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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
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POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Forty-third session / Quarante-troisième session

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Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

**Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) (658)
Coro et son port (Venezuela (République bolivarienne du)) (658)**

16-20 July 2018

**ICOMOS Advisory Mission to
Coro and its Port
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**



MISSION REPORT

16-20 July 2018



ICOMOS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The property was inscribed in 1993 as a cultural site at the 17th session of the World Heritage Committee in Cartagena, Colombia, by Decision 17 COM XI, under the name “Coro and its Port” and criteria (iv) and (v) (the history of the inscription is described in detail in the Mission Report dated August 2002).

In 2005 the site was inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger by Decision 29 COM 7B.92.

The World Heritage Committee has examined the state of conservation of the property during 16 sessions, yearly from 2003 to 2018. The last sessions were the 42nd session (Manama, 2018), the 41st session (Krakow, 2017) and the 40th session (Istanbul, 2016). (See Decisions 42 COM 7A.12, 41 COM 7A.27 and 40 COM 7A.5 in Annex II).

The State Party invited an ICOMOS advisory mission to assist in implementing the recommendations of Decision 42 COM 7A.12, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018). ICOMOS carried out this mission from 16 to 20 July 2018.

Based on the parameter set by the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted in 2014 by Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the mission states the following conclusions:

- a) The project of a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been defined but financial resources for its execution have not been assured yet. Therefore, the property remains exposed to one of the main threats.
- b) Since 2015 the disaster risk preparedness plan is still in the preparation stage.
- c) The Management Plan providing a clear guide to manage the property in all aspects remains in the phase of elaboration. Progress to date has not yet achieved a clear structure showing a coherent sequence.
- d) As it was pointed out in 2015, there is a visible need for the IPC-OPEDAP to incorporate professionals who are experts in the restoration, conservation and management of heritage.
- e) The Mixed Commission under the coordination of the IPC-OPEDAP has proved to operate as a management unit which assures an adequate level of cooperation of institutions at the three levels of government and the participation of the community through the representatives of its councils.
- f) The intensive restoration, conservation and maintenance plan performed on traditional civil, religious and domestic examples of architecture that was in progress in 2015 was satisfactorily completed, but no strategies for the recovery and rehabilitation of minor examples of domestic architecture have been generated.
- g) The abandonment and deterioration of homes constituting the WH areas is still a serious threat to the integrity of the property.

- h) The lack of maintenance of public spaces (streets, pavement and walks) contrasts with the effort made for the conservation of the main examples of civil, religious and domestic architecture.
- i) Regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones have been adopted; however, the Mission identified difficulties in their enforcement.
- j) Strategies that the State Party had identified to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation (reported in the 2015 Mission report) have not been developed, such as reach favourable resolutions from Banks to grant loans to owners of heritage estate built with traditional techniques or complete the continuity of the productive chain for the supply of materials to the Storage Centre.
- k) The timeframe established in Decision 38 COM 7A.23 has expired without all the corrective measures being implemented or completed, so it is necessary for the State Party to prepare a revised timeframe.
- l) The state of conservation reports prepared for the property by the State Party should provide clear information about the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 to reach the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. In brief, even though there have been remarkable efforts and commitment on the part of each institutional actor and community members, there was no significant progress regarding the state pointed out in the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report. At that time it was observed that substantial progress had been made in response to the measures set out in Decision 39COM 7A.48 but unfortunately, since then there has been no continuity -or it was not possible to continue working at a sustained pace due to the lack of financial resources. There is also lack of professional teams trained in management, conservation and restoration of heritage.

Recommendations

Regarding a boundary definition proposal:

- Define the boundary definition proposal for the buffer zones of Coro and La Vela as agreed during the itineraries followed during the Mission (See Draft Maps of the Buffer Zones proposed to Coro and to La Vela in Annex VI).
- In order to protect and regulate both sides of the limiting streets, the boundaries should extend to the end of the lots outside the bordering streets.
- Include the coastal walk in La Vela to protect the visual relationship of the property with the sea.
- Illustrate the boundary definition proposal by means of updated cadastral plans.
- Submit the proposal of Minor Boundaries Modification to the World Heritage Centre for its consideration and approval

Regarding the definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas:

- Once the proposal for the buffer zones is defined, the ordinances of Coro and La Vela should be reviewed so as to identify if the current provisions are suitable for their protection, and if necessary, propose amendments.

Regarding the elaboration of the property's Management Plan:

- As stated in Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the Management Plan must include the definition of regulatory measures for buffer zones and heritage areas (in agreement with the approved ordinances for Coro and La Vela), a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property.
- The Management Plan must properly define the enforcement authority or the management unit in charge of enforcing it. To do so, it is recommended to give the Mixed Commission a formal and institutionalized status, considering that it has proven its efficacy as an instance of agreement among the IPC, the State of Falcón, the municipalities of Miranda and Colina, the Communal Councils and the Earth Building Artisans. To this respect, the governing and coordinating role of the IPC through OPEDAP should be made clear. In order to guarantee the executive character of this management unit it is recommended not to increase the number of institutions currently represented. In any case, the necessary links with other public or private institutions may be established by means of agreements entered by IPC, superior body of protection and management of the property, having attributions to do so pursuant to Art. 43 of the Law for the Protection and Defense of the World Cultural Heritage.
- The management structure and the type of articulation among the different levels of government and community councils in decision-making must be clearly stated in the Management Plan.
- The current legal tools which ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed should be clearly stated. This must be made clear, especially when it comes to *Con Patrimonio*, whose competence in relation to the property may be confusing and generate overlapping with the operation of the Mixed Commission.
- Defining a desirable state of conservation for the property as an orientation element of the strategic lines of the Plan is advisable. Establishing an agreement between strategic lines, programmes and action plans is suggested. Regarding the fulfilment of programmes and action plans, timeframes must be set for the short, medium and long term. Indicators allowing for the review of the efficiency of the management must be defined.
- The Management Plan must also foresee the financial resources necessary for the management of the property and for the execution of the programmes and action plans.
- The Management Plan must formally integrate traditional know-how on earth techniques guaranteeing the incorporation of Artisans in restoration, conservation and maintenance works. To that end, it is recommended to support the operation of the Social Property Enterprise (EPS) constituted by the Earth Building Artisans.
- The articulation of the Management Plan which is in the elaboration process, with local and regional planning tools, must be clearly expressed in the state of conservation

reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as well as their coordination with the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela.

- To continue with the traditional legacy of knowledge of construction techniques, it is recommended to resume the project of creating The School of Earth-Building (*Escuela de Barro*), which may be constituted as a single institution having two venues: one in Coro and the other in La Vela. The School could also offer two embodiments of education: one as part of the secondary school system, and another for artisans training.
- Taking into account that in its state of conservation report the State Party has pointed out the level of complexity of the record in the database designed to that purpose, due to the degree of information on each of the instances of buildings, it is recommended to establish an order of priority when completing the corresponding fields in the record, according to their relevance for the diagnosis and the writing of the Management Plan.
- In order to provide better counselling to the admissible interventions in each property, it is recommended that for each of the building units, a study must be developed in order to assess and determine value degrees: maximum, medium and minimum protection, so as to set the criteria to be applied according to the case. However, this recommendation is not urgent, but must be part of the agenda once corrective actions are taken.

Regarding the implementation of the Management Plan for the property:

- The Management Plan requires for its enforcement a management unit with operating and technical capacity, therefore the OPEDAP-IPC must incorporate professionals trained and experienced in the management, conservation and restoration of heritage.

Regarding a comprehensive drainage system:

- The project for a comprehensive drainage system should be urgently implemented through the allocation of the financial resources and their execution in the short term.

Regarding a sustainable development strategy for the property:

- The review of concession agreements for the exploitation of recreational spaces in *Solares de Lugo* and *Solar Encuentro* should include a clear allocation of the income obtained to benefit the sustainability of the property.
- For these spaces, guidelines to guarantee a proper coexistence with neighbour residents should be established and enforced. In addition, the allowed volume of the sound must be regulated so as not to disturb the activities developed in the cultural areas nearby.

Regarding a public use plan:

- Public management must promote the agreement among the managers of cultural spaces whether public or private, so as to strengthen capacities, complement efforts and coordinate and communicate schedules.

Regarding a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property:

- For the writing of the disaster risk preparedness plan: the Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage Resource Manual (UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS/UICN, 2014) should be a key reference. As it was recommended in 2015, the records of preceding disasters

and the response given to cope with the emergency may also contribute as valuable precedents to be taken into account in the elaboration of a Managing Disaster Risks Plan.

Regarding a conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys:

- An interventions programme similar to that in execution in 2015, which set priorities and allocated financial resources to the restoration, rehabilitation and conservation of buildings should be developed and implemented.

Regarding guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions:

- Even though the "Instructions that Regulate the Compulsory Consultation Procedure for the Presentation and Review of Intervention Projects in Real Property With Heritage Value Registered in the General Registry of Cultural Heritage" establishes different methods of application according to the type of intervention, for the property in particular the Management Plan should clearly define the differences between restoration and maintenance, and the requirements to comply with in each case.

Regarding the development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization:

- Even though corrective measures relating to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture establishing the obligatory maintenance of real estate, and penalties foreseen to solve issues related to ownership and abandonment, have been implemented, it is necessary to generate other measures of a proactive nature rather than of a reactive character.
- In this respect, it is necessary for the State Party to continue working on proposals to encourage the incorporation of uses compatible with residential use, thus recovering the traditional relationship existing between residence and commercial stores.
- Support strategies must be set up for the owners of traditional homes who wish to offer accommodation, food or other activities which contribute to sustainability in terms of training to optimise the quality of their services, loans to support their investment, coordination and dissemination of the services offered.

Regarding the development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property:

- The closure to vehicular traffic in a sector of a World Heritage area of Coro should be carefully monitored. It must be urgently enforced without exceptions. Missing fences should be replaced. A possible restriction for heavy traffic along Urdaneta Street, where buses and lorries currently circulate should be studied (See Annex VII, photography 45).
- The project of accessibility for the disabled must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for its revision and consideration.

