive conservation projects and, if necessary, restoration of Kari Kari Lagoons complex and its surroundings	July-2019 (elaboration) July-2022 (execution)	In order to reverse and redress the environmental preservation problem, it is necessary to design and carry out preventive conservation projects and restore water, flora and fauna quality for the Kari Kari complex.	Implementation of projects and programs for sustainable development.	AAPOS <i>In coordination with COMIBOL</i> <i>Governorate and Mayor of Potosí</i> <i>Ministry of the Environment and Waters</i>
MANAGEMENT	7	Update and improvement of the monitoring system to control the deterioration and alterations of the Kari Kari Complex , including monitoring the presence of flora, fauna, water quality in lagoons, etc.	July-2020	It is also necessary to carry out studies to identify alterations in the elements that constitute the Kari Kari complex, in order to guarantee the integrity of this component.	Update and improvement of the monitoring system	AAPOS <i>Governorate and Mayor of Potosí</i> <i>Ministry of the Environment and Waters</i> <i>Other municipalities</i>

c) Archaeological, Architectural and Urban Heritage: Improvement of the characteristics of the Historical City and Ribera de los Ingenios.

		INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME (Completion)	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
ATTRIBUTES	8	Identification of attributes of OUV and development of Inventory and catalogue of the deterioration and alteration of the	July-2019	For the proper conservation of the property's authenticity and integrity, it is necessary to identify and survey the characteristics and	Update and elaboration of architectural and urban plans of surveying , with GPS geo-referencing, in plans of information	Three levels of the State (Ministry of Cultures and others concerned / Municipality and

		INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME (Completion)	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
		industrial, architectural and monumental heritage , public spaces and urban structures		conservation status of the main components of the City of Potosí, the Ribera de los Ingenios and their settings. This identification will permit the clear definition of the buffer and core zones of the property.	Catalogue of Archaeological, Industrial, Architectural and Urban Heritage	Governorate of Potosí University Tomas Frías (adjuvant)
	9	Delimitation of the protected areas of the historic urban heritage in the City of Potosi and the Ribera de los Ingenios	July-2018	For the proper conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the property, it is necessary to update and survey the characteristics of its main components , through the revision and updating of its limits for the protection of historic urban heritage.	Update of information on delimitation of areas of protection of historic urban heritage . Update and elaboration of maps with GPS location and geo-referencing .	Three levels of the State (Ministry of Cultures and others concerned / Municipality and Governorate of Potosí) University Tomas Frías (adjuvant)
INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY	10	Development and implementation of preventive conservation projects and, if necessary, restoration of previously identified industrial, architectural, monumental, public space and urban structures (banks, streets, etc.).	July-2019 (elaboration) July-2022 (execution)	In order to reverse and redress the issues of preservation , it is necessary to elaborate a clear conservation strategy, prepare and carry out preventive conservation projects and restoration of the archaeological, industrial and architectural heritage in historic urban areas	Development of a conservation strategy and implementation of projects and programmes for sustainable development.	Three levels of the State (Ministry of Cultures and others concerned / Municipality and Governorate of Potosí) University Tomas Frías (adjuvant)
	11	Elaboration and execution of projects to improve urban mobility, public transport and alternative means, under a sense of sustainability.	July-2019 (elaboration) July-2022 (execution)	In order to improve the conditions for the preservation of the property, it is necessary to develop and implement projects to improve urban mobility	Implementation of projects and programmes for restoration of urban heritage .	Mayor of Potosí Departmental Police Municipal Transportation Council

d) Limits and regulation

		INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME (Completion)	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
ATTRIBUTES	12	Clarification of the current limits of the property	July-2018	For the proper identification, registration and management of the attributes of the property, it is necessary to clarify its boundaries at the moment of its inscription on the World Heritage List	Creation of a topographical and plotting map with delimitation of the zone and its components	Ministry of Cultures and Tourism Government of Potosí / Mayor of Potosí <i>Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy COMIBOL</i> <i>Legislative bodies and</i>

	INDICATOR	TIMEFRAME (Completion)	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS
					<i>national, departmental and municipal inspectors</i>
	13 Definition of the buffer zone and areas of protection of the property	July-2019	In order to maintain the integrity and authenticity of the property, it is essential to clearly define the limits of the Buffer Zone.	Total definition of the buffer zone proposal. Presentation to the World Heritage Centre of the cartography with the property and its buffer zone, as a Minor Boundary Modification	Ministry of Cultures and Tourism Government of Potosí / Mayor of Potosí <i>Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy COMIBOL</i> <i>Legislative bodies and national, departmental and municipal inspectors</i>
MANAGEMENT	14 Elaboration and implementation of an Integrated and Participatory Management Plan that includes a Risk Management Plan for, with all its components	July-2018 (elaboration) July-2022 (execution)	In order to clearly establish the objectives, strategies, projects and programs that guarantee and reinforce the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, an Integrated and Participatory Management Plan is required to enable sustainable development in the medium and long term , including a Risk Management Plan.	Elaboration and implementation of the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan	Ministry of Cultures and Tourism Government of Potosí / Mayor of Potosí <i>Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy COMIBOL</i> <i>Civil society</i> <i>University Tomas Frías (Adjuvant)</i> <i>Geographical Society of History</i>
	15 Establishment of a centralized management unit for all the property	July-2019	For the adequate management of the property, it is necessary to have an Inter-Institutional Management Unit for the follow-up of the Management Plan and for the coordination of the programs and projects established therein.	Establishment of the integrated Management Body with legal attribution and operational execution based on a Supreme Decree	Ministry of Cultures and Tourism and other relevant institutions
	16 Expansion and reinforcement of the legal framework for the protection of all elements of the property at all three levels of government.	July-2018 (elaboration) July-2022 (adoption & execution)	For the adequate legal protection of all the components of the property, it is necessary to have an extension and reinforcement of the legal framework for the protection of all the elements of the property in the three levels of government.	Preparation and approval of laws, decrees, regulations and other legal instruments for the protection and preservation of all elements of the property	Three levels of the State (Ministry of Cultures and others concerned / Municipality and Governorate of Potosí)

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in view of the establishment of the Inter-institutional Committee to oversee the implementation of the stabilization works in the summit of Cerro Rico;
4. Notes with satisfaction the resuming of the stabilization works on the summit of Cerro Rico, while expressing its deep concern over longstanding instability and vulnerability of Cerro Rico;
5. Also notes with satisfaction that the State Party started using the International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund in view of achieving positive outcomes towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and commends the State Party for the participatory approach in which all the stakeholders have worked in the definition of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) at the occasion of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission to the property in May 2017;
6. Adopts the DSOCR developed in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and all stakeholders, as presented in Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add and urges the State Party to start the immediate implementation of the corrective measures;
7. Also urges the State Party, based on technical assistance provided by the technical mission of May 2017, to complete the definition of the buffer zone and submit a final proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Requests the State Party to establish an integrated management unit for the property, with appropriate articulation between the various bodies and committees and proceed with the elaboration of an Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) that includes all attributes of the property and ensures its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Further urges the State Party to finalize the process of adopting a new legislation to address the issue of the relocation of miners and enforcing the moratorium for all explorations over the quota 4,400m;
10. Notes with appreciation the development of restoration works undertaken in the Historic Centre and the updating of the Master Plan for the City, and also requests the State Party to integrate its conservation strategy in the IPMP to be elaborated and implemented;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
12. **Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

33. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage
- Armed conflict

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2003)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for all World Heritage properties of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2002: UNESCO mission for the Makhool Dam project; June 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Flooding
- Management activities
- Managements systems/management plan
- Water infrastructure
- Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project
- Fragile mud brick structures
- Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The property was fully liberated in mid-December 2016 after two years of occupation by extremist armed groups. Soon after, the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) undertook a rapid preliminary assessment of the damage incurred. It has begun cleaning the property and preparing for emergency and preventive work;
- The State Party has determined that an immediate intervention is required to prevent numerous components from falling, particularly at Tabira Gate. It envisions a quick conservation campaign with the assistance of the international community, once the fragile security situation has been stabilized;
- The Royal Cemetery has extensive damage due to rainwater, the protective roof over the cemetery having been damaged;
- Before any work on the property is commenced, the State Party requests the World Heritage Committee to send a team of experts to assess the damage in order to prepare a conservation plan to guide future work.

The State Party recalls the obligation, under international agreements, of all warring parties to protect cultural property in times of armed conflict. It further recommends international action for an immediate and rapid campaign of initial conservation for sites that have been liberated; to send high level missions to assess the damage at World Heritage properties; to encourage universities and scientific institutions to begin the work of conservation; and to initiate long-term strategic planning for historic sites in the fields of protection and management.

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

On 3 February 2017, UNESCO undertook a rapid on-site assessment of the property and confirmed the reported damages, highlighting the urgent need to install a shelter over the royal tombs. The site visit reported that the property was not fenced, but was guarded to prevent looting. On 23 and 24 February 2017, UNESCO and the Iraqi Government organized an International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq. The Conference gathered the international scientific community to assess with the Iraqi authorities the situation in these areas and to outline priorities in terms of needed actions and resources. The Conference laid the groundwork for emergency, medium- and long-term action plans; one of its outcomes was also to establish a joint UNESCO-Iraq Steering Committee to coordinate national and international initiatives for the safeguarding and restoration of cultural heritage in the liberated areas of Iraq.

The recent rapid emergency assessment of the property represents an encouraging and laudable action on the part of the SBAH, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a full copy of this preliminary assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Nevertheless, the lack of detailed information about the state of conservation of the property (for the third consecutive year) continues to be a very grave concern. It is essential, as soon as security conditions permit, that the responsible authorities, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Iraq, carry out a full and detailed assessment of the damages incurred, prior to any action on the ground. Protection and emergency stabilization work should be undertaken only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention. Architectural, sculptural and relief elements found at the property and resulting from conflict-related damages such as intentional destructions, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, as outlined in the February 2017 International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq. It is recommended that, once security conditions permit, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission be sent to assist in assessing the damage, preparatory to a comprehensive conservation plan being prepared.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for undertaking a rapid emergency assessment of the property, and requests it to submit a copy of this assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Expresses its great concern about the state of conservation of the property following intentional destructive acts, and about the continuing lack of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the difficult prevailing situation, and in particular to start implementing urgently the priority actions outlined at the International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (UNESCO, February 2017), with the support of UNESCO and the international community;
6. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Iraq to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural and natural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage;
7. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

34. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 3,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major looting of Iraqi archaeological sites (issue resolved)
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The completion of infrastructure in the city has not proceeded due to the instability in Iraq since 2003 and the consequent lack of planning;
- Occupation by extremist groups in mid-2014 has caused much destruction, the complete scope of which remains uncertain. According to the State Party, unofficial reports indicate that Hatra became a military storage area and training centre for terrorist groups.

The State Party recalls the obligation, under international agreements, of all warring parties to protect cultural property in times of armed conflict. It further recommends international action for an immediate and rapid campaign of initial conservation for sites that have been liberated; to send high level missions to assess the damage at World Heritage sites; to encourage universities and scientific institutions to

begin the work of conservation; and to initiate long-term strategic planning for historic sites in the fields of protection and management.

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

On 23 and 24 February 2017, UNESCO and the Iraqi Government organized an International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq. The Conference gathered the international scientific community to assess with the Iraqi authorities the situation in these areas and outline priorities in terms of needed actions and resources. The Conference laid the ground for an emergency, medium and long-term action plan; one of its outcomes was also to establish a joint UNESCO-Iraq Steering Committee to coordinate national and international initiatives for the safeguarding and restoration of cultural heritage in the liberated areas of Iraq.

