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# World Heritage

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-third session

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan  
30 June - 10 July 2019

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

## SUMMARY

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

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/43COM/documents>

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

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

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## **NATURAL PROPERTIES**

### **ASIA-PACIFIC**

#### **2. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (ix)

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

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6965>

Corrective measures identified

Identified through the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2006 to 2012)

Total amount approved: USD 56,335

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

March–April 2005: UNESCO/IUCN Monitoring mission; October 2012: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2015: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission; May 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes to oceanic waters
- Commercial hunting
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources)
- Forestry/wood production, Logging
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Storms
- Mining

- Management systems/management plans (Management planning and administration of the property, customary land ownership)
- Legal framework
- Commercial fishing (issue resolved)

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

#### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out to the property from 10 to 22 May 2019. The mission report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/>.

On 13 May 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property to the mission team, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/>, which provided updates on issues previously raised by the Committee, as follows:

- In August 2018, the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) organized a public meeting concerning the letter sent to the World Heritage Centre in May 2018, indicating the Tuhunui Tribe's wish to withdraw its customary land from the property. The meeting confirmed that tribal chiefs were not consulted and that the letter included forged signatures. A new letter to deny the claim and revoking the May 2018 letter was sent to the State Party but failed to reach them;
- In November 2018, the State Party organized an awareness meeting with local communities of East Rennell to provide information on the 2010 Protected Areas Act. Some of the key issues raised are as follows:
  - Most community members noted that legal protection is necessary to fully protect the property because of the continued pressure and threats from on-going logging and mining activities in West Rennell,
  - Landowners further urged the State Party to assist LTWHSA to finalize the Management Plan initially drafted in 2013, using more simple language,
  - LTWHSA and the landowners also requested the Government of Solomon Islands to prioritize development activities in East Rennell to improve their livelihoods;
- In August 2018 a logging license application covering parts of the property was rejected by the State Party. A new logging license application in West Rennell was then lodged with a Development Consent issued to the company with conditions to establish a clear 200-meter buffer from the East Rennell World Heritage property. No public report has been made available concerning its environmental impact;
- Birdlife International conducted a feasibility study on how to manage invasive alien rats to protect sensitive species and habitats including the property;
- Local communities are increasingly affected by impacts of climate change, such as increased water levels and the salinity of Lake Tegano, resulting in reduction of taro and coconut harvests;
- In March 2019, the State Party conducted an environmental assessment of the oil spill from the MV Solomon Trader in Kangava Bay on 4 February 2019, concluding that there was no sign of oil contamination on beaches or the coastline within the property. The assessment report is annexed to the State Party report.

Following the oil spill incident, the State Parties of Australia and New Zealand have provided considerable support to the Solomon Islands in order to prevent oil from reaching the property.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Continued efforts by customary landowners and local communities of East Rennell and by the State Party to keep the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property intact by banning commercial logging and mining within the property are welcomed. However, it is regrettable that a new logging concession was recently granted by the State Party, which allows commercial logging up to 200 meters from the boundary of the property, while no information is made available regarding its potential impact on the property's OUV. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to monitor the logging operations closely, with a clear understanding of the demarcation of the boundary, while at the same time conducting a further study on ecological connectivity between East and West Rennell, in view of extending the buffer zone.

The clarification that the letter allegedly sent on behalf of the Tuhunui tribe, requesting to withdraw its customary land from the property, was made without mandatory consultation with tribal chiefs and subsequently revoked, is welcomed. The 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission also verified this particular issue with the Paramount Chief, Council of Chiefs and LTWHSA, and it is clear that competing and contested claims of customary rights among tribes and individual households remain a challenge for the customary management.

The on-going dialogue between the State Party and local communities to consider application of the Protected Area status to the property and to finalize the Management Plan is welcomed but needs to be concluded. Defining and adopting an adequate legal mechanism to continue protecting the property from commercial logging and mining while safeguarding customary rights to land and natural resources for sustainable use, in line with Paragraph 119 of the *Operational Guidelines*, is critical to ensure long-term mutual benefits to the property and the local communities, who are custodians of the property. The mission notes that the establishment of an IUCN category VI protected area could be a good tool to achieve this.