Regarding the development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners:

- The strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation as well as continued use by owners should be one of the priorities in property management. The following strategies identified by the State Party in 2015 have not been implemented and should be actively pursued until their implementation is achieved:
 - a) to complete the continuity of the productive chain for the supply of materials to the Storage Centre, coordinating management with other sectors of the state, such as the Ministry of Environment;
 - b) to reach a favourable resolution so that the Bank grants loans to owners of heritage property built with traditional techniques who are interested in investing in their conservation and maintenance.
- To the same purpose, efforts should be made before the national authorities as the Ministry of the Popular Power (*Ministerio de Poder Popular*) for Housing, aimed at including the issue of rehabilitation of homes built with traditional techniques and materials like earth, in programmes such as *Gran Misión Barrio Nuevo-Barrio Tricolor* or else new specific programmes for this type of houses are created.

Regarding the remaining implementation of measures correctives:

- Review on the progress to date on implementing the remainder of the corrective measures, update the timelines for their implementation and include them in the next state of conservation report to be submitted by 1 February 2019.

Regarding the research on the property:

- Develop, promote and support historical research on the property, in particular based on the series of Notary Public documents whose registers start in 1640. Among other aspects (social, economic, productive aspects) these records may provide information on the history of real estate, homes and other buildings of the historic Centre of Coro and La Vela, of the building practices and of the artisans involved in construction.
- Carry out archaeological research before carrying out works in plots of the property.

Regarding the timeframe for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23, the Mission suggests the following updated timeframe:

A. Measures to be implemented within one year:

1. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding.
2. Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property.
3. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from

condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions.

4. Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization.
 5. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property.
 6. Finalization of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts,
 7. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners.
 8. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term,
- B. Measures to be implemented within two years:
1. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property.
 2. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy.
 3. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with.

Regarding the format and information required for preparation of the property's state of conservation reports:

- The format of the state of conservation report should be organised clearly with the aim of explaining the progress reached to achieve the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) established for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision 38 COM 7.A23).
- A statement on the progress made to achieve the DSO CR should be included in the report.
- The report should include precise information on the advances made in achieving the corrective measures established by Decision 38 COM 7.A23.
- All additional or complementary information necessary to show the advances achieved should be provided in Annexes.

I. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

I.1 Inscription history

The property was inscribed in 1993 as a cultural site at the 17th session of the World Heritage Committee in Cartagena, Colombia, by Decision 17 COM XI, under the name “Coro and its Port” and criteria (iv) and (v) (the history of the inscription is described in detail in the Mission Report dated August 2002).

In 2005 the site was inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger by Decision 29 COM7B.92.

I.2 Inscription criteria and Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

By Decision 37 COM 8E, the World Heritage Committee adopted the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Coro and its Port.

Criterion (iv)

Unlike other cities on the Caribbean Coast, the buildings of Coro and its Port are constructed with earthen architecture and domestic buildings show unique examples of traditional mud building techniques including *bahareque* (a system using mud, timber and bamboo), adobe and *tapia* (*rammed earth*). These are building techniques that are still in use today that have been modified and adapted to social, climatic and environmental conditions as well as to local materials, resulting in a unique example of earthen architecture.

Criterion (v)

Coro is an outstanding example of a historic town, dating from the earliest years of Spanish colonization on the Caribbean coast of South America, which has conserved its original layout and early urban landscape to a remarkable degree.

The urban value of Coro is represented by a building style derived from a colonizing process where strong Spanish and *Mudéjar* building and architectural character and an indigenous building tradition converged. Afterwards, from the second half of the 17th century, this style was influenced by a Dutch architectural pattern introduced through the neighbouring islands of Curaçao and Aruba.

I.3 Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau

The World Heritage Committee has examined the state of conservation of the property during 16 sessions, yearly from 2003 to 2018. The last sessions were the 42nd session (Manama, 2018), the 41st session (Krakow, 2017) and the 40th session (Istanbul, 2016). (See Decisions 42 COM 7A.12, 41 COM 7A.27 and 40 COM 7A.5 in Annex II).

In July 2002, April 2005, May 2008, February 2011 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions and in October 2015 an ICOMOS Advisory Mission visited the

property invited by the State Party as requested by Decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore, in September 2006 a World Heritage Centre mission visited the site to assess its state of conservation. In 2005 the site was inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger by Decision 29 COM7B.92, considering the following threats:

- Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004 and 2005 (repeated in 2010);
- Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements.

In 2014 the World Heritage Committee, by Decision 38 COM 7A.23, adopted the following revised Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

a. Traditional civil, religious and domestic architecture has been conserved in accordance to clear conservation principles that ensure that conditions of authenticity and integrity continue to be met. Conservation interventions are based on a prioritised and comprehensive strategy and plan that ensure continued actions;

b. The participatory management arrangements for the property are sustained through adequate resource allocation and staffing and guided by the adopted Management Plan, which includes provisions and regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones;

c. The disaster risk preparedness plan is fully operational and a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been implemented;

d. The legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development.

In February 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre for review at the 42nd session of the WH Committee.

In 2018, by Decision 42 COM 7A.12 the Committee decided to retain Coro and its Port on the List of World Heritage in Danger and commended the State Party “on its continued commitment to improving the state of conservation and management of the property, and ensuring the broad participation of community councils and the communities at large in these processes”.

By this Decision, as a matter of priority the State Party also was requested:

- to finalize a clear boundary definition proposal in cooperation with ICOMOS and submit a Minor Boundary Modification for the extension of the buffer zones;

- to complete the draft version of the Management Plan and submit it to the WH Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- to start implementation of a prioritized and costed plan for the property's drainage system, ensuring adequate financial resources for its correct execution;
- to provide "complete and clear information on the implementation status of the entire set of corrective measures, and a detailed analysis of the progress in achieving the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)".

Finally, considering "that the timeline adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 has lapsed, also urges the State Party to provide updated and detailed timelines for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures".

1.4 Justification of the mission (terms of reference, composition of the mission, itinerary and programme are provided in the Annexes)

The State Party invited an ICOMOS advisory mission to assist in implementing the recommendations of Decision 42 COM 7A.12, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018).

ICOMOS carried out this mission from 16 to 20 July 2018 with the following objectives:

1. Assist the State Party in finalizing a clear boundary definition proposal, and in preparing if appropriate a Minor Boundary Modification for the extension of the buffer zones of the property, taking into consideration the information submitted by the State Party in its recent state of conservation reports;
2. Review and provide guidance on the methodology in place and contents compiled to date for the elaboration of the property's Management Plan, and also on the development of necessary strategic plans and action plans to address the vulnerabilities in the property and to ensure its long-term sustainability in terms of conservation, management, resource allocation, and relevant socio-economic factors;
3. Discuss with the local and national authorities involved in the elaboration of the Management Plan the desirability and viability of establishing an extended distance cooperation mechanism between local participants and ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, to accompany the development of the Management Plan through the exchange and discussion of draft versions;
4. Review and provide guidance on the suitability of the work plan for improving the property's drainage system, according to a prioritized and costed timeline;
5. Review and comment on the progress to date on implementing the remainder of the corrective measures and in achieving the Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted in Decision 38 COM 7A.23, as follows:
 - (ii) Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable

- development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,
- (iii) Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions
 - (v) Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization,
 - (iv) Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,
 - (vi) Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners;
6. As considered necessary, develop with the State Party an updated timeline for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures for presentation in the next state of conservation report to be submitted by 1 February 2018;
 7. Review with the relevant authorities the format and the information required for preparation of the property's State of Conservation reports, with the objective of strengthening the upcoming submissions, particularly in relation to demonstrating the advances in achieving the DSOCR;
 8. Prepare a mission report with a set of recommendations to be provided to the State Party within two months after the termination of the mission, no later than 20th September 2018.

2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1 Heritage legislation

The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which was passed in 1999, Article 99, establishes that “the State shall guarantee the protection and preservation, enrichment, conservation and restoration of the cultural heritage, whether tangible or intangible, and the historical memory of the Nation”. The same article also states that “the property constituting the cultural heritage of the Nation is inalienable, imprescriptible and unseizable. The Law shall determine the sanctions for the damages caused to such property.”

The following legislation outlined in previous Mission Reports it is currently in force:

National Legal Protection

Law for the Protection and Defence of the World Cultural Heritage	Official Gazette, extraordinary issue N° 4.623	03-10-1993
Urban Order Plan for the city of Coro-La Vela	Official Gazette, N° 4.528	05-02-1993
Guidelines for the General Registry of the Cultural Heritage of Venezuela and the Management of its Property.	Administrative Order N° 012/05	30-06-2005

Legal Protection of the State of Falcon

Decree of protected area and special surveillance to the Property area of the City of Coro and its Port La Vela de Coro, its road network and adjacent sites which constitute and identify these cities.	Official Gazette, N° 31.704	21-06-1996
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Legal Protection of the City of Santa Ana de Coro

National Declarations:

Section of Calle Zamora	Official Gazette, N° 26.210	18-03-60
Historical Zone	Official Gazette, N° 31.267	30-06-77
Historical and Artistic Zone (18 National Historical Monuments)	Official Gazette, N° 34.923	16-03-92

Municipal Declarations:

Historic Site of Coro	14-05-68
Protection of Historical Site area	30-03-82

Legal Protection of the City of Vela de Coro

National Declaration:

Historical and Traditional Site (1 National Historical Monument)	Official Gazette, N° 33.024	20-07-84
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Since 2015, as it was outlined in the last ICOMOS advisory mission report, specific municipal ordinances protect the areas of Coro and La Vela inscribed on the WH List:

- Modification of the “Ordinance of Zoning, Architecture and Construction for the Historic Centre of the City of Santa Ana de Coro”, with the main aim of valuing and conserving its historic, architectural and urbanistic characteristics (passed on 09 December, 2014).
- “Heritage Ordinance for action, intervention, zoning, architecture and construction of the World Heritage area and safeguarding of La Vela” (passed on 20 May, 2015).

Later, in 2016, the Legislative Council of the Falcón State (*Consejo Legislativo del Estado Falcón*) passed the “Law of Protection and Promotion of the Historical, Cultural, Archaeological and Paleontological Heritage of the Falcón state” (Official Gazette of the Falcón State, 08.12.2016) to “safeguard, protect, recover, preserve, sustain and disseminate the Cultural Heritage of the Falcón State” (art. 1).