The continuing absence of information about the state of conservation of the property continues to be a very grave concern.

On 26 April 2017, the Governmental forces liberated the site. Preliminary reports, confirmed by UNITAR/UNOSAT satellite image analysis indicate that Hatra has suffered further destruction since 2015. Once security conditions permit, it will be essential that a rapid emergency assessment of the damages incurred be carried out by the responsible authorities in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq, prior to undertaking emergency actions, and that any subsequent emergency stabilization work be undertaken according to the principle of minimal intervention.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.11, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Expresses its great concern about the state of conservation of the property, following intentional destructive acts, and about the continuing lack of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the difficult prevailing situation, and in particular to start implementing urgently the priority actions outlined at the February 2017 International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq, with the support of UNESCO and the international community;*
5. *Also encourages the State Party to carry out a rapid emergency assessment of the damages incurred, in close collaboration with UNESCO, before undertaking emergency actions and as soon as the situation allows;*
6. *Urges all parties associated with the situation in Iraq to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage;*
7. *Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;*

8. *Calls on* all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. **Decides** to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

35. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2007-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 100,000 USD from the Nordic World Heritage Fund for training and documentation aiming at the preparation of the Nomination File.

Total amount granted for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq:

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

June 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan
- War

- Weathering and lack of maintenance affecting the fragile structures
- State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Samarra Department of Antiquities has documented the damage done to the affected monuments;
- The Iraqi army erected fortification barricades and dug trenches on top of Sur Ishnas, which, due to its height, became a target of the warring parties;
- Warring parties occupied and damaged Qubbat al Salybyya;
- Corrective procedures on the Great Mosque that were begun in 2013 have been undone by the military operations and clashes with extremist armed groups.

The State Party recalls the obligation, under international agreements, of all warring parties to protect cultural property in times of armed conflict. It further recommends international action for an immediate and rapid campaign of initial conservation for sites that have been liberated; to send high level missions to assess the damage at World Heritage sites; to encourage universities and scientific institutions to begin the work of conservation; and to initiate long-term strategic planning for historic sites in the fields of protection and management.

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

UNESCO carried out the detailed documentation of the property's monuments, in particular the Great Mosque, the Spiral Minaret (al-Malwiyah), al-Ma'shuq Palace and Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya.

The documentation of the damage done to the World Heritage property represents an important first step in the comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of Samarra Archaeological City, and it is recommended that the State Party be commended by the Committee for this action. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a copy of this documentation for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. As soon as security conditions permit, and before any remedial actions are undertaken, a full and comprehensive assessment should be carried out in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq. Any required emergency stabilization work should adhere to the principle of minimal intervention. The 2014 Emergency Response Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Iraq's Cultural Heritage should also be taken into consideration.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for documenting the damage done to the affected monuments, and requests the State Party to submit a copy of this documentation for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the difficult prevailing situation;

5. Expresses its great concern about the continuing lack of information on the state of conservation of the property, and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;
6. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Iraq to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage;
7. Launches an appeal to all UNESCO Member States to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

36. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2008: World Heritage Centre mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need to complete the Conservation and Management Plan in order to co-ordinate actions in the short- and medium-term
- Need to provide a detailed map at the appropriate scale showing the boundaries of the property and buffer zone, as well as regulatory measures foreseen to ensure the protection of the property
- Inadequate protection leading to threat to rock-hewn monumental tombs, vandalism and the development of agricultural activities in the rural zone
- Urban encroachment and uncontrolled building construction leading to destruction of archaeological areas
- Inappropriate earlier restoration work
- Problem of discharge of sewage from the modern town into the Wadi Bel Ghadir
- Inadequate on-site security and control systems
- Need for a presentation and interpretation system for visitors and the local population
- Crop production
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Governance
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Management activities
- Management systems / management plan
- Surface water pollution
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Information is provided on the measures undertaken by the Department of Antiquities of Cyrene (DOAC) to mitigate the risks linked to the unstable situation in the area surrounding the property, and in the country in general, including an administrative restructuring and the involvement of local stakeholders (communities, authorities, police, universities, etc.), capacity building (tourist and archaeological protection police, young archaeologists, DOAC staff on the use of GIS), awareness raising (schools) and site cleaning activities, as well as restoration works, notably on mosaics;
- Concerning the key issue of urban encroachment, an agreement between the City Council of Shahat and the DOAC foresees that illegal constructions will be removed. The report states that there is no record of illegal construction within or around the archaeological property since 2015;
- The DOAC underlines the difficulties it faces in creating a map showing the precise boundaries of the property and buffer zone, and requests the World Heritage Centre to organize a follow-up workshop to the one held in Tunis in October 2015;

- In terms of security, the CCTV cameras purchased to improve the protection of key areas at the site are not operational due to missing components;
- The deterioration of inappropriate earlier restoration work and the lack of skilled staff to address this issue add to the financial difficulties faced by the DOAC;
- The local authorities are trying to address the discharge of sewage, a major public health issue having a strong impact on the entire area in which the property is located;
- The DOAC has started to fence a number of archaeological areas in the property to secure them and to stop animals from grazing there;
- The DOAC considers that, in addition to its efforts and those of the local authorities and communities, the more effective and long-term conservation and management of the property will require stronger support from the international community.

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

The information provided by the DOAC demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the property despite the prevailing conflict situation in the country, and constitutes a substantial progress in the understanding of the situation at the property. At the same time, the report raises a number of questions.

The DOAC reports “no critical damage or serious threats” at the property, while underlining the fact that urban encroachment remains the major issue. It also states that, “Since 2015, there has been no new recording of buildings around or within the archaeological site”. In the UNOSAT Interim Activity Report of 20 December 2016, an analysis of satellite images taken between 9 and 12 November 2012 and others taken between 18 and 20 March 2016 shows 1,839 new constructions in Cyrene. However, the absence of a clear map showing the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and the impossibility, for the time being, of visiting the property, make it difficult to gauge whether these are in the property or its settings. In either case, they appear to have a considerable impact on the property.

The DOAC’s request for assistance to organize a workshop to define the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone should be given priority. It is essential to see precisely where the threats to the property are, and where the DOAC undertook the measures it presents in its report. The agreement between the City Council of Shahat and the DOAC that foresees the removal of illegal constructions is a positive step. Nevertheless, there is no indication whether this measure has already been applied.

Regarding the restoration works carried out at the property, notably in the Odeon area, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide a detailed report on these works, including technical explanations on why these interventions were necessary at this stage.

The actions that the DOAC has been able to undertake at the property over the past year, despite a prevailing unstable situation, are very important steps toward improving the situation in terms of management and conservation. The mobilization of heritage professionals as well as civil society are key achievements that the DOAC should use as bases for further actions. The important efforts made by the DOAC would be more effective and easier to assess by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies if they were implemented in the framework of the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage, held in Tunis in May 2016. The report is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>.

It remains essential that the joint mission requested by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) be sent to the property as soon as the security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that DOAC pursue its efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre updated on the situation on the ground, as well as on the further implementation of the measures it has launched, while addressing, to the extent possible, the comments and requests of the Committee.

Other sources report that there is an increasing awareness at the level of the civil society and local authorities about the necessity to protect heritage in Libya, especially the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Such awareness needs to be harnessed to promote understanding of the decision of the Committee, at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), to inscribe the property, as well as the other four Libyan World Heritage properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a means of raising awareness of its problems and mobilizing the support of the international community.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.24** and **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the important efforts made to ensure the protection and conservation of the property, despite the prevailing unstable situation and difficult working conditions on the ground;
4. Expresses its concern regarding the numerous difficulties faced by the Department of Antiquities of Cyrene (DOAC) in the protection of the property, especially from urban encroachment;
5. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to Libya to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party to organize as soon as possible a follow-up technical workshop to explore ways for the monitoring and management of the property and for the elaboration of a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone, as well as the locations of encroachments and interventions of the DOAC, and any additional information useful in the conservation of the property and its buffer zone;
7. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed of the evolution of the situation at the property and of any new measures undertaken to ensure the protection and conservation of the property, and to provide a detailed report on the restoration works carried out, including technical explanations justifying these interventions;
8. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to Libya as soon as the security conditions permit;
9. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

38. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) (C 183)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 3 (from 1988-1990)
Total amount approved: USD 45,500
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
1988: UNESCO mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Flooding (issue resolved)
- Conflict Situation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016). No recent information on the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

In the UNOSAT Interim Activity Report of 20 December 2016, an analysis of satellite images taken on 20 August 2011 and 20 April 2016 shows 580 new constructions in Leptis Magna. However, the absence of a clear official map showing the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone makes it very difficult to assess to what extent this urban encroachment affects the property. It is therefore recommended that the elaboration of such a map be given priority by the State Party.

The prevailing situation continues to raise high concern about the capacity of the responsible authorities to ensure the protection and conservation of the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit information about the situation at the property as soon as the security conditions permit, and to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and elaborate, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, an action plan for the property. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate the call made at its 40th session for the international community to provide support to the State Party, especially in the implementation of the measures identified during the

International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016). The report is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>.

Other sources report that there are organized initiatives by the civil society to protect the property from potential attacks. Awareness needs to be harnessed to promote understanding of the decision of the Committee, taken at its 40th session, to inscribe the property, as well as the other four Libyan World Heritage Sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a means of raising awareness of its problems and mobilizing the support of the international community.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 40th session;*
4. *Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);*
5. *Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre towards the elaboration of a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone, as well as the location of the main threats to the property and its environment;*
7. *Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the property as soon as the security conditions permit;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

39. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) (C 184)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
• Conflict situation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016). No recent information on the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

In the UNOSAT Interim Activity Report of 20 December 2016, an analysis of satellite images taken on 29 March 2012 and 15 March 2016, and others taken on 26 April 2016, shows 620 new constructions in Sabratha. However, the absence of a clear official map showing the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone makes it very difficult to assess to what extent this urban encroachment affects the property. It is therefore recommended that the elaboration of such a map be given priority by the State Party.

The prevailing situation continues to raise high concern about the capacity of the responsible authorities to ensure the protection and conservation of the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit information about the situation at the property as soon as the security conditions permit, and to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and elaborate, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, an action plan for the property. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate the call made at its 40th session for the international community to provide support to the State Party, especially in the implementation of the measures identified during the

International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016). The report is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>.

Other sources report that there are organized initiatives by the civil society to protect the property from potential attacks. Awareness needs to be harnessed to promote understanding of the decision of the Committee at its 40th session, to inscribe the property, as well as the other four Libyan World Heritage Sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a means of raising awareness of its problems and mobilizing the support of the international community.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 40th session;*
4. *Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);*
5. *Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre towards the elaboration of a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone, as well as the location of the main threats to the property and its environment;*
7. *Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to Property as soon as the security conditions permit;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

40. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) (C 362)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
N/A

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 May 2017, the State Party submitted a report entitled "Historic Preservation", which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/documents/>. The report provides an overview of conservation and management initiatives undertaken before the conflict in Libya, the following information:

- A map of the property showing the proposed boundaries and buffer zone, which had been prepared before 2011 ;
- An account of events that took place in 2011 during the Libyan revolution, which states that the UNESCO Director-General's appeals to protect Libyan cultural heritage played an instrumental role in avoiding serious damage to the property.

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

The information provided by the State Party demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the property despite the prevailing conflict situation in the country and implies that the property did not incur serious damage.