Little progress has been made to implement a set of recommendations agreed by the responsible ministries at the 2017 Round Table. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that those commitments are adequately addressed in the work plan and budget of the respective ministries, while seeking technical and financial support from the international community where necessary. An example relates to the mobilization of international aid to support the management of invasive alien species, such as rats. More scientific research is also needed in other areas, including to better understand the impacts of climate change and to provide a baseline for the population assessment of rare and endemic species.

The assessment that no ecological impact has been observed within the property following the oil spill in Kangava Bay is welcomed. The timely support provided by the State Parties of Australia and New Zealand played a critical role in preventing the oil from dispersing and reaching the property. It is important to continue monitoring the impact, including the socio-economic implications for communities in East Rennell.

The 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission has identified a list of corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). Given the urgency of addressing these issues, it is recommended that the Committee adopt these corrective measures, which are included in the draft Decision. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to consider a realistic timeframe to implement the DSOCR.

Given that the property is facing a number of challenges to achieve the DSOCR, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.2**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the efforts made by customary landowners, local communities and the State Party to protect the property, in particular by not allowing commercial logging and mining within the property;*
4. *Regrets however that a logging concession has been granted up to 200 meters from the boundary of the property without assessing the impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and before an understanding of the ecological connectivity between East and West Rennell is available, requests the State Party to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this project, and urges the State Party to closely monitor the situation, ensure that the boundary of the World Heritage property is clearly*

demarcated on the ground, and extend the buffer zone as new scientific information becomes available;

5. Notes that the letter submitted to the World Heritage Centre on behalf of the Tuhunui Tribe of East Rennell in May 2018, indicating their wish to withdraw its customary land from the World Heritage property, has been revoked, and also notes the competing claims of customary rights among tribes and individual households;
6. Welcomes the State Party's effort to initiate dialogue with customary landowners and local communities concerning the 2010 Protected Areas Act, but also regrets that little progress has been made with the implementation of the commitments made by the State Party at the 2017 Round Table, including the finalization of a Management Plan, which was recommended by the Committee at the time of inscription in 1998, and also urges the State Party to include those commitments in the work plan and budget of relevant ministries;
7. Adopts the following corrective measures and also requests the State Party to implement them, as a matter of urgency, to strengthen the protection of the OUV and integrity of the property while enhancing livelihoods of local communities:
  - a) Adopt a new Cabinet Paper, prepared by the three Chairs of the 2017 Round Table, reconfirming the 2016 Cabinet Paper, reaffirming all Round Table Ministerial commitments for East Rennell and directing all ministries to provide a concrete timeline and budget for their implementation,
  - b) Ensure that the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) can officially and immediately apply for National Protected Areas status for the World Heritage property in order to initiate the official consultation process by the Director of the Environment and Conservation Division, and to finalize the Management Plan (including zoning),
  - c) Ensure that the World Heritage property is actively promoted, including on the website of the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau and on all relevant maps and promotional leaflets, and immediately begin actively promoting appropriate tourism using existing accommodations and facilities;
8. Further requests the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, including:
  - a) Clarify the consent provision of the 2010 Protected Areas Act, particularly what concerns the 'interested parties' who would need to be involved in the process,
  - b) Provide the LTWHSA with the support needed to manage the World Heritage property to international standards,
  - c) Improve access to the property for tourists and local communities and improve access to basic services and facilities,
  - d) Prioritize the development of sustainable livelihoods for the local communities, recognizing the important role played by women in East Rennell, including through a development plan, and seek technical and financial support from the international community for this effort,
  - e) Ensure the Rennell-Bellona Constituency Development Fund reserves an allocation for East Rennell and its local communities,
  - f) Develop a scientific research programme at Lake Tegano, seeking support from the international research community and also incorporating traditional ecological knowledge,