2.2 Institutional framework

According to Art. 5 of the Law for the Protection and Defense of Historical-Cultural Heritage, the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC according to its initials in Spanish) is the national body holding competence on the cultural heritage of the Republic, which is constituted by real estate that has been or is declared national monument or it is not declared as such, but whose conservation is of interest due to their heritage value (art. 6).

Consequently, the actions aimed at protecting the WH property are under the custody of the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC), which acts in collaboration with the government of the Falcón State and the Municipalities of Colina and Miranda.

The Law of Heritage of the Falcón State already mentioned created the State Council for the Protection and Promotion of the the Historical, Cultural, Archaeological and Paleontological Heritage of the Falcón State (*Con Patrimonio*) as a body for “planning, counseling, designing and executing public policies to direct and provide outlines seeking conservation, preservation, defense, protection, custody, safeguard, formation and introduction into social use of the Cultural Heritage of the Falcón State, without prejudice to the competences attributed to the Cultural Heritage Institute” (art. 18).

On their part, the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela establish the competence of the Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage in the first case and the competence of the Municipal Institute for Culture, Heritage and Tourism in the second case, both always jointly and with the support of the Institute of Cultural Heritage through its Strategic Projects and Design Office for the Heritage areas of Coro, La Vela and its Protected Areas (OPEDAP according to its initials in Spanish).

Also on its part, the Organic Law of the Communal Councils, published in the Official Gazette n°39.335 on 28.12. 2009 grants viability to the manifest participating character of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Venezuelan Republic and as a direct consequence it made

possible and guaranteed the active involvement of society through the organisation of Communal Councils (*Consejos Comunes* in Spanish).

The instrument foreseen by the legislation of Venezuela to achieve participation of the Communal Councils in planning and decision-making is called “Management Commitment” (*Convenio de Gestión*, in Spanish), a legal entity existing in the Organic Law of the Public Administration. The Management Commitment for Coro and La Vela was signed in 2011 January 27 by the Communal Councils and national, local and regional institutions. The aim of the Management Commitment is to establish strategies for the conservation of the Heritage values of the zones decreed Areas of Historical Value of Coro and its Port of La Vela within which the areas inscribed on the WH List are located.

2.3 Management structure

The management structure has not varied regarding what the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report stated.

According to the institutional framework, the guardianship of the property corresponds to IPC as the highest national authority.

Supported by the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela, competence corresponding to IPC and the application of the Management Commitment, with the aim of achieving a participative management, the Institute of Cultural Heritage, the Municipal Offices of the Heritage of Coro and La Vela, the Communal Councils and of the Earth Building Artisans (“*Artesanos del Barro*” in Spanish) have formed the Mixed Commission. However, the Mixed Commission emerged from a factual constitution and has not been created following any administrative procedure or norm.

The Mixed Commission is coordinated by the IPC through the Strategic Projects and Design Office for the Heritage Areas of Coro, La Vela and its protected areas” (OPEDAP). The OPEDAP, in turn, was created by the Institute of Cultural Heritage pursuant to administrative Resolution N° 018/12, dated March 13, 2012 (Official Gazette N° 40.034, 23.10.2012). Its mission is to generate norms and regulations for the buildings, infrastructure and uses of the areas mentioned, provide counselling and enforce norms aimed at their protection, conservation, restoration and revitalization. To do so, it works jointly with the regional government, municipalities and community organisations. It is within OPEPAD’s scope to manage and grant authorizations to develop works or other interventions in the areas declared World Heritage, and their corresponding protected areas (without being exempted from observing the municipal legislation).

Currently and as it was pointed out in the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report, the Mixed Commission coordinates its actions with the Government of the State of Falcón through its Falcón Corporation of Tourism (CORFALTUR), a government department under its responsibility, whereas *Con Patrimonio*, created by State Law, has not been formed yet.

In their management structure, the Heritage Municipal Offices, the OPEDAP and CORFALTUR gather technicians and professionals from various disciplines – architects and engineers among them– but they lack professionals specialized in restoration, conservation and heritage management. This situation has remained the same regarding what was pointed out in the 2015 ICOMOS advisory mission report.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

3.1 Management effectiveness

Even though the Mixed Commission did not undergo any formal administrative procedure and has not yet been formally constituted or recognised it has demonstrated its efficacy as an instance of agreement and coordination among the IPC, the State of Falcón, the municipalities of Miranda and Colina, the Communal Councils and the Earth Building Artisans.

The present mission took place in a period when the Communal Councils were in the process of electing the new spokespersons; therefore, they were not represented in the meetings held with the Mixed Commission. Nevertheless, a meeting with the members of the community took place, during which it was evidenced the interest in continuing participating actively in the Mixed Commission and as agents of the social control which permanently accompany the monitoring of the works and the state of conservation of the property.

Unfortunately, the participation of the Earth Building Artisans has decreased since some of their members emigrated.

In addition to its role as coordinator of the Mixed Commission, OPEDAD plays a vital part from the technical point of view. The OPEDAP, among performing other functions, evaluates and approves interventions to heritage buildings and carries out a monitoring programme, keeps an updated record and inventory of the components of the property and acts as property counselling, supervisory and control agent.

Currently, the OPEDAD is constituted by a graduate in History as a coordinator, a civil engineer, three technicians in civil construction, a person in charge of the Document Centre, two clerks in administration, a surveillant and a person in charge of general cleaning services. It is worth highlighting that the technicians already working have been developing their duties for some years now and they are absolutely aware of the responsibility that they have been assigned. However, the team lacks architects specialized in conservation and restoration, heritage managers and other professionals specialized in linked and convergent disciplines.

The absence of such specialists in heritage and the lack of an interdisciplinary team has been pointed out in each of the missions that took place since 2008; its persistence makes inviable the proper guardianship and the efficient management of the property that the IPC must exert through OPEDAD.

3.2 Nature and extent of threats to the property, taking into consideration the cultural values for which the property was inscribed and specific issues outlined by the World Heritage Committee

The State of Conservation Report (SOC) 2018, as well as those of previous years, outline the main factors affecting the property: flooding and water damage; water (rain/water table); lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms; lack of a management plan and adequate management systems; serious deterioration of materials and structures; and deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property. The SOC 2015 also points out the absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007.

Therefore, the main threats to the property are still the lack of a suitable drainage system and of a Management Plan including a Disasters Risk Plan.

Attention to these threats is considered among the corrective measures established by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 and progress done is outlined in Section 4.2.

3.3 Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee

Since the last report to the World Heritage Committee no significant conservation works have been performed and many of the important restoration works had already been pointed out in 2015 ICOMOS advisory mission report:

- In the WH area of Coro: *Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*, *Casa del Tesoro*, *Casa del Sol*, *Casa del Balcón de los Arcaya*, *Casa Lugo*, Cloister of Saint Francis (Diocesan Museum), all of them highly significant buildings considering their dimensions, urban insertion and heritage importance.
- In the WH area of La Vela, *Nuestra Señora del Carmen* Church and *Casa Antillana* (old Customs) (See Annex VII, photographs 74 and 75).

During the Mission, it was observed that the buildings restored in 2015 remain in a good state of conservation and maintenance (See Annex VII, photographs 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 8, and 26), meant for a suitable use and open to the public (See Annex VII, photographs 31, 32, 33, 34, 37 and 38).

In Coro, the completion of the restoration of *Casa Gumersindo Torres* -which in 2015 was in progress- must be added; the restoration of a sector of the building Santa Ana (old hospital), work which has not been continued in the rest of the building, currently abandoned and without use; restoration of Casa Nazaret and some tasks in Church and Cross of San Clemente and the Cathedral of Coro.

The state of conservation report (February 2018) points out some other works executed in 2017 through the *Corporación Falconiana de Turismo* in the WH area of Coro: construction of a meeting area with shops and repairs of *Café Aguaque* (former *Café Venezuela*).

While the Mission in 2015 was taking place, an Action Plan of restoration and conservation was in progress, aimed at buildings located within WH areas and their surroundings, funded by financial resources allocated by the State of Venezuela to the Government of the State of Falcón. These resources were also used in the restoration and rehabilitation of 62 private homes of a heritage value located in the WH areas and the buffer zones of Coro and La Vela. The present financial crisis that the State Party is undergoing has not only made it impossible to continue those restoration and rehabilitation programmes but also has hindered maintenance and conservation of the property. However, the Government of the Falcón State is planning to invest in the restoration and maintenance of certain buildings such as Casa Lugo, Hotel-School Todariquiva, Church and Cross of San Clemente, Cathedral, Casa Nazaret, Hospital Santa Ana.

It is worth pointing out that along the itineraries followed by the Mission it could be observed very little care given to public spaces, especially in Coro: broken pavements, missing grids, loads of garbage, in contrast with the careful maintenance seen in the main buildings of the Historic Centre.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

4.1 Review whether the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity and authenticity are being maintained

According to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the attributes supporting its value are mainly the group of buildings of Coro and its Port, a unique example along the Caribbean Coast as regards to applying traditional earth techniques which are still in use. Coro, on its part, is also an outstanding example of historic centre which maintains its layout and early urban landscape to a remarkable degree.

In 2005, Coro and its Port was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger taking into account the serious damage caused by torrential rains on materials and structures; the urban and architectural deterioration compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property and the lack of efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements. The torrential rains which occurred in 2010 increased the damage and affected the restoration works which had been developed.

The 2011 ICOMOS advisory mission report concluded that the situation caused by the rain in 2010 had been noticeably reversed thanks to a considerable financial effort and the commitment showed by the highest authorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Government of the State of Falcón and the Municipalities of Miranda and Colina, efficiently coordinated by the Institute of Cultural Heritage and its office in Coro (OPEDAP), in addition to the active participation of the Communal Councils.

The 2015 ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report noted remarkable progress regarding the restoration of main buildings, housing rehabilitation policies, approval of municipal norms regulating the intervention in WH areas and their buffer zones, consolidation of a participatory management system, forming and developing skills in traditional earth building techniques, proposals of social, cultural and financial proposals.