Nevertheless, the prevailing situation continues to raise high concern about the capacity of the responsible authorities to ensure the protection and conservation of the property. It is recommended that Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit more detailed information about the situation at the property, and to invite, as soon as the security conditions permit, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and elaborate, in

cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, an action plan for the property. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate the call made at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) for the international community to provide support to the State Party, especially in the implementation of the measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libya's Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016). The report is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes with concern the absence of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);*
5. *Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;*
6. *Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the property as soon as the security conditions permit;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
8. ***Decides to retain Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Conflict situation prevailing in the country

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
January 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Vandalism
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Human Resources
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country
- Illegal activities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/>

Current conservation issues
The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016). No recent information on the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

The prevailing situation continues to raise high concern about the capacity of the responsible authorities to ensure the protection and conservation of the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit information about the situation at the property as soon as the security conditions permit, and to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and elaborate, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, an action plan for the property. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate the call made at its 40th session for the international community to provide support to the State Party, especially in the implementation of the measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016). The report is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>.

Awareness needs to be harnessed to promote understanding of the decision of the Committee, at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), to inscribe the property, as well as the other four Libyan World Heritage Sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a means of raising awareness of its problems and mobilizing the support of the international community.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions 40 COM 7B.25 and 40 COM 7B.106, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 40th session;
4. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;
6. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the property as soon as the security conditions permit;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
8. **Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 50.

44. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 21)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 5,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 82,795 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Austrian Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

January 2017: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the limits of the property and of the buffer zone (issue partially resolved)
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment

Since 2013:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>.

The State Party reports that, as a result of major escalations of armed conflict since 2013, the Ancient City of Aleppo has been severely damaged by extensive clashes and a series of underground explosions that left part of the Old City in ruins. In addition to the damages reported in 2014, 2015 and 2016, in July 2016 the National Museum of Aleppo has suffered severe damage to its structure (ceiling, offices), infrastructure (room of the generators) and exterior elements (outer fence, exterior doors).

The report also indicates that before December 2016, when the Government took back control of the Old City, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) undertook detailed photographic documentation of the Citadel using advanced technology, and 3D photogrammetry. It also reports that since December 2016, a committee has been established for the rehabilitation of the Great Mosque. In addition, the State Party is in the process of establishing dedicated committees and teams for specific issues that concern the rehabilitation of the Old City and started raising awareness among local communities to preserve cultural heritage and refrain from inappropriate interventions. The report also specifies that the Aleppo City Council in collaboration with the Directorate of Antiquities – Aleppo Branch, has started clearing streets, in particular access to the Great Mosque, sorting debris, gathering stones that can be reused, and carrying out damage assessment for major historic buildings. The report lists 50 historic buildings and areas damaged within the property categorized in four levels of damage, ranking from destruction (16%), to high damage (18%), to moderate damage (26%), to minor damage (40%). The State Party indicates that a detailed report will be sent to the World Heritage Centre.

On 18 September 2016, UNITAR/UNOSAT provided a satellite image, which preliminary analysis shows 3 232 structures destroyed or damaged in the Old City. This represents an increase of 20% compared to the satellite images analyzed in April/May 2015.

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

See General Decision **41 COM 50** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

UNESCO dispatched a Rapid Assessment Mission to property, on 16-19 January 2017. The mission took stock of the despairing extent of damages in the accessible areas of the World Heritage property, including educational institutions in the city; it proposed short, medium and long terms actions for the property. It emphasized that recovery actions within the property should be part of the overall humanitarian, security and peace building response. The full report of the mission is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents>.

UNESCO organised a technical coordination meeting in Beirut on 1-3 March 2017, which gathered over 50 participants representing seven Syrian institutions and six international entities working on Aleppo. The meeting allowed to examine the overall situation in Aleppo (humanitarian, infrastructures, services, resources, etc.) and the extent of damage noting that 75% of the city is not accessible due to mines, debris and structural instability. The State Party launched a series of activities, such as the removal and management of debris, fencing, opening of roads, conducting damage assessment for main historical buildings, collecting available data on Aleppo's cultural heritage and preparing emergency responses to start rehabilitating the property and regenerating the urban fabric. The key challenges identified include satisfying the needs of the returning inhabitants, structural instability of houses, lack of basic services and infrastructure, the operational capabilities of the public service committees created to assist the inhabitants; and the lack of expertise, skills and labor force to deal with the current emergencies. The meeting conclusions stressed the need to act quickly, ensure coordination and avoid duplication of interventions, harmonize data collection, and called for UNESCO's support thereon. The results of the meeting and the table of envisaged actions are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1639>.

Since April 2017, UNESCO has nominated two national officers for Culture and Education based in Aleppo, to ensure coordination with local and national authorities for the implementation of activities for the recovery of the Old City.

UNESCO and UNITAR/UNOSAT are jointly preparing a publication on damage assessment in the Ancient City of Aleppo.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee expresses great concerns at the situation and encourages the State Party to implement the actions agreed upon during the technical coordination meeting, and UNESCO to ensure its coordinating role.

The property has been severely damaged with very large portions completely destroyed. Restoring and reconstructing Aleppo is an extremely complex endeavour, which involves social, economic, symbolic, aesthetic, financial, and technical considerations. It also raises numerous challenges, such as international and national coordination, short timeframes for decision-making, involvement of the private sector and development pressures, new discoveries of archaeological remains, lack of documentation to guide restoration and reconstruction choices, brain drain of professionals, displacement of qualified workers, etc. Efforts and resources need to be mobilized to avoid further damage. It is recommended that an overall evaluation of the property be carried out, and a recovery approach and strategy be adopted close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any restoration works are undertaken at the property.

The State Party is encouraged to submit to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, a minor boundary modification proposal for the property to enhance the protection of the site and preserve it from extensive private developments in its surrounding.

It is proposed to undertake a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the site to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12** **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its great concern at the impact of the armed conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis and irreversible destruction within the property, including of whole neighborhoods;
5. Recalls its request that humanitarian and security actions be done in coordination with cultural heritage stakeholders, to avoid further irreversible damages to the property, and allow for undertaking of first aid measures on its cultural heritage;
6. Notes the efforts mobilized by the State Party for the recovery of Aleppo since December 2016 despite the extremely difficult situation;
7. Encourages the State Party to implement the actions agreed upon during the March 2017 UNESCO technical coordination meeting and to give adequate time for the process of developing recovery plans for the property, and underlines the need for UNESCO to ensure its coordinating role;
8. Considers that before any works are undertaken at the property, detailed studies and extensive field work are required, and also discussions on defining optimal approaches including considerations that go beyond technical issues;
9. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
10. Take note of the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
11. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party is preparing minor boundary modification proposal for the property, and also encourages it to submit the proposal by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
13. Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

45. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 51,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken at this World Heritage property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Since March 2011:

- Damage of historic buildings due to the conflict
- Illegal constructions following the start of the conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>.

The State Party reports no damage to the site in 2016. It reports that the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) is in regular contact with the Bosra Antiquities and the local communities for the safeguarding of the site. The Bosra Antiquities is monitoring of the state of conservation of the site.

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

See General Decision **41 COM 50** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

No further damage was reported to the property since one year. It is recommended that the Committee encourage all parties to pursue their cooperation for ensuring the respect of a ceasefire within the property and to acknowledge the efforts of the local communities to protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances.

It is important to address emergency needs and plan first aid measures at the property. A technical meeting that was foreseen to take place in October 2016 has been postponed.

It is proposed to undertake a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of its state of conservation and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows.

The State Party submitted a minor boundary modification proposal, which was reviewed by ICOMOS and will be examined by the Committee at its 41st session (see Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add).

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking into account the State Party's submission of a minor boundary modification proposal for the property, Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic and Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,*
4. *Encourages all parties to pursue their cooperation for ensuring the respect of a ceasefire within the property;*
5. *Acknowledges the efforts of the local communities to protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances;*
6. *Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
7. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

46. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1981-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 156,050

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 10,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200 000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170 000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63 000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

March and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the King Faisal Street project; April 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Poor state of conservation
- Inappropriate restoration techniques
- Lack of a buffer zone
- Lack of a management plan
- Development projects threatening the significant historic fabric

Since March 2011:

- Damage due to the armed conflict
- Fire due to an electrical incident at al-Asrooniya and elsewhere in the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents>.

Despite the measures taken by the State Party to implement the December 2013 Emergency Response Plan, the State Party reports that in addition to the fire that broke out in April 2016 and damaged 105

shops as well as the “Ottoman Bank”, several additional fires spread in the property in 2016. On 2 December 2016, a huge fire broke out in souk al-Hamidiyah destroying eight shops and damaging 12 others. On 4 October 2016, a fire damaged a traditional house near the al-Ward Mosque in the historical protected district of Sarouja at the north west of the property.

The State Party indicates that the Department of the Old Damascus at the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museum (DGAM) implemented several measures in cooperation with other stakeholders operating in the Old City. These activities include damage assessment undertaken in collaboration with the Damascus Governorate and the shop owners, documentation in coordination with the Heritage Committee of the Engineers Syndicate and the Directorate of the Old City (Damascus Governorate), and the implementation of an underground electric network as well as the reconstruction of damaged shops. It further indicates that despite the intention to preserve the historic and traditional urban fabric, the construction techniques and materials used are not those historically used in the property. The State Party also reports that the DGAM continues to raise awareness amongst the local authorities on the need to strengthen risk mitigation measures in the Old City, in particular fire prevention, such as by removing inflammable materials and providing fire-extinguishing devices.

In addition, it indicates that in the framework of the Anqa project (a joint ICOMOS/CyArk initiative) started in January 2016 for the 3D modelling of landmark monuments, the 3D documentation of the property by drones has started.

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

See General Decision **41 COM 50** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In the framework of the UNESCO “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” project and at the request of the DGAM, UNESCO organized a First Aid support meeting on 14 and 15 November 2016, for the follow-up to the Committee Decision **40 COM 7A.17**. The meeting gathered 25 participants representing six Syrian institutions, a local NGO, and Syrian experts, in order to discuss the restoration plans undertaken and foreseen following the fire in al-Asrooniya neighbourhood, address risk mitigation measures in the neighbourhood in particular, and in the overall property in general, and clarify the World Heritage Convention’s mechanisms and procedures for the approval of emergency and non-emergency actions. The meeting agreed on follow-up actions for the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting, which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1593>.

Moreover, during the Technical Assistance Workshop organized by the World Heritage Centre in Beirut from 13 to 15 December 2016, UNESCO experts discussed with DGAM staff the project proposed for the restoration of the “Ottoman Bank” in al-Asrooniya neighborhood. In their report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1386>, the experts noted that the proposed project lacks information, maintains the modern partitions in place before the fire, and follows a restoration principle that does not respect the authenticity of the monument.

The following main recommendations were agreed upon at both the First Aid support meeting and the Technical Assistance Workshop:

- Reinforce coordination between the entities in charge of the property, notably with regards to emergency situations, and establish a special unit for Disaster Risk Management and Prevention;
- Ensure coordination with the World Heritage Centre, before the implementation of any restoration works;
- Develop an integrated Site Management Plan;
- Create a data bank of documentation and archives;
- Ensure the strict use of traditional construction techniques and materials for the restoration to avoid the deterioration of the urban fabric and the gradual loss of its authenticity;
- Review the cultural heritage law to avoid the gradual loss of authenticity in the property, and ensure that violations within the urban fabric are stopped and controlled;
- Carry out preventive awareness-raising activities for the local communities and the private sector.

For the Ottoman Bank, in particular:

- Clarify the coordination mechanism for the restoration of the building;

- Carry out a sound structural diagnosis and implement emergency measures as a priority, in particular emergency consolidation and the protection of the building from weathering;
- Undertake restoration works in conformity with the original building design, as identified in the archives and documentation available.