- g) *Continue and expand the recently started bird monitoring program, and seek international support to mitigate the effects of invasive species,*
  - h) *Ensure that EIAs are carried out for all proposed developments within the property and its vicinity to guarantee that these do not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,*
  - i) *Consider registering and surveying all lands under the Registration of Customary Lands Act, prioritizing the western shore of the lake, where most people live and where initial tourism lodges should be clustered;*
  - j) *Record and map local culture, traditional and living knowledge, customary governance, genealogies and language of the East Rennell communities,*
  - k) *Consider assessing, in the 2020 state of conservation report, whether the current timeframe for implementing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is realistic;*
9. *Notes with great satisfaction* *the substantial support that the States Parties of Australia and New Zealand provided to the Solomon Islands in an effort to prevent the Kangava Bay oil spill from reaching the property, and calls upon the ship owner and insurer of the MV Solomon Trader to cover all expenses of the ecological and socio-economical impacts;*
10. *Requests furthermore* *the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*
11. ***Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***



## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 3. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1993-2007, 2010-present

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

The property was re-inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, on the request of the State Party, due to concerns that the property's aquatic ecosystem continues to deteriorate, in particular as a result of:

- Alterations of the hydrological regime (quantity, timing, and distribution of Shark Slough inflows)
- Adjacent urban and agricultural growth (flood protection and water supply requirements that affect the property's resources by lowering water levels)
- Increased nutrient pollution from upstream agricultural activities
- Protection and management of Florida Bay resulting in significant reduction of both marine and estuarine biodiversity

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

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1275>

Updated: see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1062>

Updated: see pages <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348> and <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4958/>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2006: IUCN participation in a technical workshop to identify benchmarks and corrective measures; January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (Quantity and quality of water entering the property)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)
- Surface water pollution and pollution of marine waters (Agricultural fertilizer pollution, Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife)
- Water infrastructure (Lowered water levels due to flood control measures)
- Storms (Damage from hurricanes)
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species (Exotic invasive plant and animal species)

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 5 March 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>, and provides, *inter alia*, the following updated information:

- Highest performance levels for water quality and water deliveries into Taylor Slough and Northeast Shark River Slough (SRS) were attained in the wake of unusually wet conditions in 2017 and 2018. These wet conditions were also due to frequent storms, including Hurricane Irma in 2017, which damaged large swaths of mangrove forests and seagrass communities. However, the affected ecosystems are reported to have already substantially recovered. Large “supercolonies” of wading birds returned to the property;
- Key projects forming the basis for the 2006 corrective measures have been completed in 2018: Everglades Construction Project (ECP), Modified Water Deliveries (MWD), and Canal-111 South Dade (C-111). The next generation restoration projects – Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), Tamiami Trail Next Steps (TTNS), and the Restoration Strategies (RS) project – were complemented by the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir (EAAR) project, which aims to re-direct discharges from Lake Okeechobee southwards to the property. Key construction milestones and the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) are expected by 2025-2026;
- In 2019, the Florida Appeals Court granted authority to conduct exploratory oil and gas drilling within the Water Conservation Areas located upstream of the property.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The considerable progress in implementing the 2006 corrective measures is commendable. In order to attain the DSOCR, the on-going efforts will need to be sustained over time and the State Party should particularly be commended for engaging the next generation restoration projects and for committing as much as USD 2.5 billion for the restoration of the Everglades over the next four years. In terms of the 14 Indicators of Integrity, it is noted that water quality targets are met and that “supercolonies” of wading birds returned to the property with highest nesting and fledging success in 50 years. However, most of the other indicators are stagnating or declining. Especially, invasive alien species (IAS) remain a serious concern. Whilst recognizing the continued focus of the park’s management to address IAS, a long-term resource mobilization is required to control the existing IAS, and noting the existence of additional IAS outside of the property that have not yet been introduced to the property, emphasis should be placed on prevention and early detection with rapid response measures.