In the present mission it was observed that even though the attributes sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value are kept, the general situation has evidenced very little progress regarding the situation described in 2015 and many of the initiatives then identified have not continued, have barely progressed, or have remained the same as at that time.

4.2 Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

Decision 38 COM 7A.23 adopted a series of corrective measures to remove Coro and its Port from the List of World Heritage in Danger (repeated by Decision 39 COM 7A.48).

The ICOMOS Advisory Mission held between 16 and 20 July 2018 had the aim of reviewing and commenting on the progress to date on implementing the remainder of the corrective measures and in achieving the Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted in Decision 38 COM 7A.23. It had also the aim to assist the State Party in finalizing a clear boundary definition proposal; review and provide guidance on the methodology in place and contents compiled for the elaboration of the property's Management Plan, and also on the development of necessary strategic plans and action plans to address the vulnerabilities in the property and to ensure its long-term sustainability in terms of conservation, management, resource allocation, and relevant socio-economic factors; and review and provide guidance on the suitability of the work plan for improving the property's drainage system, according to a prioritized and costed timeline.

The consideration of these issues follows the order with which these measures are mentioned in Decision 38 COM 7A.23 and the way in which they were grouped according to implementation within one or two years, even though this calendar has not been observed.

Measures to be implemented within one year:

I. Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts:

The IPC has started a register for the buildings of the WH areas on a digital database using *PostgreSQL* and *PHP* technology both of free software. The database contains information on historical, natural, cultural, legal and patrimonial, socio-economic aspects and the state of conservation of each building.

It has been estimated that each historic centre encompasses approximately three hundred (300) buildings to be recorded. To date, information on 21 buildings (15 in Coro and 6 in La Vela) has been entered. The authorities of IPC have pointed out the complexity of the record due to the degree of information on the state of conservation; therefore, a longer time than originally estimated is required.

2. Full development of the management plan for the property:

The State Party informed in its report submitted to the WH Centre in February 2018 that the preparation of a Management Plan for the property is in process. The following background is available for the writing of such Plan: FUNRECO's Coro Master Plan (1992-1993); the Integral Plan of Conservation and Development of Coro, La Vela and its areas of influence (PLINCODE, 2005) and the Management and Vitalization Plan of Historical Centers, Coro and La Vela prepared by MINTUR (2006-2007).

Two Phases have been planned:

- Phase I corresponds to the diagnosis including archival and information collection; preliminary analysis and definition of the study area; identification and analysis of the current situation and determination of potential and prospective (site comprehension, assessment of significance, issues / vulnerability).
- Phase II includes the formulation of the proposal, investment programs, community validation and approval of the Plan by the Venezuelan State.

In its State of Conservation Report 2018 the State Party includes certain progress related to conceptualization of the Management Plan by developing principles, policies and objectives; national framework, institutional aspects, state of conservation of the site, urban-architectural aspects, cultural and patrimonial aspects, historical aspects, natural physical characterization, social and community aspects, with a conclusion of the diagnosis, management structure as a guarantee for community participation.

In the context of such progress, the following programmes have been proposed:

- In the Heritage field: revaluation and use of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage; registration, investigation and study of the material and immaterial cultural heritage; traditional construction through school-workshops.
- In the Architectural Urban aspect: recovery of the traditional constructive memory in mud; urban rehabilitation and public services in the area.
- In the environmental aspect: control of environmental deterioration processes: soils, drainages, streams, deforestation; risk management system; recovery and promotion of sources of raw material for artisanal and traditional construction production.
- In the field of social economy: comprehensive support for entrepreneurs for the development of products and services based on heritage; promotion of investments based on resources of tangible and intangible cultural heritage; promotion of the creation of social enterprises for the use of cultural heritage; conformation of cooperatives for the development of traditional constructive production.

2. a Including a definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas,

The 2015 ICOMOS advisory mission report concluded that the amendment of the Ordinance of Zoning, Architecture and Construction for the Historic Centre of the city of Santa Ana de Coro (9 December 2014) and the Heritage Ordinance for the Action, Intervention, Zoning, Architecture and Construction of the World Heritage area and Safeguarding of La Vela (20 May 2015), respond satisfactorily to this corrective measure requested by Decision 38 COM 7A.23.

Jointly with the authorities and technical staff of the IPC, of the institutes of heritage of Coro and La Vela and of CORFALTUR, the present Mission devoted two days to visiting the WH areas and their surroundings so as to make precisions on the buffer zone whose proposal will be submitted by the State Party to the WH Centre having the character of Minor Boundary Modification. In compliance with what is stated by the Operational Guidelines (para.104) a buffer zone was defined, which includes “the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection”. The criterion adopted is that of protecting and regulating both sides of the streets limiting them, therefore the boundaries of the buffer zone should extend to the end of the external plots to the bordering streets.

2. b ... a sustainable development strategy for the property,

2015 ICOMOS advisory mission report pointed out that the State Party was working on a strategy for the sustainability of certain buildings and the historic centres of Coro and La Vela by means of the possibility of opening meeting spaces which generate economic resources and cultural activities such as cafés, candy shops, art shops and craft shops.

Meeting and recreational spaces at the so called *Solar Encuentro* (Falcón Street at the Falcón Corner) and *Solar de Lugo* (Colón Street at the Urdaneta Corner) have been added to the *Café Aguaque* (former *Café Venezuela*).

These places (*solares*) formed part of some of the great houses of Coro and historically were free from constructions. With the purpose of conditioning them as recreational spaces some structures have been built inside such places and open spaces are predominant. High walls surrounding enclosures avoid visualization from the streets so that there is no negative impact on the urban landscape ((See Annex VII, photographs 46 to 52).

The structures built are discreet in volume and shape, without the vocation of permanence and morphological imposition exhibited by *Café Aguaque* (See Annex VII, photograph 53). However, prior to its construction no prospections or archaeological excavations were developed even though these places have been occupied for a very long period in colonial times and also possibly before Coro was founded. Therefore, they may contain valuable information, which must be recorded by scientific means.

The predominant use is that of bars and cafés which attract mainly the youth and contributes to reaching the objective of a dynamic use of the historic centre in the afternoons and at night. However, during the Mission it was experienced that the music from these spaces is excessively loud and disturbs not only neighbours but also the normal development of cultural activities that take place simultaneously in some of the historic monuments such as the Treasure House (*Casa del Tesoro*).

During the Mission the CORFALTUR authorities informed that they are in the process of reviewing the concession agreements of these spaces.

The authorities of CORFALTUR also informed that some owners of traditional homes offer accommodation services and CORFALTUR is planning to generate training for those offering this type of service.

2. c ...a public use plan,

The monuments and spaces recovered in the UNESCO Area of Coro and its buffer zone are all open to the public and they are connected among themselves forming corridors along Zamora Street and Paseo Talavera (See Annex VII, photographs 31 to 33 and 35 to 38). In addition to the cultural activities to which they are devoted on a regular basis, they offer different choices: recreational activities, music, films, theater, exhibitions, forums and conferences (See Annex VII, photography 34).

As mentioned by the State Party in its state of conservation report, these spaces enable citizens, visitors and tourists to enjoy different types of proposals and are aimed at “the transformation of the Historic Center into a sustainable and innovative City”.

For the coordination of activities, the State Party Report also points out that a Technical Board formed by the institutions involved in the management of the historic centers has been consolidated. The creation of the State Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Cultural Heritage of the Falcón state (*ConPatrimonio*), according to the report already mentioned, would also contribute to this coordination.

2. d ... and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property

The Report issued by the State Party dated February 2018 informs that the Civil Defense, Bolivarian National Guard and Falcon State Fire Corps jointly advanced in recognition of the vulnerabilities present in Coro and La Vela.

During the Mission not much information was obtained on the advances or progress made and no evidences of any actions on this subject were provided.

3. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including:

3. a A prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys

The 2015 ICOMOS advisory mission report pointed out that an intensive programme of interventions to buildings of a high heritage value, encompassing those buildings located in the WH areas of Coro and La Vela was being developed. As stated in point 3.3 of this report, these works have been completed except for the continuation of the restoration of Hospital Santa Ana.

During this Mission no information was provided on a similar programme being carried out.

Notwithstanding, the authorities of the IPC confirmed that data from the diagnosis performed to date allowed identifying some trends also pointed out by the state of conservation report:

- decrease of housing uses and replacing them by commercial uses.
- gradual modification of architectural typologies to adapt homes to commercial uses.
- change of activity patterns in the historic centers: activity during commercial hours decreases during night hours and weekends.
- decrease of the economic value of the buildings as a consequence of the loss of traditional residential use.
- acquisition of houses for other uses at low costs
- abandonment to declare decay or ruin of the houses.

3. b ... and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions

During the mission, the IPC-OPEDAP technicians reported that every intervention must be preceded by a restoration project complying the Administrative Order N° 017/10: "Instructions that Regulate the Compulsory Consultation Procedure for the Presentation and Review of Intervention Projects in Real Property with Heritage Value Registered in the General Registry of Cultural Heritage" (Official Gazette No. 39.511 dated September 16, 2010):

- "Any intervention of immovable property with patrimonial value inscribed in the General Registry of Cultural Heritage that may affect the values that led to its inclusion, should be previously authorized by the Institute of Cultural Heritage" (Art. 1).
- The intervention will require the submission of a project and for its elaboration, a mandatory consultation must be made in writing to the IPC requesting the necessary guidelines (Art.2).
- The project must be prepared by trained professionals, but this requirement can be exempted by the IPC when the interventions do not compromise the integrity or values of the property (Art.3).

In the case of new constructions, the IPC will establish the appropriate volumic relations and in the cases of restoration, it will establish the applicable criteria (Art.4

The procedures established in the mentioned articles are appropriate but require the consolidation of the OPEDAD-IPC technical team.

The Manual on Good Practices on Earth Building Techniques by Master Crafter Jesús Morillo is also available as a guidance for practical interventions.

4. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term:

Among progress made in 2015 the creation of the Social Property Enterprise (*Empresa de Propiedad Social*, EPS according to its name and initials in Spanish) formed by the Earth Building Artisans was pointed out. The present Mission learnt that this company is undergoing difficulties due to the fact that some of the master artisans emigrated, and stock of materials -which were delivered free of charge- could not be kept.