The damages regularly caused by fire in the property are of concern. For the protection of the property, it is crucial to implement all necessary risk-prevention and mitigation measures outlined in the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013, as well as the recommendations agreed upon during the First Aid support meeting and the Technical Assistance workshop. Although restoration works at the shops were urgent, it is regrettable that the project was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, before any work was implemented, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and that these restorations affect the traditional fabric of the property. It becomes urgent to develop an integrated management plan for the property.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to examine the restoration works that have been undertaken and the foreseen ones, as soon as the situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36**, and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its concern over the damage regularly caused by fire within the property;
5. Regrets that the restoration works undertaken in al-Asrooniya neighbourhood are not based on historical archives and documentation, and do not use traditional materials, thus impacting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Reiterates the urgency to plan and implement all necessary risk-prevention and mitigation actions outlined in the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013, and to report back to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made thereon;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Limit conservation or restoration works to first aid interventions until the security situation improves,
 - b) Take immediate action to save the remaining structures through adequate shoring and temporary consolidation measures,
 - c) Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, any reconstruction and restoration project within property, in particular al-Asrooniya neighbourhood including the "Ottoman Bank", prior to the commencement of any works;
8. Encourages the State Party to also implement the recommendations of the First Aid Support Meeting and the Technical Assistance Workshop, in particular:

- a) *Reinforce coordination for the protection of the property, including through joint committees for disaster risk management and for the restoration of the “Ottoman Bank”,*
 - b) *Develop an integrated management plan,*
 - c) *Create a data bank of documentation and archives to ensure that restoration works are carried out in conformity with the original buildings design,*
 - d) *Ensure the revision of the cultural heritage law to avoid the gradual loss of authenticity in the property,*
 - e) *Ensure the strict use of traditional construction techniques and materials for the restoration works within the property,*
 - f) *Carry out a sound structural diagnosis and implement emergency measures at the Ottoman Bank as a priority, in particular emergency consolidation and the protection of the building from weathering;*
9. *Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the Ancient City of Damascus, including preventing the use of cultural property and prominent architectural elements, in particular the Suleymaniye and Omayyad Mosque Minarets, for military purposes;*
 10. *Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
 11. *Requests the State Party to invite of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;*
 12. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
 13. ***Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

47. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2007-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200 000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170 000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63 000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to this World Heritage property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes
- Lack of human and financial resources
- Development or infrastructure projects that may affect the integrity of the property
- Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan

Since March 2011:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict
- Damage to historic buildings due to the use of ancient stones as building material
- Illegal constructions
- Use of the sites by internally displaced persons and by armed groups
- Quarrying

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>.

The State Party reports that access to the serial property remains difficult and that it mostly relied on the cooperation with the local communities and the Antiquities of Aleppo teams at Qal'at Sem'an (situated in Jebel Sem'an) for monitoring the property.

In addition to the damage previously reported since 2013, the report indicates that in Jebel Barisha and Jebel al-Al'a damages are limited to small scale illegal digging (reported in Baqirha and Kherbet al-Khatib), use of stones for building materials and illegal constructions. It indicates that in general the sites of Baqirha, Deirouné, and Kherbet al-Khatib (Jebel Barisha) as well as the sites of Kfeir and Qalb Lozé (Jebel al-Al'a) are in good condition. At Dar Qita (Jebel Barisha) the conditions of the site remain unknown as armed groups deny access to local communities.

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

See General Decision **41 COM 50** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The effects of the conflict on the property remain preoccupying, these include illegal excavations and the re-use of archaeological material for illegal constructions. Access to the serial site would enable a better understanding of the damage, and the undertaking of first aid measure. It is recommended that

the Committee express its concern about the situation at the site and acknowledge the efforts of the local communities to monitor and protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances.

It is proposed to undertake a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of its state of conservation and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,*
4. *Expresses its concern about the situation at the site and the lack of detailed information on damages;*
5. *Acknowledges the efforts of the local communities to monitor and protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances;*
6. *Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
7. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

48. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1229)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to this World Heritage property.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the limits of the properties and of their buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment
- Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties

Since 2011:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>.

The State Party reports that documentation work, which includes geo-radar surveys and 3D documentation, has started in cooperation with the Syrian-Hungarian archaeological mission, notably for the church and the Hall of the Knights. It also reports that 3D photogrammetry modelling of the inside and the outside of the monument is being realized in the framework of the UNESCO "Emergency

Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” project, with the support of a professional team in view of completing the necessary documentation for future interventions.

Moreover, the State Party reports that in 2016 it carried out work to control vegetation, and refurbished the offices at the Crac des Chevaliers.

Finally, the State Party undertook restoration of minor damages at Qal'at Salah Ed-Din.

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

See General Decision **41 COM 50** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In the framework of the Technical Assistance Workshop organized by the World Heritage Centre in Beirut from 13 to 15 December 2016, UNESCO experts examined the damages at the Crac des Chevaliers and the consolidation works undertaken by the DGAM, and noted that some emergency consolidation that were undertaken are insufficient today. They also noted that further restoration works was needed to prevent further deterioration of the masonry.

In their report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1386/>, the UNESCO experts recommended the following:

- Verify before removing debris, that this does not de-stabilize the damaged structures,
- Inventory, sort and store debris for possible future re-use,
- Favor the use of economical shoring materials (i.e. sand bags) for provisional stabilization works,
- Carry out a sound diagnosis of the cohesion and strength of the damaged masonry, and monitor parts of the structure that are immediately adjacent to damaged areas,
- Develop a conservation plan, including a risk management plan, to address restoration works, future conservation projects and regular maintenance.

They also recommended the following consolidation and restorations works:

- Urgent restoration works of simple to medium complexity, namely the restoration of the destabilized pillar and collapsed vault at the south of the gallery of the Hall of the Knights, the vault of the cistern in the central courtyard, the vault and terrace of the chapel and the vault beneath the upper terrace of the Leader's Tower.
- Necessary and relatively simple restoration works, namely the restoration of the section of the vault at the west side of the ruined wall forming a screen between the Tower of Command and the Tower of the Knights, the parapet at the East of the Daughter of the King Tower and the stairs demolished at the North side of the Tower Sultan Qualawun.

However, with regard to complex restoration works, that require in-depth studies and broad consultation, the experts recommended that studies and documentation work be undertaken for the stairs, vault and back side wall of Tower Al Zahir Bybars, the wall located on the terrasse above the Hall of the Knights , the gallery of the Hall of the Knights, the Cannon staircase and the high wall between the Tower of Command and the Tower of the Knights, as well as for the stability of the bedrock at the Northeast sides of the two enclosures. It is recommended to reiterate to the State Party the need to limit restoration actions to first aid interventions until the security situation improves.

It is also recommended that the State Party be encouraged to develop a conservation plan for the property, and to carry out the urgent small and medium scale consolidation and restoration works, while refraining from undertaking complex restoration works until the conditions are met for thorough scientific consultations.

It is proposed to undertake a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the site as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36**, and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations of the Technical Assistance Workshop organized by the World Heritage Centre, and undertake:
 - a) The urgent and necessary small and medium scale consolidation and restoration works,
 - b) The studies needed for complex restoration works,
5. Encourages the State Party to develop a conservation plan for the property, including a risk management plan, to address restoration works, future conservation projects and regular maintenance;
6. Reiterates to the State Party the need to limit restoration works to first aid interventions until the security situation improves;
7. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
8. Takes note of the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Decides to retain the **Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

49. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1989-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 81,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 100 000 by the Flemish Government, 18 560 USD from the UNESCO Emergency Fund

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Serious weathering of many stone blocks due to capillary rising and variations in humidity and temperature
- Urban growth of the neighbouring agglomeration
- International tarmac road crosses the site
- Heavy automobile and truck traffic (vibrations, pollution, risk of accidents...)
- Pipeline crossing the southern necropolis
- Brightly-coloured antenna on hill
- Construction of an hotel close to the thermal springs
- Lack of a management plan

Since March 2011:

- Destruction, damage, illegal excavations, and looting due to the armed conflict since March 2011

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>.

The State Party reports that, in addition to the damage assessment and documentation activities using advanced technology reported in May 2016, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) implemented emergency measures for the museum collections. With the financial support of UNESCO and in collaboration with a Polish team of restorers, the DGAM cleaned the museum, sorted debris to gather the remaining fragments, and transported them to its laboratories in Damascus, including the Lion Statue of Athena, in order to prevent looting and in view of future restoration. The report also indicates that the DGAM developed a list of emergency and short-term actions with an estimated budget, and started gathering documentation for the minor boundary modification proposal and related protection measures. On 26 December 2016, the Governorate of Homs donated a land adjacent to the Palmyra museum in view of a potential extension to the building.

Between 11 December 2016 and 2 March 2017, Palmyra was occupied again by extremist armed groups, who destroyed the Tetrastyle and parts of the theatre's proscenium and proscenium wall, as confirmed by the satellite images provided by UNITAR/UNOSAT, and later by the DGAM. The site has now been under the control of the State Party since 2 March 2017.

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

See General Decision **41 COM 50** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The evacuation of the Palmyra Museum collection to Damascus and the damage assessment in the museum have been carried out from May to August 2016.

In the framework of the Technical Assistance Workshop organized by the World Heritage Centre in Beirut from 13 to 15 December 2016, UNESCO experts provided technical advice to the DGAM staff on the damages to the Citadel, the museum and the World Heritage site of Palmyra. In their report transmitted to the DGAM in March 2017 and available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1386>, the experts have made recommendations for the stabilization of damaged structures within and around the property and recommended to gather all documentation available to understand previous conservation works, to conduct a sound diagnosis for the remaining structures, to shore the Portico of the Temple of Bel, to remove the unstable upper stones of the Arch of Triumph. The options of potential restorations through anastylosis could only be envisaged in a second phase, following the inventory, removal, storage of debris and destroyed elements and their analysis, with the support of the international scientific community, when the security situation allows.

The experts noted that although damages at the Citadel of Palmyra, which is outside the buffer zone, are extensive and visible, they do not affect its value within the Palmyra landscape. The destructions seem to result from the slipping of the structures on the unstable sloping bedrock of the monument, destabilized by the impact of fighting. The restoration of the Citadel would be a complex and costly project; however, the DGAM has the competencies to undertake it, given that the destruction mainly concerned towers that have been restored or rebuilt previously.

The experts also examined the damages at the Museum of Palmyra. Depending on the sound diagnosis of damages, on the scientific content and desired functional programme and budget available, they noted that several restoration options were conceivable.

In the framework of the project entitled 'Implementation of the World Heritage Committee Decisions for the Site of Palmyra', the DGAM is preparing a proposal for a minor boundary modification I for the property.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to implement the recommendations of the UNESCO technical assistance workshop, as soon as the situation allows.

It is proposed to undertake a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the site to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Condemns the additional deliberate acts of destructions at the property and deplores the considerable damage to the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations of the UNESCO technical assistance workshop, and in particular:
 - a) Gather all documentation available to understand previous restoration works carried out at the property,
 - b) Conduct a sound structural diagnosis for the remaining structures,
 - c) Shore the Portico of the Temple of Bel and remove the unstable upper stones at the Arch of Triumph according to structural evaluations;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to limit restoration works to first aid interventions until the security situation improves and allows conducting detailed studies and extensive field work, and also discussions on defining optimal approaches;
7. Requests the State Party to invite of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party is preparing minor boundary modification proposal, and encourages it to submit the proposal by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to retain Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

50. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic

Current conservation issues

The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and has constantly escalated leading to significant violence and degradation of humanitarian conditions. It continues to inflict damage on the inscribed properties as well as on the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List. Sites continue to be damaged by shelling, street fighting, underground explosions, extensive illegal excavations, military use, construction violations, quarrying, in addition to intentional destructions and inappropriate use of archaeological sites by internally displaced populations.