The increasing number of extreme weather events emphasises the growing importance of the impacts of climate change for the property. While a severe El Niño event in 2015 had led to a setback in the implementation of corrective measures because of an exceptionally dry season, record water levels were attained in 2017 and 2018 due to exceptionally wet seasons resulting from the high frequency of storms. Considering the vulnerability of the property to the impacts of climate change, in particular sea-level rise, it is appreciated that the 2015 General Management Plan (GMP) recommends concrete responses, including the enhancement of ecosystem resilience and the minimization of other stressors on park resources. Since the *Policy Document on Impacts of Climate Change and World Heritage* describes World Heritage properties as laboratories where monitoring, mitigation and adaptation processes can be applied, tested and improved, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to formally submit the GMP to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

The decision by the Florida Appeals Court to grant authority to conduct exploratory oil and gas drilling within the Water Conservation Areas located upstream of the property is of serious concern, due to potential downstream impacts on the property. It needs to be noted that no oil or gas permit has been issued in the Everglades for 50 years. The decision also seems to be in contradiction to the GMP recommendation to minimize other stressors on the property. The Committee’s established positions on the incompatibility of oil and gas exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status should be recalled in this respect, whilst noting that the activity is outside of the property. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken to assess the possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. This EIA should be

completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any hydrocarbon drilling activities are conducted.

In its Decision **41 COM 7A.1**, the Committee requested the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the potential for hydraulic fracturing projects in proximity of the property and about the proposal for a utility transmission line along the eastern border of the property. As no information has been received on this, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request in this regard.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved in implementing the 2006 corrective measures and notes with satisfaction that their full operational benefits are expected to be in place by mid-June 2020, that water quality targets have already been met and that “supercolonies” of wading birds have returned to the property;
4. Commends the State Party for also implementing next generation restoration projects in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by 2025-2026, and congratulates it for committing as much as USD 2.5 billion over four years to advance the restoration of the Everglades;
5. Notes with concern the ongoing threat from invasive alien species (IAS), and requests the State Party to ensure a continued, long-term allocation of resources to control the existing IAS inside the property, and for the mangement strategy to emphasize prevention and early detection with rapid response measures;
6. Appreciates that the General Management Plan (GMP) of the property aims to respond to the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit the GMP to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Also recalling its established position on the incompatibility of oil and gas exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status, notes with utmost concern the prospect of exploratory drilling within the Water Conservation Areas located upstream of the property, and urges the State Party to ensure a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that assesses the possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is undertaken, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as a matter of priority and before conducting any hydrocarbon drilling activities;
8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the potential for hydraulic fracturing projects in proximity of the property and the proposal of a utility transmission line along its eastern border;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;

10. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 5. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Updated proposed in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2001-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 225,488

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001, April 2009 and March/April 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insecurity and porosity of borders
- Poaching
- Artisanal mining
- Transboundary transhumance and illegal grazing
- Illegal fishing
- Illegal occupation of the property
- Lack of protection and management measures

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

Current conservation issues

On 4 March 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/> providing the following information:

- The main problems in the management of the property remain insecurity and the porosity of the borders that accentuate international transhumance pressures, and local and international poaching;
- A Public-Private Partnership Agreement (PPP) was signed in December 2018 between the State Party and the NGO Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for the management of the North-eastern Protected Areas Complex (CAP-NE). In accordance with this agreement, WCS is now mandated to ensure both the management of the property and its sustainable financing;
- The European Union has subsidized the ECOFAC VI programme up to an amount of 9,000,000 euros to support the implementation of the Master Territorial Development Scheme (SDAT) for the northern region, including the property and the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park;
- The creation of a transboundary Biosphere Reserve between the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad is envisaged, with support from the Biosphere and Heritage of Lake Chad (BIOPALT) project.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), was finally organized from 26 March to 2 April 2019. Its main objective was to evaluate the possibility of a regeneration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and if positive, to make recommendations for an emergency plan to avoid the irreversible loss of the OUV. The zone where the property is located remains totally under the control of an armed group called the Popular Front for the Renewal of the Central African Republic (FPRC). With support from the State Party, the WCS and the United Nations Interdimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) experts have been able to visit the WCS base in the field at Bamingui and organize exchanges with the authorities in the region, namely dignitaries, local representatives, FPRC leaders and the MINUSCA. Due to insecurity issues, it was not possible to visit the property, but an overfly was organized. The mission report is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The mission concluded that the OUV is very questionable. An aerial census in 2017 showed that large mammals had all practically disappeared. In fact, the presence of species key for the OUV (including elephant, Buffon's cob, Bongo, Sitatunga, topi, ostrich, African wild dog, lion and leopard) were unable to be confirmed. Moreover, less than 15 individuals of buffalo, Waterbuck, Derby eland and Kordofan giraffe were observed.