The initiative of forming new artisans in earth building by means of the proposed School of Earth Building was not given continuity either.

Nevertheless, there are links among artisan masters, communal councils and the OPEDAD-IPC, and workshops, talks and work tables referring to traditional construction techniques, patrimonial valuation, legal framework of heritage and heritage guides are held.

In June of 2017, a massive employment and study plan for the youth (the *Chamba* youth plan) was created at the national level. One of the programmes called *Chambearte* (“chamba” means job) is in charge of the Ministry of Popular Power for Culture and is aimed at training for work in arts and crafts, with the purpose of forming heritage and museum guides, trades of restoration and maintenance of the heritage and cultural infrastructure. The Ministry of Popular Power for Culture has entrusted the Institute of Cultural Heritage with the development and execution of this Heritage area. A specific training program was designed to be implemented on the second quarter of 2018, for the formation of mud crafts with the participation of the masters of mud of Coro and its Port of la Vela, under the technical direction of the IPC-OPEDAP.

5. Development and implementation of a strategy:

5. a ...to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture

The Chorus Ordinance establishes penalties for owners that cause partial or total destruction of their property.

However, no progress has been made in the measures to encourage and facilitate the conservation and maintenance of the buildings and the use of the traditional techniques with which they are built.

5. b ... and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization

A policy of reutilization of buildings of a high heritage value by privileging public use is applied.

Regarding housing although there is a clear interest to re-populating the historic centres and avoiding the phenomenon of gentrification, still no incentives have been implemented

for the residents who live and have an interest in continuing to inhabit the historic centers and maintain their traditional homes.

Measures to be implemented within two years:

1. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property:

As it was pointed out in the 2015 ICOMOS advisory mission report, from the Constitution of the Republic up to Municipal Ordinances, a consistent harmonisation of principles is perceived.

However, the recent Law of Heritage of the Falcón State does not include a clear reference to the key role of the IPC as the institution that guides and coordinates the management of Coro and its Port as a World Heritage, leaving room for possible overlaps or confusions that hinder the management of the property.

2. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy:

The Management Unit is a Mixed Commission constituted by IPC-OPEDAP, Municipalities and the Communal Councils of Coro and La Vela (the participation of the Communal Councils is supported by the Organic Law of the Communal Councils, 2009). The Mixed Commission works in collaboration with the Falcón Corporation of Tourism (COFALTUR), belonging to the Government of the State of Falcón.

The Mixed Commission has established links with other institutions: State Legislative Council, Municipal Chambers, Falconian Tourism Corporation, Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment, Public Prosecutor's Office through the Prosecutor's Office of Environment, the State Cabinet of Culture attached to the Ministry of Popular Power for Culture, Francisco de Miranda National Experimental University (UNEFM) with its career of Conservation and Restoration of Furniture Cultural Heritage and the Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV) Punto Fijo core with its Architecture career, the National Museums Foundation (FMN) through the Coro Art Museum (MUCOR) and the National Heritage Conservation and Restoration Center (CENCREP).

Each of these strategic alliances cooperates to obtain better results in the management of the property with a multidisciplinary and participatory approach.

Although this Management Unit has been consolidated and has demonstrated its efficiency, it has not been instituted by any regulatory or administrative instrument so far.

3. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with:

According to the Organic Law of Territorial Organisation (Official Gazette 3.238, 11.08.1983) the Management Plan that is in process of elaboration, is considered an Area Management Plan under the Special Management Administration Regime (Art. 15).

The areas under the administration regime must be established by Decree adopted by the President of the Republic in the Council of Ministers, in which its boundaries and the organisms responsible for its management must be determined (Art. 17). As such, the areas of Special Administration must have a respective Plan, which in this case is the Management Plan.

Therefore, for its approval the Management Plan must comply with the requirements established by the Organic Law of Territorial Organisation and be articulated with its guidelines and principles of territorial planning.

At the municipal level, the Management Plan will be articulated with the ordinance for the Historic Center of the City of Santa Ana de Coro promulgated on 09.12.2014 and the Heritage Ordinance for Action, Intervention, Zoning, Architecture and Construction of the UNESCO Area of La Vela, promulgated on 20. 05.2015. As an Area Management Plan under the Special Management Administration Regime, the Management Plan will have legal status. This is stated in the Organic Law of Territorial Organisation. Furthermore, the plan must be approved by Decree adopted by the President of the Republic.

4. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property:

In Coro, thanks to coordinated actions between IPC-OPEDAP and the Municipality of Miranda, in 2014 it was adopted the decision of closing the streets of a sector of the WH area in order to mitigate the vibrations that damage the property (See Annex VII, photographs 39 to 41). Although the closure has been formally maintained since that date, in practice it has not been fulfilled due to the lack of maintenance of closures and the disappearance of some of them (See Annex VII, photographs 42 to 44).

In La Vela, the closure and restriction of the streets of the WH area is ruled by the Heritage Ordinance, nevertheless, the closure of Sucre Street is still pending.

5. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding:

The project of Drainage Plan consists in levelling streets and correcting slopes so as to favour water surface run-off, in addition to the construction of a rectangular canal to facilitate discharge outside the city of Coro. Three stages have been planned. As they may be completed simultaneously, the project could be finished in six months.

Even though in November 2017 the National Executive Power had approved funding for the execution of the project, during the Mission the authorities repeated what was pointed out in the state of conservation report (February 2018) regarding the fact that due to the change of Regional Government as a result of the elections held on December 10, 2017 and the current economic situation of the country, it has been necessary to review and update the approved budget for the execution of the Drainage Plan.

While the Mission was in progress, the authorities of the State of Falcón finished reformulating the budget and the Governor of the State planned to travel to Caracas the following week to submit the project to the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in person with the aim of obtaining the necessary funds to execute it.

The implementation of this project has been requested by the WH Committee since 2012 (Decisions 36 COM 7A.35, 40 COM 7A.5, 41 COM 7A.27 and 42 COM 7A.12) and is one of the most important corrective measures adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 in 2014. This measure had to be completed in two years, that is in 2016. Therefore, the project must be approved, provided with the necessary financial resources and executed with the greatest urgency.

Even though the financial resources are not allocated, in December 2017 the State Government executed in advance cleaning tasks in the natural channels and some areas around the cities of Coro and La Vela to facilitate water discharge into the surrounding areas. Also, the first out of nine pumping stations of sewage was built in La Vela (See Annex VII, photography 78).

6. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners:

In 2015 the IPC noted that national banks had modified current credit policy to allow for granting loans to owners, aimed at rehabilitating traditionally built homes. Apparently, these actions did not continue and to date there are no positive results. Other strategies to obtain loans by means of housing programmes at the national level have not been developed, either.

On the other hand, the Materials Storage Centre whose aim was helping owners with the conservation and maintenance tasks of their buildings, guaranteeing the supply of traditional raw material and facilitating its acquisition with subsidised costs, has not yielded the expected results. It seems that the material was delivered free of charge, which made replacement difficult to achieve. Thus, the Storage Centre has currently no materials in stock. The foreseen strategy of working with other State offices to order and continue with the productive chain was neither continued.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the parameter set by the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted in 2014 by Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the mission states the following conclusion) The project of a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been defined but financial resources for its execution have not been assured yet. Therefore, the property remains exposed to one of the main threats (See Annex VII, photographs 68 to 73).b). Since 2015 the disaster risk preparedness plan is still in the preparation stage.

c) The Management Plan providing a clear guide to manage the property in all aspects remains in the phase of elaboration. Progress to date has not yet in achieved a clear structure showing a coherent sequence.

d) As it was pointed out in 2015, there is a visible need for the IPC-OPEDAP to incorporate professionals who are experts in the restoration, conservation and management of heritage.

e) The Mixed Commission under the coordination of the IPC-OPEDAP has proved to operate as a management unit which assures an adequate level of cooperation of institutions at the three levels of government and the participation of the community through the representatives of its councils.

f) The intensive restoration, conservation and maintenance plan performed on traditional civil, religious and domestic examples of architecture that was in progress in 2015 was satisfactorily completed, but no strategies for the recovery and rehabilitation of minor examples of domestic architecture have been generated.

g) The abandonment and deterioration of homes constituting the WH areas is still a serious threat to the integrity of the property (See Annex VII, photographs 65 to 67of Coro and photograph 85 of La Vela).

h) The lack of maintenance of public spaces (streets, pavement and walks) (See Annex VII, photographs 54 to 58of Coro and photograph 86 of La Vela) contrasts with the effort made for the conservation of the main examples of civil, religious and domestic architecture.

i) Regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones have been adopted; however, the Mission identified difficulties in their enforcement (See Annex VII, photograph 84 of La Vela).

j) Strategies that the State Party had identified to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation (reported in the 2015 Mission report) have not been developed, such as reach favourable resolutions from Banks to grant loans to owners of heritage estate built with traditional techniques or complete the continuity of the productive chain for the supply of materials to the Storage Centre.

k) The timeframe established in Decision 38 COM 7A.23 has expired without all the corrective measures being implemented or completed, so it is necessary for the State Party to prepare a revised timeframe.

l) The state of conservation reports prepared for the property by the State Party should provide clear information about the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 to reach the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In brief, even though there have been remarkable efforts and commitment on the part of each institutional actor and community members, there was no significant progress regarding the state pointed out in the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report. At that time it was observed substantial progress that had been made in response to the measures set out in Decision 39COM 7A.48 but unfortunately, since then there has been no continuity -or it was not possible to continue working at a sustained pace due to the lack of financial resources. There is also lack of professional teams trained in management, conservation and restoration of heritage.

5.2 Recommendations

Regarding a boundary definition proposal:

- Define the boundary definition proposal for the buffer zones of Coro and La Vela as agreed during the itineraries followed during the Mission (See Draft Maps of the Buffer Zones proposed to Coro and to La Vela in Annex VI).
- In order to protect and regulate both sides of the limiting streets, the boundaries should extend to the end of the lots outside the bordering streets.
- Include the coastal walk in La Vela to protect the visual relationship of the property with the sea (See Annex VII, photographs 77, 79 and 80).
- Illustrate the boundary definition proposal by means of updated cadastral plans.
- Submit the proposal of Minor Boundaries Modification to the World Heritage Centre for its consideration and approval

Regarding the definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas:

- Once the proposal for the buffer zones is defined, the ordinances of Coro and La Vela should be reviewed so as to identify if the current provisions are suitable for their protection, and if necessary, propose amendments.