On 18 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/41COM/documents>, with detailed information on the destruction and damage at the six World Heritage properties. This report represents an official statement from the Syrian authorities and collates available information from the branches of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and from the local communities up to 31 December 2016. The State Party notes that as ground access in Syria for heritage experts is limited the full extent of the damage to World Heritage properties cannot be assessed in detail. Therefore, the report do not provide first-hand information on all sites, and thus do not allow a full understanding of the extent of damage to the properties.

The State Party reported on the actions carried out by the DGAM, despite the difficult working conditions, to monitor the World Heritage properties and cultural heritage in general, assess damages, undertake emergency conservation and risk mitigation actions whenever possible, and inventory built and movable heritage. The report also stressed the DGAM efforts in maintaining salaries for its staff in the inaccessible regions (Ancient Villages of Northern Syria, Ancient City of Bosra), and highlighted the positive role played by local communities in some cases to safeguard heritage and limit illegal excavations.

On 9 April 2017, the State Party provided updated information on the conservation of the sites inscribed on the Tentative List, which indicates the following:

- In 'Ebla (Tell Mardikh)', 'Mari (Tell Hariri)' and the site of Dura Europos, illegal excavations stopped;
- In 'Apamea (Afamia)', illegal excavations are still on-going on but to a lesser degree than in previous years;
- In 'Maaloula', the Municipality, in collaboration with the DGAM and the United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP), has cleaned the site to accelerate the return of inhabitants, and started undertaking rehabilitation projects, such as the restoration of the Patriarchal Monastery of Mar Takla (almost completed), the rehabilitation of Mar Sarkis and of a hundred residential buildings, which suffered minor to medium damage. In addition, the study for the rehabilitation of the infrastructure has been completed;
- No information on damages is provided at the site of 'Raqqa-Rafiq: the Abassid City' (still under the control of extremist armed groups) and the site of 'Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi, a desert Castle' (occupied by armed groups since 2013);
- At the site of the 'Noreas of Hama', local authorities ensure the conservation of the Noreas and the maintenance of its machinery for the effective operation of the system. The DGAM is preparing a restoration project for masonry structures that should be implemented in 2017;
- In 'Ugarit (Tell Shamra)', the national archaeological mission is ensuring the regular maintenance at the site.
- No further damage is reported at the sites of 'Tartus: the Crusaders Citadel-City' and 'Arwad Island'.

Activities undertaken by UNESCO

- Since the 40th session of the Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), UNESCO has pursued its actions to assist the State Party in its continuous and sustained efforts to safeguard cultural heritage;

- At the international level, UNESCO continues to raise the awareness of the international community on the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria, notably through the #Unite4Heritage campaign and in the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2199 adopted on 12 February 2015. On 24 March 2017, the UNSC adopted Resolution 2347 recognizing for the first time the importance of heritage protection for peace and security;
- At the national level, UNESCO has pursued its activities to monitor the situation of Syrian cultural heritage, raise awareness on its protection, undertake short, medium and long-term actions to safeguard it, and coordinate the work of national and international entities working on its safeguarding;
- In the framework of the European Union-funded project “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” (2.46 million Euros), co-financed by Flanders and Austria, started in March 2014 and implemented in partnership with ICOMOS and ICCROM, the following activities were undertaken:
 - A meeting was organized by UNESCO and INTERPOL in Beirut on 14-15 December 2016, to discuss with other international and national organizations the effective strategies for the implementation of relevant international agreements established to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects,
 - An awareness raising video clip on the destruction of heritage in Syria was launched on 23 November 2016 and shared on social media, and available at: <http://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/videos>.
 - Since 29 November 2016, the 3D documentation and structural analysis of the Crac des Chevaliers is being carried out by the DGAM with the technical support of a professional team,
 - On 14-15 November 2016, a First Aid Support Meeting was organized in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre for the follow-up to the Committee Decision **40 COM 7A.18** on the Ancient City of Damascus to coordinate with all stakeholders the measures to be taken for the protection of the property and the recovery of al-Asrooniya neighbourhood, and in particular of the “Ottoman Bank” historic building,
 - A follow-up training on emergency 3D recording and archiving of cultural heritage in high-risk zones was organized by UNESCO Office in Beirut from 26 to 30 October 2016 for staff members from several Syrian ministries, municipalities, NGOs and members of the Engineers Syndicate and the civil society, and provided training on the use of modern techniques for the digitization of their archives,
 - A training on the safeguarding and digitization of historic documents and archives in Syria, was organized in collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) from 19 to 23 September 2016 in Beirut,
 - A 52-minute "Documentary on the Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage" in Arabic, English and French, on the actions implemented for the protection of cultural heritage in Syria is being produced and foreseen to be launch by end of 2017;
- The UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund and the World Heritage Centre have supported the evacuation of the Palmyra Museum collection and the damage assessment in the museum, carried out from May to August 2016. In addition, the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund has supported the organization of the below listed technical coordination meeting for the Ancient City of Aleppo (1-3 March 2017) and a coordination meeting entitled ‘Aleppo, the responsibility and the challenge’ organized by the Syrian Ministry of Tourism in Aleppo (15 March 2017), as well as emergency damage assessment and consolidation works in Aleppo;
- Following the second international meeting for the Emergency Safeguarding of Syria’s Cultural Heritage organized by UNESCO in Berlin from 2- 4 June 2016 with the support of the German Government, the revised Road Map was finalized and published on the World Heritage Centre’s Website at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1505/>. The Road Map, which was drafted with the support of 230 Syrian and international experts concerns Syria’s built, movable and intangible heritage, and addresses coordination, ongoing initiatives on documentation, damage

assessment, and capacity building efforts and defines the next steps focusing on future emergency and protection plans;

- UNESCO organized a Training of the Trainers Workshop on World Heritage in Young Hands, in Damascus from 25 to 27 October 2016;
- The World Heritage Centre has successfully fundraised with the Flemish Funds-in-Trust for the project 'Implementation of the Committee Decisions for the Site of Palmyra' (USD 100 000), approved in December 2016;
- The joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, which was foreseen to be carried out to Damascus in December 2016, could not take place under the United Nations security and safety rules. Nevertheless, in order to respond to urgent conservation needs, the World Heritage Centre organized a Technical Assistance Workshop at the UNESCO Office in Beirut from 13 to 15 December 2016, for the World Heritage properties of the Crac des Chevaliers, Palmyra and the Ancient City of Damascus. This Technical Assistance Workshop provided the DGAM Restoration Unit staff with the technical support needed for the conservation and restoration works in al-Asrooniya neighborhood in Damascus, at the Crac des Chevaliers and at the site of Palmyra (Citadel, National Museum of Palmyra, Temple of Bel and Triumphal Arch), through discussions on surveys, drawings, and projects. As a result, technical advice and recommendations were made by the experts on the priorities and actions to implement at these sites, see page: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1386/>;

The UNESCO Office in Beirut undertook a Rapid Assessment mission to the Ancient City of Aleppo on 16-19 January 2017, together with the UN Resident Coordinator and the DGAM. The mission confirmed the extent of damages in the accessible areas of the property, as well as the state of educational institutions in the city and identified urgent and short term needs;

- UNESCO organized a technical coordination meeting for the Ancient City of Aleppo in Beirut on 1-3 March 2017. The meeting gathered key representatives of national stakeholders, and international entities involved in the documentation, protection, conservation and strategic planning in Aleppo, with the objectives of harnessing the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in future recovery plans of the city and protecting the property. Participants agreed on short, medium and long term actions for the recovery of the property (see Plan of actions available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1639/>);
- Since April 2017, UNESCO appointed two national officers in Aleppo, one for Culture and one for Education to ensure coordination with local and national authorities for the implementation of activities for the recovery of the property;
- UNESCO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR/UNOSAT) are jointly preparing a publication on damage assessment in the Ancient City of Aleppo.

Activities undertaken by the Advisory Bodies

- In September 2016 ICOMOS hosted an international workshop in Paris to explore the development of initial guidance on reconstruction in World Heritage properties. This 3-day workshop included delegates from State Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre as well as individual experts;
- The outcome of the workshop, a document entitled Provisional ICOMOS Guidance on Post Trauma Reconstruction in Cultural World Heritage Properties, was launched in March 2017, and is available at: <http://openarchive.icomos.org/1763/>. This Guidance is addressed to State Parties who are the respondents to the traumas. It aims to fill the gap between emergency action and reconstruction. The Guidance does not focus on solutions but rather on the participative processes needed to find a solution that has the capacity to recover cultural value, and particularly the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This document will be updated in response to feedback and complemented by case studies;
- ICOMOS, through ICORP its International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness, and ICCROM are partners in the "AMAL in Heritage" programme for managing disaster and conflict risks for cultural heritage in the Middle East and North Africa. Other partners are the Global Heritage Fund, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, the Cultural Emergency Response programme at the Prince Claus Fund and the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities

and Heritage in Erbil. AMAL aims to build capacity for heritage professionals and local community members in risk preparedness and emergency response procedures;

- AMAL is developing user-friendly mobile and web applications for rapid damage assessment. These were tested in October 2016 at a workshop in Bahrain with participants from AMAL partners and other experts from the region. The workshop established the AMAL Beta Community of cultural heritage professionals from Syria, Iraq, and Tunisia who will contribute to the ongoing design process of the mobile application and will conduct on-site damage assessment exercises and projects in Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, and other countries in the region when conditions allow.

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

The armed conflict situation in Syria and its continued escalation has affected the six World Heritage properties and has substantially limited capacities to adequately sustain and protect their OUV. The properties have been increasingly threatened by ascertained and potential dangers, in particular the Ancient City of Aleppo, which has been extensively and increasingly destroyed, and which runs the risk of further irreversible destructions during the challenging recovery phase. From 11 December 2016 to 2 March 2017, Palmyra fell back under the control of extremist armed groups who inflicted additional invaluable damage to the property.

The illegal excavations across archaeological sites and tells in Syria are a major source for the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and are causing extensive and irreversible damages to those sites, many of which are on Syria's Tentative List, as well as providing looted artifacts for sale in regional and international black markets.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the DGAM, heritage professionals in Syria and local communities who have made sustained efforts to protect cultural heritage and to monitor it closely.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue to support the State Party in the identification of the necessary corrective measures and in the development of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the situation allows.

It is important that humanitarian and security actions be done in coordination with cultural heritage stakeholders, to avoid further irreversible damages to the properties, and allow for undertaking first aid measures for its cultural heritage. Furthermore, it is recommended that systematic documentation of all damage incurred at the World Heritage properties be duly pursued, whenever the situation allows, and that the Committee reiterate its call to the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking other measures until the situation allows for the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan that respond to international standards and high-quality scientific methods.

With regard to post-conflict interventions, it is recommended that the Committee call on the State Party to plan the future of the World Heritage properties according to international conservation charters and standards, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is recommended that the Committee call for international and national heritage professionals to continue to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage; and to further support its safeguarding through earmarked funds and to contributions to the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund.

Until conditions improve, it is also recommended that the Committee urge all parties associated with the conflict in Syria to refrain from any action that can further damage the heritage of the country, in particular World Heritage properties and all sites included on the Tentative List, and to fulfill their obligations under international law, and in particular the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, in part by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage including the evacuation of World Heritage properties used for military purposes, and the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its suggestion that the State Party consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict.