Although the habitat was largely intact, the property is invaded by transhumant pastoralists, poachers, fishermen, and artisanal miners. The property no longer benefited from surveillance and management following the closure of the surveillance base at Manovo in 2012. Due to insecurity, the corrective measures proposed by the 2009 mission have not been implemented as the region has been controlled by armed groups since 2012.

However, the mission considered that at this stage, it was impossible to pronounce on the irreversible loss of the OUV of the property or on the possibility of its regeneration. Although the census was unable to confirm their presence, it is possible that certain species are still present in a very reduced number. The existence and viability of these relic populations should be confirmed by ground inventories and camera traps. These results will enable a precision as to the chances of success of an eventual regeneration of the OUV of the property.

Furthermore, the recent peace agreements signed on 6 February 2019 in Bangui, between the Central African President and the representatives of the 14 armed groups, provide hope for a return of security in the region. Discussions during the mission demonstrated that all the local stakeholders were conscious of the urgency to conserve the Park.

In addition, the PPP agreement foresees a resumption of the management of the property, with a progressive resumption of ground surveillance accompanied by aerial support. It is anticipated that a priority zone, based on the presence of residual wildlife, will be rendered secure and to progressively extend this secure zone to cover the entire property. For this approach to function, surveillance means must be established before the next dry season to halt all illicit exploitation of the natural resources (transhumance, poaching, fishing and artisanal mining activities). Funds must be mobilized without delay to set up this emergency plan.

The mission considered that the success of the emergency plan is closely linked to the settlement of the regional transhumance issue, that exacerbates the security crisis and leads to incessant poaching. This requires the implementation of the existing regional agreements with Cameroon and Chad on anti-poaching and other transboundary criminal activities, and then to extend them to the Sudan and South Sudan for increased efficacy and coherence. The implementation of these agreements must be integrated into a management strategy for transhumance, taking into account the transfer corridors foreseen in the SDAT.

The mission proposes to grant a delay of 4 years to see whether it is possible to restore the integrity of the property and to collect additional data to evaluate whether a regeneration of the OUV is still valid.

The mission was informed of petroleum exploration activities in the vicinity of the property. It was unable to clarify whether the exploration blocks I, II and III of the petroleum block A overlap the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide a precise map of the petroleum block A and that any overlap with the boundaries of the property be avoided, in conformity with national legislation, and reiterating the position of the Committee in this respect.

The mission also held discussions with officials from the Ministry of Public Works, the World Bank and the French Development Agency concerning the rehabilitation project for the National Road 8 Ndélé – Birao that crosses the Park. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be carried out and should study the direct and indirect impacts on the property, as well as alternative routes in order to propose an Environmental and Social Management Plan. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before approving the project, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

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

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.5**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party was unable to implement the corrective measures proposed by the 2009 mission due to insecurity problems in the region controlled by armed groups since 2012;*
4. *Expresses its deepest concern as regards the conclusions of the 2019 mission according to which the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is highly questionable, indicating an almost total disappearance of large mammals, and that the integrity of the property is also questionable due to combined heavy pressure from poaching, regional transhumance, illegal fishing and artisanal mining exploitation, as well as a total lack of surveillance and management since 2012;*
5. *Takes note of the conclusion of the mission that at this stage, it is not possible to affirm that the OUV is irreversibly lost and that additional studies are necessary to qualify and quantify the relic populations of wildlife in order to assess the perspectives for regeneration of the characteristics of the property justifying its OUV;*
6. *Urges the State Party, with support from its technical and financial partners, to implement the following corrective measures, revised during the 2019 mission:*
  - a) *Define a priority zone in the property based on the monitoring results of wildlife,*
  - b) *Develop and implement before the next dry season an emergency security plan for this zone by reopening the surveillance bases, and the establishment of ground*