Regarding the elaboration of the property's Management Plan:

- As stated in Decision: 38 COM 7A.23 the Management Plan must include the definition of regulatory measures for buffer zones and heritage areas (in agreement with the approved ordinances for Coro and La Vela), a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property.

- The Management Plan must properly define the enforcement authority or the management unit in charge of enforcing it. To do so, it is recommended to give the Mixed Commission a formal and institutionalized status, considering that it has proven its efficacy as an instance of agreement among the IPC, the State of Falcón, the municipalities of Miranda and Colina, the Communal Councils and the Earth Building Artisans. To this respect, the governing and coordinating role of the IPC through OPEDAP should be made clear. In order to guarantee the executive character of this management unit it is recommended not to increase the number of institutions currently represented. In any case, the necessary links with other public or private institutions may be established by means of agreements entered by the IPC, superior body of protection and management of the property, having attributions to do so pursuant to Art. 43 of the Law for the Protection and Defense of the World Cultural Heritage.
- The management structure and the type of articulation among the different levels of government and community councils in decision-making must be clearly stated in the Management Plan.
- The current legal tools which ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed should be clearly stated. This must be made clear, especially when it comes to *Con Patrimonio*, whose competence in relation to the property may be confusing and generate overlapping with the operation of the Mixed Commission.
- Defining a desirable state of conservation for the property as an orientation element of the strategic lines of the Plan is advisable. Establishing an agreement between strategic lines, programmes and action plans is suggested. Regarding the fulfilment of programmes and action plans, timeframes must be set for the short, medium and long term. Indicators allowing for the review of the efficiency of the management must be defined.
- The Management Plan must also foresee the financial resources necessary for the management of the property and for the execution of the programmes and action plans.
- The Management Plan must formally integrate traditional know-how on earth techniques guaranteeing the incorporation of Artisans in restoration, conservation and maintenance works. To that end, it is recommended to support the operation of the Social Property Enterprise (EPS) constituted by the Earth Building Artisans.
- The articulation of the Management Plan which is in the elaboration process, with local and regional planning tools must be clearly expressed in the state of conservation reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as well as their coordination with the Ordinances of Coro and La Vela.
- To continue with the traditional legacy of knowledge of construction techniques, it is recommended to resume the project of creating The School of Earth-Building (*Escuela de Barro*), which may be constituted as a single institution having two venues: one in Coro and the other in La Vela. The School could also offer two embodiments of education: one as part of the secondary school system, and another for artisans training.
- Taking into account that in its State of Conservation Report the State Party has pointed out the level of complexity of the record in the data base designed to that purpose, due to the degree of information on each of the instances of buildings, it is recommended to establish an order of priority when completing the corresponding fields in the record, according to their relevance for the diagnosis and the writing of the Management Plan.
- In order to provide better counselling to the admissible interventions in each property, it is recommended that for each of the building units, a study must be developed in order

to assess and determine value degrees: maximum, medium and minimum protection, so as to set the criteria to be applied according to the case. However, this recommendation is not urgent, but must be part of the agenda once corrective actions are taken.

Regarding the implementation of the management plan for the property:

- The management plan requires for its enforcement a management unit with operating and technical capacity, therefore the OPEDAP-IPC must incorporate professionals trained and experienced in the management, conservation and restoration of heritage.

Regarding a comprehensive drainage system:

- The project for a comprehensive drainage system should be urgently implemented through the allocation of the financial resources and their execution in the short term.

Regarding a sustainable development strategy for the property:

- The review of concession agreements for the exploitation of recreational spaces in *Solares de Lugo* and *Solar Encuentro* should include a clear allocation of the income obtained to benefit the sustainability of the property.
- For these spaces, guidelines to guarantee a proper coexistence with neighbour residents should be established and enforced. In addition, the allowed volume of the sound must be regulated so as not to disturb the activities developed in the cultural areas nearby.

Regarding a public use plan:

- Public management must promote the agreement among the managers of cultural spaces whether public or private, so as to strengthen capacities, complement efforts and coordinate and communicate schedules.

Regarding a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property:

- For the writing of the disaster risk preparedness plan: the Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage Resource Manual (UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS/UICN, 2014) should be a key reference. As it was recommended in 2015, the records of preceding disasters and the response given to cope with the emergency may also contribute valuable precedent to be taken into account in the elaboration of a Managing Disaster Risks Plan.

Regarding a conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys:

- An interventions programme similar to that in execution in 2015, which set priorities and allocated financial resources to the restoration, rehabilitation and conservation of buildings should be developed and implemented.

Regarding guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions:

- Even though the "Instructions that Regulate the Compulsory Consultation Procedure for the Presentation and Review of Intervention Projects in Real Property With Heritage

Value Registered in the General Registry of Cultural Heritage" establishes different methods of application according to the type of intervention, for the property in particular the Management Plan should clearly define the differences between restoration and maintenance, and the requirements to comply with in each case.

Regarding the development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization:

- Even though corrective measures relating to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture establishing the obligatory maintenance of real estate, and penalties foreseen to solve issues related to ownership and abandonment, have been implemented, it is necessary to generate other measures of a proactive nature rather than of a reactive character.
- In this respect, it is necessary for the State Party to continue working on proposals to encourage the incorporation of uses compatible with residential use, thus recovering the traditional relationship existing between residence and commercial stores.
- Support strategies must be set up for the owners of traditional homes who wish to offer accommodation, food or other activities which contribute to sustainability in terms of training to optimise the quality of their services, loans to support their investment, coordination and dissemination of the services offered.

Regarding the development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property:

- The closure to vehicular traffic in a sector of a World Heritage area of Coro should be carefully monitored. It must be urgently enforced without exceptions. Missing fences should be replaced. A possible restriction for heavy traffic along Urdaneta Street, where buses and lorries currently circulate should be studied (See Annex VII, photography 45).
- The project of accessibility for the disabled must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for its revision and consideration.

Regarding the development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners:

- The strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation as well as continued use by owners should be one of the priorities in property management. The following strategies identified by the State Party in 2015 have not been implemented and should be resumed until their implementation is achieved:
 - a) to complete the continuity of the productive chain for the supply of materials to the Storage Centre, coordinating management with other sectors of the state, such as the Ministry of Environment;
 - b) to reach a favourable resolution so that the Bank grants loans to owners of heritage property built with traditional techniques who are interested in investing in their conservation and maintenance.

- To the same purpose, efforts should be made before the national authorities as the Ministry of the Popular Power (*Ministerio de Poder Popular*) for Housing, aimed at including the issue of rehabilitation of homes built with traditional techniques and materials like earth, in programmes such as *Gran Misión Barrio Nuevo-Barrio Tricolor* or else new specific programs for this type of houses are created.

Regarding the remaining implementation of measures correctives:

- Review on the progress to date on implementing the remainder of the corrective measures, update the timelines for the implementation of them and include them in the next State of Conservation report to be submitted by 1 February 2019.

Regarding the research on the property:

- Develop, promote and support historical research on the property, in particular based on the series of Notary Public documents whose registers start in 1640. Among other aspects (social, economic, productive aspects) these records may provide information on the history of real estate, homes and other buildings of the historic Centre of Coro and La Vela, of the building practices and of the artisans involved in construction.
- Carry out archaeological research before carrying out works in plots of the property.

Regarding the timeframe for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23, the Mission suggests the following updated timeframe:

C. Measures to be implemented within one year:

1. Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding,
2. Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property.
3. Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions.
4. Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization.
5. Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property.
6. Finalization of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts,
7. Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners.

8. Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term,
- D. Measures to be implemented within two years:
1. Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that a coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property,
 2. Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy,
 3. Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with,

Regarding the format and information required for preparation of the property's state of conservation reports:

- The format of the state of conservation report should be organised clearly with the aim of explaining the progress reached to achieve the Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) established for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision 38 COM 7.A23).
- A statement on the progress made to achieve the DSO CR should be included in the report.
- The report should include precise information on the advances made in achieving the corrective measures established by Decision 38 COM 7.A23.
- All additional or complementary information necessary to show the advances achieved should be provided in Annexes.

Annex I – Terms of Reference

ICOMOS International Advisory Mission to CORO AND ITS PORT (VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) (658) From 16th to 20th July 2018

A- *Coro and its Port* was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 under criteria (iv) and (v) and on the World Heritage List in Danger in 2005.

A DSOC was adopted by the Committee in decision 38 COM 7A.23.

A timeframe for the implementation of the Corrective Measure was agreed in decision 38 COM 7A.23 and revised in decision 39 COM 7A.48 to allow for completion by the end of 2017. The Corrective Measures are not yet completed although progress is being made.

B- Within the framework of the follow up to Decision 42 COM 7A.12 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018) and Decision 41 COM 7A.27 adopted at its 40th session (Doha, 2014) for the ICOMOS Advisory mission shall provide advice on proposals for a boundary modification for the buffer zone and on the implementation of the Corrective Measures;

In particular the Mission shall:

1. Assist the State Party in finalizing a clear boundary definition proposal, and in preparing if appropriate a Minor Boundary Modification for the extension of the buffer zones of the property, taking into consideration the information submitted by the State Party in its recent State of Conservation reports;
2. Review and provide guidance on the methodology in place and contents compiled to date for the elaboration of the property's Management Plan, and also on the development of necessary strategic plans and action plans to address the vulnerabilities in the property and to ensure its long-term sustainability in terms of conservation, management, resource allocation, and relevant socio-economic factors;
3. Discuss with the local and national authorities involved in the elaboration of the Management Plan the desirability and viability of establishing an extended distance cooperation mechanism between local participants and ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, to accompany the development of the Management Plan through the exchange and discussion of draft versions;
4. Review and provide guidance on the suitability of the work plan for improving the property's drainage system, according to a prioritized and costed timeline;
5. Review and comment on the progress to date on implementing the remainder of the corrective measures and in achieving the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23**, as follows
 - (ii) Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the

- property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,
 - (iii) Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions
 - (v) Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization,
 - (iv) Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,
 - (vi) Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners;
6. As considered necessary, develop with the State Party an updated timeline for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures for presentation in the next State of Conservation report to be submitted by 1 February 2018;
 7. Review with the relevant authorities the format and the information required for preparation of the property's State of Conservation reports, with the objective of strengthening the upcoming submissions, particularly in relation to demonstrating the advances in achieving the DSOCR;
 8. Prepare a mission report with a set of recommendations to be provided to the State Party within two months after the termination of the mission, no later than 20th September 2018.