It is further recommended that the Committee also call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Syria and the international community, in particular the neighbouring countries to Syria, to ensure effective measures for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects, in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2199.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;
4. Taking note of the reports provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and of the sites inscribed on the Syrian Tentative List, commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and all the heritage professionals and the local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage for their sustained efforts amidst extremely difficult conditions, but expresses its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;
5. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law, and in particular the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, including the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties, sites included in the Tentative List and other cultural heritage sites;
6. Also urges the State Party to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;
7. Further urges the State Party and the international community to include recovery actions within the properties to the overall humanitarian, security and peace building response;
8. Urges furthermore the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and to refrain from undertaking conservation and restoration work until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
9. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015, and in engaging in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and reiterates its suggestion to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;
10. Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties, whenever conditions allow, and to implement all possible risk mitigation measures, to inform on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds or through contribution to the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
12. *Also calls upon* the international and national cultural heritage professionals to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage, and pursue their ongoing initiatives in coordination with UNESCO;
13. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the properties and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

51. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2000-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Serious deterioration of the built heritage (a high percentage of the residential houses being replaced by concrete and multi-storey buildings);
- The remaining houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies;
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4357>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified;

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1994-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 188,997

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust and the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Serious degradation of the city's heritage (many houses and the ancient souq are in an alarming state of deterioration)
- Large percentage of the city's houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings
- Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up
- Reduction in support and resources arising from political and socio-economic disturbances

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 March 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>, in which the following matters are reported:

- The Historic Town of Zabid remains threatened by armed conflict, adverse economic conditions and lack of resources for conservation projects. Even provision of basic needs for inhabitants is challenging. Recent damage includes destruction of an agriculture research centre, close to the old city, resulting in damage to historic buildings ;
- Despite these challenges, the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) is implementing a number of conservation initiatives, including:
 - ✓ Restoration works in Alashaair mosque and paving the southern gate area of the old city, with funding support from the Social Fund for Development (SFD),
 - ✓ Improvements to shop facades and passage roofs in the souq, funded by the German Development Fund,
 - ✓ Follow-up and inspection of building activities and removal of two building violations,
 - ✓ A heritage and environmental awareness program for the local community ;
- GOPHCY has a trained a core team, which could undertake necessary studies and documentation as well as emergency responses to damaged heritage properties, if support were available.

The State Party has communicated regularly with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding conservation processes, but has indicated that there is an urgent need for support to finance emergency planning and capacity building. While thanking the German Government for its support, the State Party notes that, owing to the security situation in the country, the support of the German Agency for international Cooperation (GIZ) has been discontinued. The State Party has also acknowledged support received from ICCROM Sharjah and the UNESCO Office in Doha.

The State Party has extended an open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse current deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Although the State Party has previously provided the World Heritage Centre with details of the proposed boundaries of the Historic Town of Zabid, a formal request for a boundary modification, including a buffer zone, is yet to be submitted.

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

The security situation in Yemen, in combination with a lack of organisational support and resources, continues to prevent both effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. However, the efforts of both GOPHCY and the Zabid community, in damage assessment, documentation, first-aid interventions, capacity building and continuous communication with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Doha and the Advisory Bodies, are commendable.

Support from the international community remains essential for capacity building to conduct adequate preventive and restoration measures at the property. Owing to the security situation, it has not been possible to make progress with the preparation of a management plan, nor the Action Plan arising from the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, which was prepared in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). Although future financial support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves, it is urgent to explore means to provide the needed financial and technical support to safeguard the property. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the international community to continue to express its support for the State Party and GOPHCY, and where possible to offer technical proposals and practical support.

It remains desirable for a reactive monitoring mission to visit the property in order to advise on short-term repair works and to identify in collaboration with GOPHCY both the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and associated corrective measures, as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.43**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of the Historic Town of Zabid as a result of ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be threatened by the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;*
4. *Commends the State Party for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the local authorities, and the community of Zabid to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions;*
5. *Welcomes the open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on short-term repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;*
6. *Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;*
7. *Requests the State Party to continue dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;*

8. Reiterates its previous calls for the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre with details of the buffer zone and other technical requirements as requested and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

52. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iv)(v)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Damages and threats related to the armed conflict in Yemen

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1990-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 101,997

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 1988: USD 374,800, UNDP/UNESCO project in support of local staff training and fund-raising. 2004-2006: USD 60,000 for the Inventory of the historic city (Italian Funds-in-Trust); USD 12,000 for technical assistance in support of the reconstruction of the al-Qasimi neighborhood (Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH))

Previous monitoring missions

1998, 1999, 2003: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2003 to 2005, and 2010: World Heritage Centre and experts missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Modern constructions and uncontrolled expansion of commercial activities (issue resolved)
- Lack of a Safeguarding Plan (issue resolved)
- Fly-over bridge project (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled vertical and horizontal additions
- Use of inappropriate building materials and techniques
- Densification of the historic fabric through occupation of green areas
- Functional decay of the residential neighborhoods
- Continuing vulnerability of the property, as a result of extreme conditions since 2011
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen.
- Physical damage and instability of buildings
- Urgent need for shelter for displaced residents
- Management activities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 March 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/documents/>, in which the following matters are reported:

- The Old City of Sana'a continues to be subjected to impact from armed conflict and socio-economic decline. Within the property, Al-Madrassa and Al-Bakiria neighbourhoods have been damaged in September 2016 and additional damage has arisen from vibration caused by explosions in surrounding areas. The General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) has continued dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding conservation processes, but lack of access to resources is a major obstacle to conservation activities and hampers the effectiveness of GOPHCY;
- GOPHCY had completed documentation and a technical study for the Al Qassimi area, in consultation with UNESCO Doha Office and ICOMOS but emergency interventions could not be completed due to lack of funds. There are serious concerns that two major buildings in this area are unstable and could collapse at any time following last year's heavy rainy season, unless urgent intervention occurs;
- Four GOPHCY and General Organization of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM) staff participated in a regional training course in risk management during armed conflict, organized by ICCROM Sharjah and the UNESCO Doha Office. GOPHCY has also established a trained core expert team, which could undertake necessary studies and documentation as well as emergency responses to damaged heritage properties, if financial support were available. Other building activities have been postponed, owing to the security situation and lack of resources;
- The 'Old City of Sana'a High Committee', which has been reactivated, will focus on awareness rising, fund raising, and urgent conservation actions. While ICCROM Sharjah and UNESCO Doha have provided assistance, additional international support is strongly needed.

The State Party has extended an open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse current deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

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

The armed conflict in Yemen continues to severely affect and further threaten the OUV of the property. Satellite-detected damage in the City of Sana'a, published by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in March 2017, based on satellite imagery from December 2016, identified 217 affected structures, of which 33 were destroyed, 8 severely damaged, and 176 moderately damaged, representing an increase of approximately 138.5% in total damage since the previous UNITAR UNOSAT analysis based on an image from 15 May 2015. This is a preliminary analysis, which has not yet been

validated in the field and the reported damage may extend beyond the property itself, but by any measure this is a highly-concerning level of damage.

GOPHCY's involvement in damage assessment, documentation, first-aid interventions, preparatory training and communication with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Office in Doha and the Advisory Bodies is highly appreciated. However, the exchanges of information and consultation on the state of conservation of the property and first-aid measures need to be further reinforced.

The situation within the property for both residents and buildings remains dire. Although the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have supported reconstruction plans to sustain shelter for the inhabitants, and clear technical restoration guidelines have been provided, implementation has stopped in light of the security situation and lack of resources.

The World Heritage Centre received information, which was confirmed by GOPHCY, on new constructions being built or under construction within the property, illustrated by pictures that show the inadequacy of these new buildings in the historic urban fabric of the city. Although the needs in terms of housing and basic shelter and services for the inhabitants are a priority, these should be done in consultation with the Advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre in order to ensure that the impact on the OUV of property is not incrementally affected.

Support from the international community remains essential for capacity building to conduct adequate preventive and restoration measures at the property, in relation to the armed conflict, within the framework of the July 2015 Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage. Although future donor support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves, emergency interventions for the reconstruction of destroyed houses still require immediate financial and technical support, to sustain people's livelihoods and ensure that these interventions include due consideration of the property's World Heritage status and its OUV.

The Water and Sewerage project is currently not proceeding owing to the conflict, but the Committee's position on this project should be maintained. Owing to the security conditions prevailing in the country, it's still difficult for World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide further support to the State Party on the Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, nor is it currently possible to arrange a joint Reactive Monitoring mission, despite the open invitation from the State Party.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.24, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of Yemen as a result of ongoing armed conflict, and that the Old City of Sana'a has incurred irreversible destruction, and continues to be vulnerable, owing to the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;*
4. *Commends the State Party for its involvement in damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions, and for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and welcomes the open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;*
5. *Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible*

measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;

6. Notes that the State Party has undertaken a range of remedial and preparatory actions including staff training and a technical study, and emergency intervention, but regrets that further conservation actions or other projects at the property cannot proceed owing to the security situation and lack of resources;
7. Notes with concern the construction of new buildings within the property without prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, further information on these new buildings and on new projects prior to initiate any construction works;
8. Also urges the State Party to continue dialogue and consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;
9. Reiterates its previous call to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures; and also calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
10. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Maintain a moratorium on new development or new construction, pending completion of the proposed Conservation Plan and, where appropriate, project-specific heritage impact assessments,
 - b) Prior to proceeding with the proposed rehabilitation of the water and sewerage project, prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), which includes assessment of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with the relevant 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, and submit a copy of the HIA to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - c) Develop, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Decides to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

53. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Threats from natural elements
- Lack of organizational support and material resources for conservation
- Threats related to the armed conflict

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1982-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 121,966

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Floods (issue previously reported as being resolved)
- Poor maintenance (issue previously reported as being resolved)
- Damage to historic buildings
- Reduction in support and resources arising from political and socio-economic disturbances
- Armed conflict situation since 2015
- Threats from rain and floods

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 March 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/documents/>, in which the following matters are reported:

- The Old Walled City of Shibam remains at risk from water damage, but has become increasingly threatened by armed conflict. Previous explosions have damaged some historic buildings, in the southern and western part of the city. Moreover, because of the security situation and the adverse economic conditions there is a lack of administrative support and of resources for physical conservation projects;
- Despite these challenges the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) has undertaken a range of conservation initiatives, including:

- ✓ Forming a technical team to conduct rapid field assessments and classification of damaged buildings, in accordance with a format established by UNESCO Office in Doha and ICCROM,
- ✓ Convening a follow-up committee comprising technical personnel from GOPHCY, members of the local authority and members of the Shibam local community,
- ✓ Classification of damaged buildings,
- ✓ Intervention to restore the most 10 damaged historic buildings and subsequent return of families to these buildings,
- ✓ Organizing a workshop to increase awareness of cultural heritage protection by involving the local community and local authorities,
- ✓ Arranging for the local Hadramout radio station to broadcast a heritage awareness-raising program.

The State Party has continuously communicated with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding conservation processes, but has pointed out the urgent need of financial support for emergency planning and capacity building actions. While thanking the German Government for its support, the State Party has noted that, owing to the security situation in the country, the support of the German Agency for international Cooperation (GIZ) has been terminated.

The State Party has extended an open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse current deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

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

The security situation in Yemen, in combination with a lack of organisational support and resources, continues to prevent both effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. However, the efforts of both GOPHCY and the Shibam community, in damage assessment, documentation, first-aid interventions, capacity building and continuous communication with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Doha and the Advisory Bodies, are commendable.

Support from the international community remains essential for capacity building to conduct adequate preventive and restoration measures at the property. Owing to the security situation, it has not been possible to make progress with the preparation of a management plan, nor the Action Plan arising from the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, which was prepared in collaboration with the German Agency for International Corporation (GIZ). The discontinuation of GIZ involvement in the property further reduces the general capacity for conservation activities.

Although future financial support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves, it is urgent to explore means to provide the needed financial and technical support to safeguard the property. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the international community to continue to express its support for the State Party and GOPHCY, and where possible to offer technical proposals and practical support.