- surveillance teams supported by an aerial surveillance system, as well as the establishment of legal procedures to halt all illicit exploitation of the natural resources in this zone, notably poaching, transhumance and illicit fishing and artisanal mining exploitation,*
- c) Set up a robust bio-monitoring mechanism for the large and medium-sized wildlife associated with a monitoring device (SMART) for patrols to precisely assess the viability and the potential for regeneration of the mammalian wildlife,*
  - d) Implement, in cooperation with all the local, national and regional stakeholders, a management strategy for transhumance through the reopening of the legal transfer corridors outside the property,*
  - e) Implement the existing regional agreements with Cameroon and Chad on anti-poaching and other transboundary criminal activities, such as the Transboundary Tripartite Anti-poaching Agreement and the “Ndjaména Declaration”, and afterwards extend them to Sudan and South Sudan for increased efficacy and coherence;*
- 7. Congratulates the European Union for its continuous support in the conservation of the natural resources in the North-Eastern Protected Areas Complex and launches an appeal to the States Parties of the Convention and the public and private donors to support the Private-Public Partnership (PPP) agreement signed by the State Party with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for the management of the property and the implementation of the emergency plan;*
  - 8. Decides to grant a delay of 4 years to the State Party to see whether it is possible to restore the integrity of the property, collect additional data on the state of wildlife to assess whether a regeneration of the OUV is still possible, and requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission before its 48th session in 2024, to evaluate the results of both the implementation of the emergency plan and bio-monitoring;*
  - 9. Notes with concern the petroleum exploration activities in the petroleum block A and requests the State Party to:*
    - a) Clarify the situation of the petroleum block A and the exploration blocks I, II and III and ensure that no license overlaps the property, in conformity with national legislation and the property’s World Heritage status,*
    - b) Analyze the direct and indirect impacts on its OUV of all envisaged petroleum projects in the vicinity of the property, with an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in line with international standards and to submit this EISA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before granting any exploitation license, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
  - 10. Reiterates its established position regarding mining and petroleum exploration and exploitation being incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the commitments undertaken by the leaders of the industry, such as Shell and Total, not to engage in such activities in World Heritage properties;*
  - 11. Also requests the State Party to carry out the ESIA for the rehabilitation project of the National Road 8 Ndél -Birao to assess the direct and indirect impacts on the property, prioritizing the less prejudicial option for its integrity, with appropriate accompanying measures, and to submit the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before taking a final decision on the project, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*



12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
13. Also decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
14. **Further decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **6. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-present

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

- Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea
- Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve
- Insufficient institutional structure

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 20 (from 1981-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 482,588

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>)

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire; 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; January 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Influx of refugees
- Agricultural encroachment
- Deforestation

- Poaching
- Weak management capacity
- Lack of resources
- Unsatisfactory transboundary cooperation
- Road construction

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2019, the States Parties of Guinea and the Côte d'Ivoire submitted a joint state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>, providing the following information:

- A workshop was organized at Lola (Guinea) in December 2018 to revitalize transboundary cooperation after its suspension at the time of the Ebola virus outbreak in 2014. However, with the end of the Steward Programme funded by USAID, there is no further funding to support trans-border cooperation;
- Each State Party has organized surveillance patrols, ecological monitoring restoration activities of the degraded zones and awareness-raising sessions. The interpretation of the SMART data in the Côte d'Ivoire show, for example, a reduction in aggression incidences (117 incidences in 2017 against 54 in 2018). The operational capacities of the surveillance teams were also strengthened through the provision of about thirty agents from the west mobile brigade (Côte d'Ivoire); and the recruitment of 100 agents with their training funded by the national budget (Guinea);
- In the Côte d'Ivoire, Decree N° 2018-459 was issued on 9 May 2018 to modify the boundaries of the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve from 5,000 ha to 5,092 ha in relation to the 1944 Decree. A request for International Assistance was submitted for the preparation of an updated high-resolution map of the boundaries of the property;
- In Guinea, the Sama Resources Company has focused on the graphite outside the property. Environmental and social impact assessments have been undertaken for all mining and/or development projects likely to impact the property;
- The tarmacking project for the Danané-Lola road is being implemented, and does not encroach on the property in the Côte d'Ivoire;
- Funding has been obtained for the next five years in the framework of the Filières Agricoles Durable de Côte d'Ivoire Programme, that will ensure the implementation of the management functions of the property. In Guinea, the ongoing implementation of the projects (GEF-Mano and European Union) is noted.