In order to achieve these objectives, the advisory mission expert shall review all necessary technical documents, undertake site visits and participate in technical on-site meetings with Venezuelan authorities and other involved stakeholders, including members of the local communities and civil society, as deemed necessary, in order to gain insights into the context and development of the various topics to be discussed during the mission.

In preparation for the advisory mission, the mission expert shall be provided with all available background technical material on the major projects, the planning tools for the property, and other relevant current documents relating to the protection and management arrangements of the World Heritage property.

Annex II – Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

ICOMOS International Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT (VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) (658)
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Decision 42 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 41 COM 7A.27, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Commends the State Party on its continued commitment to improving the state of conservation and management of the property, and ensuring the broad participation of community councils and the communities at large in these processes;
4. Taking note that the redefinition of the property's boundaries is still in the analysis phase, requests the State Party to finalize a clear boundary definition proposal as a matter of priority, in cooperation with ICOMOS, and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, for the extension of the buffer zones;
5. Recognizes the advances in the diagnostic phase of the Management Plan's elaboration, and also requests the State Party to complete the draft version of this Plan, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
6. Urges the State Party to start implementation of a prioritized and costed plan for the property's drainage system, and ensure that adequate financial resources are secured for its correct execution;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide complete and clear information on the implementation status of the entire set of corrective measures, and a detailed analysis of the progress in achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
8. Given that the timeline adopted by Decision 38 COM 7A.23 has lapsed, also urges the State Party to provide updated and detailed timelines for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures;
9. Encourages the State Party to take advantage of opportunities for technical assistance, guided by ICOMOS, in addressing the above issues with the aim of advancing the implementation of the outstanding corrective measures;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, 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;
11. Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Decision 41 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.5, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Appreciates the continued efforts by the State Party in implementing the corrective measures adopted in Decision 38 COM 7A.23, and recognizes the steady progress in conservation and management of both public and private structures within the property;
4. Also appreciates the inclusion of Community Councils and the two communities at large as integral participants in the property's conservation and management efforts, and commends the State Party on its initiatives for capacity building and transmission of traditional know-how for the sustainable development and use of the property;
5. Notes that the State Party requires additional time for the implementation of the corrective measures, as updated in Decision 39 COM 7A.48, and therefore requests the establishment of a new detailed timeframe for the implementation of the outstanding corrective measures;
6. Also notes the preliminary proposal submitted by the State Party to redefine the property's boundaries and buffer zones, and also requests the State Party to work with ICOMOS to consider options for the redefinition of the property's boundaries as a matter of priority, considering its primacy for continued management and conservation efforts;
7. Also urges the State Party to finalize and submit the property's Management Plan, including the disaster risk management plan, taking into account the definition of the property's boundaries;
8. Recognizing the advancements in diagnosing and proposing potential solutions for the property's drainage system, further urges the State Party to develop a prioritized and costed plan to begin the implementation of these solutions;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide, as noted in the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, clear and comprehensive information on the progress towards the full implementation of the entire set of corrective measures;
10. Considers that once the State Party has resolved the boundary definition process, and has demonstrated significant progress in implementing the Management Plan and an adequate drainage system, an assessment could then be made to determine whether the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has been reached;
11. Requests furthermore 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 Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Decision40 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 39 COM 7A.48, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Appreciates the initiative of the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Advisory mission, welcomes the progress reported in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision 38 COM 7A.23 and expresses its appreciation for the steady progress in the conservation and restoration of both public and private property, as well as the extensive programme for the promotion and transmission of traditional know-how;
4. Also appreciates the efforts made by the State Party in the completion of the boundary clarification requested in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory process;
5. Takes note of the preliminary proposal submitted for the extension of the buffer zone of the component Coro and requests the State Party to formally submit this proposal, as a Minor Boundary Modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Considers that the two main outstanding matters that should be addressed to complete the set of corrective measures are the preparation of the Management Plan and the implementation of effective drainage systems, and also requests the State Party to continue the implementation of all corrective measures and, in particular, to take the necessary measures to prepare the Management Plan and effective drainage systems;
7. Also considers that once these corrective measures are effectively implemented, an assessment could then be made to check whether the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is achieved;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
9. Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Annex III – Composition of the mission

ICOMOS International Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT (VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) (658)
From 16th to 20th July 2018

Luis María Calvo (ICOMOS)

Architect. Doctor in Architectural History in Ibero-America (Pablo de Olavide University, Seville, Spain), Member of the ICOMOS-Argentine Committee. Specialized on architectural and urban conservation and preservation (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán-Argentina and Centro di Studi per il Restauro, Florence-Italy) and conservation and management of Earthen architectural and archeological heritage (ICCROM, CRATerre and Getty Conservation Institute, Trujillo, Perú). Author of books and numerous articles on architectural and urban history and on cultural heritage conservation.

Advisor for the Comisión Nacional de Museos, Monumentos y Lugares Históricos (Museum, Monuments and Sites National Commission) of the Argentine Republic. Director of the Ethnographic and Colonial Studies Department of Santa Fe and the Archaeological Park Santa Fe la Vieja (1987-2017). Professor and researcher at the Faculty of Architecture, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina (1988-2017), and at the Magister in Environmental Law and Cultural Heritage (Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina).

Annex IV– Itinerary and Programme

ICOMOS International Advisory Mission to CORO AND ITS PORT (VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) (658) From 16th to 20th July 2018

Día 1- Domingo 15 de julio de 2018

- 17,00 Llegada al aeropuerto de Las Piedras (Punto Fijo, Venezuela)
Traslado a Coro y alojamiento en el hotel.

Día 2- Lunes 16 de julio de 2018

- Lugar: Residencia del Gobernador del Estado Falcón
- 09,00 Presentación Plan de drenajes: Hidrofalcon, Corporación de Turismo de Falcón (Corfaltur), Incudef, Arq. Americo Parra.
Presentación de avances del Plan de Manejo: IPC, Gobernación de Falcón, Corfaltur, Incudef,
Coffe Break
- 12,00 Presentación del Plan de Accesibilidad para personas con discapacidad por la Corporación de Turismo de Falcón (Corfaltur).
Almuerzo
- 13,00 Mesas de trabajo para discutir avances del Plan de Manejo
Lugar: Centro Histórico de Coro
- 15,00 Recorrido por el Centro Histórico de Coro. Visita a la Fundación Escuela de CoroTaller, Casa del Sol, Casa del Balcón de los Arcaya y Casa del Tesoro.

Día 3- Martes 17 de julio de 2018

- Lugar: Centro Histórico de Coro
- 09,00 Recorrido por el entorno del Centro Histórico de Coro para definir la Buffer Zone
- 13,00 Almuerzo
- 14,30 Continuación del recorrido

Día 4- Miércoles 18 de julio de 2018

- Lugar: La Vela
- 09,00 Salida de Coro a La Vela

- 10,00 Llegada a La Vela y reunión con el Alcalde de Colina
- 10,30 Visita a la Aduana, Museo Comunitario, Plaza Antillada y Planta de Tratamiento de Aguas Servidas de La Vela.
Recorrido por La Vela para definir la Buffer Zone
- 13,00 Almuerzo
- 14,30 Continuación de recorrido para definir la Buffer Zone
- 18,30 Visita al Archivo Histórico del Estado Falcón (AHEF)

Día 5- Jueves 19 de julio de 2018

- 09,00 Visita al Museo Diocesano
Lugar: Oficina Regional del IPC
- 10,00 Reunión con representantes de los Consejos Comunales
- 13,00 Almuerzo
- 14,00 Mesa de trabajo con miembros del IPC
- 17,30 Visita a Casa del Tesoro

Día 6 – Viernes 20 de julio de 2018

- Lugar: Oficina Regional del IPC
- 09,00 Reunión con personal técnico del IPC-OPEDAP
- 10,00 Finalización del recorrido para definir la Buffer Zone
- 11,30 Reunión con el Gobernador del Estado Falcón y los alcaldes de Miranda y Colina
Almuerzo
- 13,00 Visita a la Biblioteca Oscar Boujon

Día 7- Sábado 21 de julio de 2018

- 05,00 Partida de Coro al aeropuerto de Las Piedras (Punto Fijo)
- 08,00 Partida desde el aeropuerto de Las Piedras hacia Aruba, primer tramo del viaje de regreso.