It remains desirable for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property in order to advise on short-term repair works and to identify in consultations with GOPHCY both the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and associated corrective measures, as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.25, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*

3. Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of the Old Walled City of Shibam as a result of natural elements and ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be vulnerable, owing to the residual impact of previous flooding, as well as the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the State Party for its involvement in damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions, and for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the community and the other concerned stakeholders of Shibam to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions in the city;
5. Welcomes the open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on short-term repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;
6. Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;
7. Requests the State Party to continue dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;
8. Expresses regret that owing to the security situation in Yemen, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) has been compelled to discontinue its direct support for Yemeni cultural heritage;
9. Reiterates its previous calls for the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to retain Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

54. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

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

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Site security not ensured;
- Long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches not ensured;
- State of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings not adequate;
- Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan) not implemented.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1593>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2002)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 7,170,807 (2003-2017) from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 159,000 (2011-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 900,000 (2013) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICCROM Advisory mission; April 2011: UNESCO Kabul/ICOMOS Advisory mission; May/June 2014 ICOMOS technical Advisory mission; UNESCO expert missions in the context of the implementation of specific projects

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets (issue resolved)
- Military Training (Continued inappropriate use of certain heritage areas for military posts)
- Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances (i.e. munitions) (issue resolved)
- Commercial development, Housing (Development pressure around the property and in the buffer zone)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Others (Risk of collapse of the Giant Buddha niches; Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 April 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents> and reports the followings:

- *Conservation*: a condition assessment of the western Buddha niche was undertaken in 2016, providing an accurate picture on the rear wall of the niche on the basis of which a future conservation planning will be made. The work to complete the scaffolding has been ongoing and is supposed to be completed in 2017. The report further mentions some conservation work at Shahr-i Ghulghulah in 2015, and a conservation treatment plan was developed to address erosion problems at the site, where mud brick structures are gradually collapsing. The State Party hopes to continue conservation work at Shahr-i Ghulghulah in 2016 and 2017. No conservation work has been carried out at other component sites of the property;
- *Security*: Eight on-site guards are deployed in each component of the property in order to control illegal access to the sites. Additionally, a team of police officers from the specialized unit for protection of cultural heritage has been deployed;
- *Management*: A Bamiyan Expert Working Group meeting took place in December 2016 in Munich (Germany) to discuss, amongst others, the management of the property;
- *Cultural Master Plan*: In the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (FiT) project, the State Party and UNESCO jointly organized in October 2016 a community consultation workshop to assess the levels of integration between the Cultural Master Plan and the Governments' City Master Plan. It is reported that the Cultural Master Plan has been an efficient tool to control urban growth in and around the components of the property (for example, two bazaars relocated from the city centre to adjacent valleys and a new housing project planned further out of the city centre). However, the report mentions some development projects close to heritage sites. Another workshop, organised as part of the FiT project, is planned in 2017 to provide further support and guidance to integrate the Cultural Master Plan into the City Master Plan;
- The construction of the Bamiyan Cultural Centre, funded by the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT, was initiated in June 2016 and will provide a creative hub for Bamiyan's vibrant cultural scene with a music room, viewing galleries and lecture theatres;
- An International Symposium on the Future of the Buddha Statues is planned in Tokyo on 27–30 September 2017 within the UNESCO/Japan FiT project, in which experts will present proposals for physical and non-physical reconstruction and for the revitalisation of the eastern Buddha statues. The selected proposals will be sent to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review and also for the examination of the 42nd session of the Committee in 2018.

Finally, the State Party stresses the need to revise the Cultural Master Plan developed in 2007 due to strong development pressures and to proceed with a boundary modification. Much of vernacular architecture, traditional land use, canal and irrigation systems that make up the cultural landscape of Bamiyan lie outside the present boundaries of the property, and are hence under increasing pressure for development and urban growth. Therefore, it would be crucial in the near future to include the values of the Cultural Landscape, to help the entire site face increasing development pressures, and to review the entire system (the Cultural Master Plan as a control mechanism, the legal management system and the boundaries of the properties).

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

The approval of the Phase V of UNESCO/Japan FiT project for the Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Valley, in August 2016, which allowed UNESCO and the Government of Afghanistan to resume the long-awaited conservation activities at the Western Buddha niche, is most welcome.

On the other hand, there remain concerns over the other seven component sites that form the property, which are gradually collapsing, as no emergency conservation work have been carried out, except for Shahr-i Ghulghulah, where emergency conservation works were carried out in 2005-2016 thanks to a UNESCO/Italy FiT project. According to the State Party's report, there is still no budget allocated to carry out minimum emergency conservation work at these sites, which could at least prevent the further collapse of the remaining structures. In light of this, it should be recalled that, in accordance with Article 4 of the *Convention*, the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and

transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage lies primarily with the State Party. So far, all the conservation works and efforts have been covered by various UNESCO FiT projects and other bilateral projects, and it should be underlined that it is high time that the State Party allocate minimum funding to the property, in particular for those sites where international funds are available to carry out the necessary conservation work, and without which these sites would certainly disappear, resulting in the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The resuming of the Bamiyan Expert Working Group meeting, organized via the UNESCO/Japan FiT project, is also welcomed. It is however recommended that the Committee draw the attention of the State Party to the fact that this mechanism is meant as a means of helping coordination between different international experts/institutions which intervene through different activities related to the conservation of the property, and are not meant to function as a mechanism for the management of the property. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on the implementation of the Management Plan and how it is integrated into the Bamiyan City Master Plan.

The efficient role played by the Cultural Master Plan, established in 2007 in interaction with the Bamiyan City Master Plan, is duly noted. So far, it seems that this mechanism has been able to control strong development pressures in and around the property. However, the concerns of the State Party concerning the increasing development pressure should be noted, along with the State Party's wish to revise the Cultural Master Plan and to modify the boundaries of the property in order to fully reflect the value of the cultural landscape.

Concerning the Bamiyan Cultural Centre and Museum, the State Party did not follow the Committee's request at previous sessions (see Decision **38 COM 7A.15** and **39 COM 7A.39**) to submit detailed information, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), for any major planned development within or nearby the property as well as proposed visitor's facilities, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decision is taken. It is therefore recommended that the Committee regret that no information on the HIA of the Cultural Centre and Museum in Bamiyan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, which goes against Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

As no progress on a capacity-building programme has been reported, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its encouragement to the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity-building programme to strengthen local and national capacities with regard to heritage conservation and management, including the development of the local communities' capacity to contribute to the safeguarding the property.

Finally, the importance of the forthcoming International Symposium on 'The Future of the Bamiyan Buddha Statues', which is to take place in Tokyo in September 2017, is acknowledged and details of the outcomes of the Symposium should be provided to the World Heritage Centre.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the approval of Phase V of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (FiT) project for the safeguarding of the Bamiyan Buddha Niches in 2016, which allowed to resume various long-awaited conservation activities at the Western Buddha niche and the organization of the Bamiyan Expert Working Group meeting in December 2016;*
4. *Expresses its concerns over the state of conservation of the other components of the property, which have seriously deteriorated and are in imminent danger of collapse, except the site of Shahr-i Ghulghulah where emergency activities were carried out in*

2015-2016 along with other conservation activities, and urges the State Party to allocate a minimum amount of funding for those components which have not received any international funds, as these might otherwise crumble beyond repair and thereby cause the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support not only to the Bamiyan Valley, but also to other components of this serial property, such as Shahr-i-Zohak, Kakrak and Shahr-i Ghulghulah, in order to help the State Party attain the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted by the Committee in 2007;
6. Notes that the Cultural Master Plan, along with the City Master Plan, have been functioning efficiently to control increasing development pressures in and around the property, and also urges the State Party to continue vigilantly implementing this protection framework;
7. Acknowledges the State Party's intention to revise the Cultural Master Plan in order to better respond to the increasing development pressures, and expresses its full support for the State Party's proposal to revise the boundaries of the property in order to fully reflect the values of the cultural landscape;
8. Deeply regrets that irreversible decisions concerning the Cultural Centre and Museum in Bamiyan were taken without informing the Committee, which goes against Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and that construction has progressed without submission of detailed information, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies;
9. Also notes that, in the framework of the UNESCO/Japan FiT project, an international symposium is to be organized in September 2017 to discuss the long-term conservation of the Buddha niches, taking into account the wish of the State Party to partially reconstruct at least one of these niches, and that the meeting will also discuss proposals for partial reconstruction, and requests the State Party to submit the outcomes of the symposium, as well as any selected proposals or options, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration by the World Heritage Committee;
10. Also welcomes the deployment of on-site guards to each component of the property, in addition to the police officers deployed by the Ministry of Interior, who together can effectively stop any illicit trafficking of cultural property and increase the sites' security;
11. Further urges the State Party to review, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit this revised timeframe to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Committee;
12. Reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity-building programme to strengthen local and national capacities with regard to heritage conservation and management, including the development of the local communities' capacity to contribute to the safeguarding of the property;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

14. ***Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

54. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2002-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Lack of legal protection
- Lack of an effective monuments protection agency
- Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel
- Lack of a comprehensive management plan

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A new timeframe needs to be developed and submitted by the State Party

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1995 to 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 110,950

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 844,901 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust;

USD 124,300 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

Several annual UNESCO expert missions took place between 2002 and 2006 in order to implement the operational projects for the property. After a period of three years of inactivity from 2007 to 2009 due to the security situation, UNESCO dispatched a mission in cooperation with a local Afghan NGO in 2010 to resume on-site operations

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Political instability)
- River erosion (Inclination of the Minaret)
- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of management plan)
- Illegal activities (Illicit excavations and looting)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 April 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report providing information on the implementation of the corrective measures and a Conservation Action Plan for conservation work at Jam, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/documents>.

The Conservation Action Plan, which was developed in cooperation with UNESCO and is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Culture, addresses the following four key areas:

- *Protection:* The south bank of the Hari Rud River should be consolidated with gabion wall extensions and the planting of trees upstream of the minaret. Systematic data collection for the two rivers shall be established to facilitate planning for future seasonal flooding;
- *Documentation:* Measures needed to provide a solid basis for conservation and protection work include total station surveying, electric tomography, laser scanning and soil sampling;
- *Monitoring:* Sensitive monitoring instruments should be installed on the Minaret to measure the extent of its inclination;
- *Conservation:* The required conservation works include structural repairs for the helicoidal steps and the protection of the window cantilevers, along with the restoration of tile and stucco on the surface of the Minaret.

A hydrology training workshop is planned in close co-operation with the Aachen Technical University (RWTH) in Aachen (Germany) in April 2017, with the participation of a structural engineer and hydrologists from the Ministries of Information and Culture, Water and Energy.

A team of police officers have been deployed for the protection of the property and to monitor any illicit trafficking of cultural property. Due to heavy rains and snow in 2016, the guesthouse partly collapsed and is no longer usable. Therefore, the State Party needs to build a new guesthouse, which can also serve as a site office for the Department of Historical Monuments, as storage for conservation materials, and as accommodation for experts. In addition, the report stresses the importance of constructing a footbridge over the Hari Rud River to enable year-round access to the property for both the local communities and future conservation works.

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

The information provided by the State Party on the Conservation Action Plan is not sufficiently detailed, and it appears that none of the recommendations made by the Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) have been implemented. Moreover, the State Party has been providing information on the same issues related to the construction of a footbridge and a guesthouse for the last 6 years, with little or no progress reported and no reasons given for the continued delays.