Annex V – List of contact details of people met

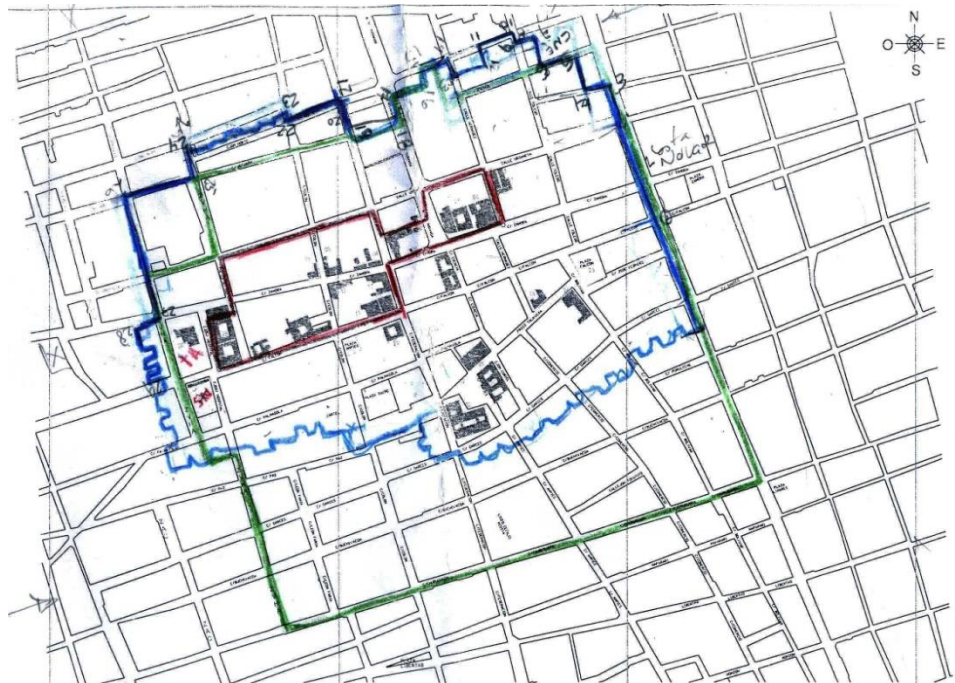
ICOMOS International Advisory Mission to
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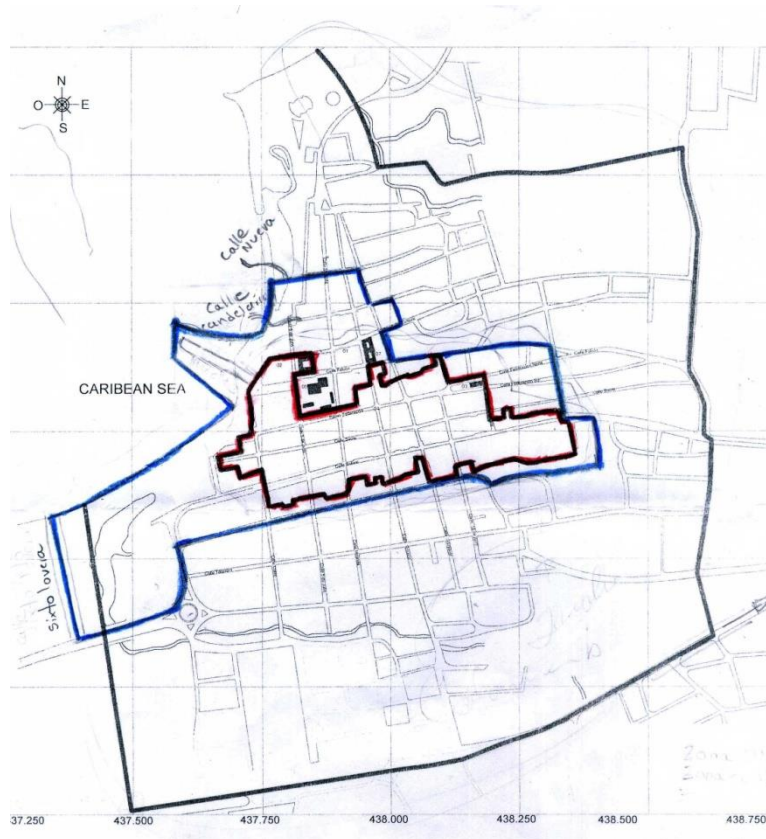
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Annex VI – Maps

ICOMOS International Advisory Mission to
CORO AND ITS PORT (VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) (658)
From 16th to 20th July 2018



Draft Map of the Buffer Zone proposed to Coro (in blue) according to itineraries followed during the Mission compared (Source: OPEDAP-IPC).



Draft Map of the Buffer Zone proposed to La Vela (in blue) according to itineraries followed during the Mission compared (Source: OPEDAP-IPC).

Annex VII - Photographies



Photography 1: Zamora Street corner to Federacion Street



Photography 2: Zamora Street between Colon and Federacion Streets



Photography 3: Colón Street between Urdaneta and Zamora Streets



Photography 4: Zamora Street (Casas del Tesoro y de las Ventanas de Hierro)



Photography 5: Zamora Street (Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro)



Photography 6: Falcón Street between Hernández and Ciencias Streets



Photography 7: Zamora Street between Colón and Hospital Streets



Photography 8: Zamora Street (Casa Lugo)



Photography 9: Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro



Photography 10: Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro. Patio



Photography 11: Casa del Tesoro



Photography 12: Casa del Tesoro. Patio



Photography 13: Casa del Balcón de los Arcaya



Photography 14: Casa del Balcón de los Arcaya. Patio



Photography 15: Casa del Sol



Photography 16: Casa del Sol. Patio



Photography 17: Casa Senior (Museo de Arte Alberto Henríquez)



Photography 18: Casa Senior (Museo de Arte Alberto Enríquez. Patio



Photography 19: Casa del Tesoro. Patio



Photography 20: Casa del Tesoro. Patio



Photography 21: Casa Pablo VI- Escuela Taller de Coro



Photography 22: Casa del Seminario



Photography 23: San Francisco Church



Photography 24: San Francisco Church. Interior



Photography 25: San Francisco Church. Mudéjar ceiling



Photography 26: San Francisco Cloister



Photography 27: San Clemente Church



Photography 28: San Clemente Church. Interior



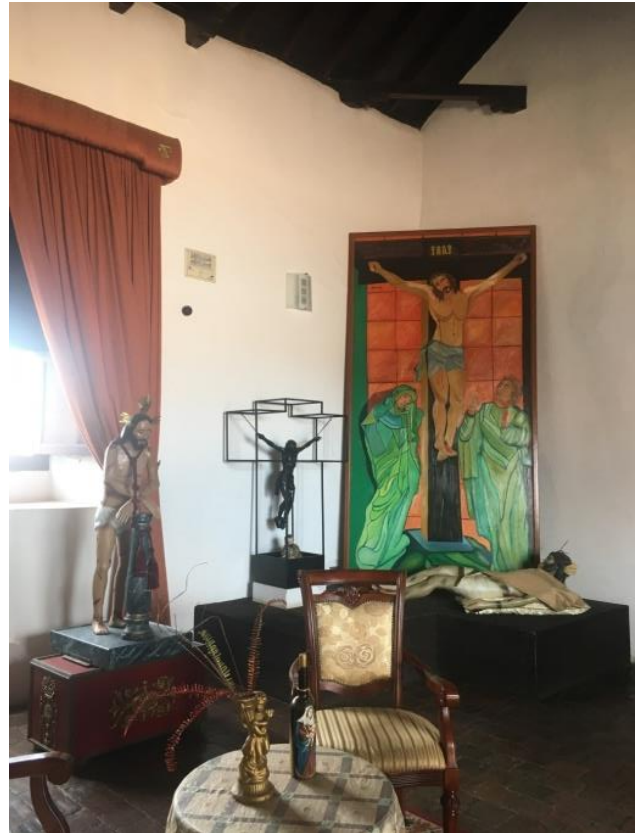
Photography 29: San Nicolás Church
Interior



Photography 30: San Nicolás Church.



Photography 31: Exhibition of art in the Casa del Balcón de los Arcaya



Photography 32: Museo Guadalupano in the Casa del Tesoro



Photography 33: Museo Diocesano in the Cloister of San Francisco



Photography 34: Choral performance in the Casa del Tesoro



Photography 35: Librería del Sur (bookshop) in the Casa del Sol



Photography 36: Synagogue in Casa Senior



Photography 37: Museo de Arte de Coro in Casa Balcón de Bolívar



Photography 38: Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro, converted into a museum with its original furniture



Photography 39: Fence closing the vehicular traffic in the historic center of Coro



Photography 40: Fence closing the vehicular traffic in the historic center of Coro



Photography 41: Fence closing the vehicular traffic in the historic center of Coro



Photography 42: Automobiles within the area in which it is prohibited to enter vehicles. Colon street, where the fence is missing



Photography 43: Automobiles within the area in which it is prohibited to enter vehicles. Zamora Street corner with Federación Street



Photography 44: Automobiles within the area in which it is prohibited to enter vehicles. Zamora Street



Photography 45: Heavy vehicle circulating in Urdaneta Street (WH area)



Photography 46: Solar Encuentro. The perimeter walls hide the constructions avoiding their visual impact in the public space



Photography 47: Solar Encuentro. The perimeter walls hide the constructions avoiding their visual impact in the public space



Photography 48: Solar Encuentro. In the interior, open spaces predominate over those built



Photography 49: Solar Encuentro. In the interior, open spaces predominate over those built



Photography 50: Solar Encuentro. In the interior, open spaces predominate over those built



Photography 51: Solares de Luga. The perimeter walls hide the constructions avoiding their visual impact in the public space



Photography 52: Solar Encuentro. In the interior, open spaces predominate over those built



Photography 53: Café Aguaque, behind the Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro



Photography 54: Unfinished repairs in the public space that affect the conservation of neighboring buildings



Photography 55: Falcón Street. One of the sectors in worse state of the streets of the WH area Coro



Photography 56: Loss of elements of shoulders and floors in the public space of the WH area of Coro



Photography 57: Loss of elements of shoulders and floors in the public space of the WH area of Coro



Photography 58: vacant land and garbage accumulation in the WH area of Coro



Photography 59: Buffer Zone (North-East sector, Pantano Abajo)



Photography 60: Buffer Zone (North-East sector, Pantano Abajo)



Photography 61: Buffer Zone (South sector)



Photography 62: Buffer Zone (North sector, near San Nicolás Church).



Photography 63: Buffer Zone (West sector, Paseo Talavera)



Photography 64: Buffer Zone (West sector, Paseo Talavera)



Photography 65: Abandoned and dilapidated house



Photography 66: Abandoned and dilapidated house



Photography 67: Abandoned and dilapidated house



Photographies 68/73: State of the streets of the historic center of Coro after a rain



Photography 74: Old Customs of La Vela



Photography 75: Old Customs of La Vela



Photography 76: Old Customs of La Vela. Museo Comunitario (Community Museum)



Photography 77: La Vela. Plaza Antillana (Antillana Square)



Photography 78: La Vela. Sewage pumping station



Photography 79: La Vela. Boardwalk and beach



Photography 80: La Vela. Boardwalk and beach



Photography 81: La Vela. WH area



Photography 82: La Vela. WH area



Photography 83: La Vela. Buffer zone



Photography 84: La Vela. Buffer zone



Photography 85: La Vela. Abandoned and dilapidated house in the WH area



Photography 86: La Vela. Missing grids in the main street of the WH area