It is recommended that the Committee also deeply regret that the State Party has not adopted the topographic map produced in 2012 within the framework of the UNESCO/Italy Funds in Trust (FiT) project, which took into account the crucial need for accurate mapping of the archaeological remains and for the definition of appropriate boundaries and a buffer zone for the property. As reiterated several times by the Committee, the adoption of the topographic map and the new proposed boundaries by the relevant authorities would constitute an essential step towards developing an effective conservation strategy.

It must be stressed once more that it is of the utmost importance that a realistic Conservation Action Plan, based on the above-mentioned strategy, be established and implemented. This Action Plan might be subdivided into a short-term work plan and a mid- or long-term work plan, with the former comprising a set of actions to be undertaken immediately, such as the installation of a monitoring device at the Minaret of Jam to measure its inclination and emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases, in order to prevent further destabilization of the Minaret's structure.

Regrettably, no action has been undertaken at the property since the termination of the UNESCO/Italy FiT and UNESCO/Switzerland FiT projects for the safeguarding the Minaret of Jam, in 2012. In light of this, it is recommended that the Committee strongly urge the State Party to implement, as a matter of urgency, the work plan produced as a result of the Emergency International Assistance and to allocate appropriate budgetary and human resources.

Finally, the comprehensive Conservation Action Plan should serve as the basis to revise the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures identified by the Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), so as to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.27** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes with regret that the State Party has neither adopted the detailed topographic map of the property produced in 2012, nor submitted a proposal for a minor boundary modification, and reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt the 2012 topographic map of the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;
4. Regrets that the State Party has not carried out any conservation work at the site since 2012;
5. Urges the State Party to approve the Conservation Action Plan, which was established as an outcome of the Emergency International Assistance granted from the World Heritage Fund, along with the necessary financial resources, and to start implementing this Action Plan as soon as possible;
6. Also urges the State Party, as a matter of urgency, to address the two issues that have been reported as urgent for several years already:
 - a) The installation of a monitoring instrument on the Minaret of Jam to measure its inclination, and
 - b) The emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases, in order to prevent further destabilization of the Minaret's structure;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, the detailed Conservation Action Plan along with details on the means allocated towards its implementation, including any financial measure;
8. Also requests the State Party to construct a footbridge over the Hari Rud River and a guesthouse at the property, in order to improve access to the property and site security, which the State Party itself has highlighted as urgent for a number of years;
9. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for the implementation of above-mentioned Action Plan, which will be part of a strategy to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
10. Further requests the State Party to revise the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an update report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. **Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Large-scale urban development projects carried out without informing the Committee or commissioning the necessary heritage impact assessments
- Demolition and rebuilding of traditional housing areas
- Irreversible changes to the original appearance of a large area within the historic centre
- Significant alteration of the setting of monuments and the overall historical town planning structure and its archaeological layers
- Absence of conservation and management plan

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2002: Monitoring mission by an international expert; March 2006: UNESCO

Tashkent/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2014: UNESCO Tashkent fact-finding mission;

March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: joint

World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a comprehensive conservation and management plan)
- Management activities
- Housing; Commercial development (Major interventions carried out, including demolition and rebuilding activities)
- Legal framework (Need to reinforce the national legal framework)
- Human resources (inadequate)
- Financial resources (inadequate)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. Subsequently, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in December 2016. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/documents>. The State Party responded to the requests of the Committee at its last session as follows:

- All work on the “*State Programme for complex measures for building and reconstruction of Shakhriyabz city*”, which included the demolition of traditional houses and urban structures in the centre of the town, the lowering of ground levels, new large-scale landscaping and the construction of new buildings, has been halted;
- A *Heritage Impact Assessment* (HIA) on the impacts of the demolition/development in the centre of the town on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been submitted retrospectively, after the works had been carried out;
- *Management*: A Special Commission was created in October 2016 to address the recommendations of the Committee at its 40th session and approve an Action Plan for the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz (as well as for the Historic Centre of Bukhara, Itchan Kala and Samarkand- Crossroad of Cultures), which includes the need to:
 - Update the 2001 law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage to include special measures for the preservation of the historical appearance of World Heritage properties,
 - Develop a charter for economic and town-planning activities at cultural World Heritage properties and other historic centres,
 - Make changes to the Shakhriyabz Master Plan to ensure that it considers the historical environment and traditional houses,
 - Prepare changes to the Criminal and Administrative codes of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in relation to responsibility for damaging World Heritage properties,
 - Accelerate the processes concerning management plans,
 - Establish a special research institute specializing on conservation, restoration, rescue and recovery operations for cultural heritage property in historic cities, based in Tashkent,
 - Develop 1-, 2-, 3- and 5-year development plans for Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva, Shakhriyabz and other historic cities;
- *Future Projects*: Plans are being drawn up to recreate the historic layout, including the reconstruction of some houses based on the spatial and planning structure of traditional houses in Shakhriyabz, but using modern materials and services. These projects will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The mission report documented the damage to the centre of Shakhriyabz arising from the implementation of the State Programme. Before it was halted, the project had resulted in:

- The demolition of a 2-km swathe of the Old City, from the Ak-Saray palace in the north to the Dorus-Tilovat Complex in the south, including the whole of the central market area, in all extending to 70 ha;
- The destruction of almost the entirety one of the historic *mahalla* districts that covered the core of the earliest, 7th-century-AD part of the town;
- The obliteration of the traditional layout of the centre of the city, which reflected town planning of the Timurid era and earlier;
- The relocation of some 2,000 people to a new site, about 4 km away from the historic centre;
- The removal of 2 to 2.5 m of the archaeological layers from the site;
- The installation of large drains to lower the water table;
- The introduction of hard landscaping and non-native trees and shrubs;

- Extensive conservation works at and around a number of cultural heritage monuments among them the Ak-Saray Palace, the Dorus-Saodat Complex, the Chor-su Bazaar and the Medieval Baths, including some reconstruction.

The mission noted that, had the project not been halted, the demolition of houses would have been extended to other *mahalla* districts.

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

The Reactive Monitoring mission noted that the impact of this work is drastic. Features of the medieval town centre and its evolution through the centuries have been replaced by large-scale modern interventions, which have in effect turned the central area into a “theme park” for visitors. The heart of the town has been torn away and what remains are wide-open areas of landscaping separated from the rest of the town by perimeter walls. Almost nothing remains to reflect the traditional urban structure or the way it has developed over at least two millennia in the central part of the town. Additionally, intensive conservation projects were carried out on most of the major monuments within a short period of time, partly using inappropriate materials and irreversible techniques, have significantly damaged the property’s authenticity. It appears that no detailed systematic documentation exists of the demolished urban areas and buildings, and no rescue archaeology was undertaken. From the information provided during the mission, it appears that the project was approved at the highest level and with support from the National Board of Monuments.

Furthermore, no HIA was undertaken before the works commenced, nor were any details presented to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The HIA submitted retrospectively by the State Party highlights the problems of the current situation. Decisions have been taken purely on the basis of the protection of individual monuments and to enhance the spaces between monuments to allow for better visibility and intercommunication, and not on the basis of the OUV of the property. Shakhriyabz was inscribed for its combination of monumental Timurid buildings surrounded by traditional dwelling houses, only visible with such clarity in Shakhriyabz, which together were seen to reflect the coherence and survival of Timurid planning, and to have no analogues in the whole of Central Asia or the Islamic world.

The monumental buildings have now been disengaged from their urban surroundings, the heart of the Timurid planning has been lost, and the traditional dwelling houses at the core of the mediaeval town have been destroyed. What remains is not so much a historic town as an ensemble of monuments surrounded by a park, with beyond the park wall the remaining *mahallas*.

The mission could only reach the conclusion that the key attributes of the OUV have been damaged to such a degree, and for the most part irreversibly, that the OUV for which the property was inscribed can no longer be conveyed.

The mission concluded that there did not appear to be any possibility to recover sufficient attributes to justify the OUV that existed at the time of inscription. Nevertheless, although recovering sufficient attributes to justify the OUV identified at the time of inscription seems impossible at this stage, it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to provide further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered, although there remain concerns as to what parameters might be developed for recovery work. The damage inflicted on Shakhriyabz was deliberate, which makes it all the more difficult to understand where the momentum for recovery might come from.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide the following detailed documentation:

- The town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition,
- The remaining *mahalla* areas and descriptions of their characteristics,
- The remaining traditional houses,
- An assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with the 1983 drawings of selected houses,
- Current plans for further improvements and upgrading work on houses and access routes, such as the widening and re-paving of roads,
- Documentation on works carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription, and

- The Current Master Plan for the city.

On the basis of this documentation, an assessment could be made as to whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property or a significant boundary modification, including some of the monuments and some of the remaining urban areas, or whether the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has irremediably lost its OUV and should therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the *Operational Guidelines*, be deleted from the World Heritage List. As there is a need to reach a resolution on the way forward as quickly as possible, the mission recommended that a decision in this regard be taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session.

Finally, the Action Plan submitted by the State Party is welcome, as it reflects an acknowledgement of the need to transform protection, management and decision making not only for Shakhriyabz but also for other World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the Action Plan submitted by the State Party, which reflects an acknowledgement of the need to transform the protection, management and decision making not only for Shakhriyabz but also for other World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan;*
4. *Notes with extreme concern the findings of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission concerning the drastic and irreversible damage to the Temurid urban planning and to traditional dwelling houses in the core of the mediaeval town resulting from works undertaken under the 'State Programme for complex measures for building and reconstruction of Shakhriyabz city';*
5. *Also notes with extreme concern the relocation of some 2,000 residents and the extensive conservation work at and around a number of cultural heritage monuments, including the Ak-Saray Palace, the Dorus-Saodat Complex, the Chor-su Bazaar and the Medieval Baths, partly carried out using inappropriate materials and irreversible techniques, including some reconstruction, which caused significant damage to the authenticity of the property;*
6. *Greatly regrets that no information was provided to the World Heritage Centre on this major project before irreversible decisions were taken and work commenced, and understands that, had the project not been halted as requested by the Committee in 2016, the demolition would have been extended to other mahalla districts;*
7. *Notes that no Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), no detailed systematic documentation, and no rescue archaeology was carried out before the major interventions began;*
8. *Takes note with concern of the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that, as the monumental buildings have now been disengaged from their urban surroundings, the heart of the Temurid town planning has been lost and, as the traditional dwelling houses in the core of the medieval town have been destroyed, the key attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been damaged to such an extent, and for the most part irreversibly, that the property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed;*

9. Also takes note with concern of the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that recovering sufficient attributes to justify the OUV identified at the time of inscription seems impossible at this stage, but considers nevertheless that the State Party should explore all possible options for the recovery of attributes and examine whether a significant boundary modification could be envisaged based on any recoverable attributes, in line with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Requests therefore that the State Party halt any further work at Shakhrisyabz and provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered, for review by ICOMOS, including:
 - a) Detailed plans of the town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition,
 - b) Detailed plans of the remaining mahalla areas and descriptions of their characteristics,
 - c) Inventories of remaining traditional houses,
 - d) Assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with the 1983 drawings of selected houses,
 - e) Current plans for further improvements and upgrade work on houses and access routes, such as the widening and re-paving of roads,
 - f) Documentation on work carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription,
 - g) A current Master Plan for the city;
11. Decides that on the basis of this documentation, a decision will be made at its 42nd session in 2018 on whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property including only some of the monuments and the remaining urban areas, or **whether the property has deteriorated to such an extent that it has lost the attributes of the OUV defined at the time of inscription and should therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the Operational Guidelines, be deleted from the World Heritage List;**
12. Urges the State Party to address all other recommendations of the December 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, notably regarding protection, management and tile decay on the façade of Ak-Saray Palace;
13. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
14. Also decides to retain **Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**