As requested in Decision **42 COM 7A.46**, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission was organized from 9 to 20 January 2019, and the report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents>.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The 2019 joint mission concluded that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is still present and that efforts are deployed by the Centre for Environmental Management of Mount Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS) and the Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves (OIPR) to effect surveillance patrols, reactivate transboundary cooperation, involving also the Liberian authorities, raise awareness in the communities and ensure ecological monitoring. However, brush fires, increase in agricultural encroachment, fuelwood cutting and poaching represent persistent threats, and invasive species emerge due to anthropogenic activity in the area.

Furthermore, the property has no buffer zone in the Côte d'Ivoire and the one in Guinea is non-operational. In addition, there is no joint surveillance and monitoring mechanism at the property able to provide global and updated data on the characteristic species of the OUV and the threats affecting the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to implement the corrective measures updated by the 2019 mission according to the established timetable, and to finalize the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

The publication of Decree N° 2018-459, increasing the area of the property in the Côte d'Ivoire to 5,092 ha is noted. The marking of the property boundaries is also completed, the degraded parts have been recovered and the natural regeneration process continues. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to prepare a high-resolution updated map of the boundaries, once the request for International Assistance is approved.

However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain very concerned by the individual and cumulative potential impacts of the mining projects in Guinea. The mission noted that the Société des mines de fer de Guinée (SMFG) continues in the preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project and pursues characterization studies of the initial state, and that negotiations have been re-engaged with the Government of Guinea concerning the evacuation route of the iron ore. Taking account of the potential impact of the SMFG mining project on the OUV of the property, it is important that the Committee reiterate its request for an independent evaluation of the ESIA as soon as this is available.

The SAMA Resources Society, now exploring graphite outside the property, launched its ESIA and the report should have been available in January 2019. However, the situation remains ambiguous for Zali Mining SA (ex WAE), that holds a mining concession adjacent to the property, and the SMFG concession. The mission was informed that the society possessed an environmental conformity certificate and an exploitation license since 2015 following the non-validated ESIA by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Guinea to provide detailed information concerning the different mining licenses, immediately withdraw all the exploitation licenses adjacent to the property, in particular the one for the Société Zali Mining SA (ex-WAE), and submit the available ESIA's. The Committee should reiterate its request that no new exploration or exploitation mining license located around the property be granted without a prior Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment taking place, so as to evaluate the impacts on the OUV of the property, including the cumulative effects of these projects and submit this information to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

It is regrettable that the tarmacking project for the Danane – Lola road which crosses through the buffer zone of the Guinean part of the property, was begun with no measures undertaken to mitigate the impacts. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Guinea to immediately take mitigation measures to diminish the impacts of this activity.

The ongoing implementation of projects in Guinea and the funding obtained by the Côte d'Ivoire for the implementation of management functions of the property are warmly welcomed. However, progress accomplished in the establishment of an appropriate sustainable funding mechanism, is still mixed. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to both States Parties to prepare such a mechanism for the entire property.

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

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.6**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 42 COM 7A.46, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Takes note of the conclusion of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission of January 2019 that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is still intact, but it remains threatened by increasing anthropogenic pressures, notably uncontrolled fires, poaching, the destruction of habitats and the increase in agricultural and forestry practices;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts deployed by the two States Parties to revitalize transboundary cooperation, initiate awareness-raising campaigns with the neighbouring*

communities, organizing surveillance patrols and ensuring ecological monitoring using the SMART tool, however, expresses once again its concern as regards the incessant threats affecting the property;

5. Regrets that no information has been provided by the State Party of Guinea on the mining projects of the Zali Mining SA (ex WAE) and SMFG Societies, both located in the vicinity of the property, and requests that the new Mining Convention between the SMFG and the Government be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before its signature, to ensure that its implementation will not impact on the OUV of the property;
6. Expresses its deep concern regarding the granting of an environmental conformity certificate and an exploitation license to the Zali Mining SA (ex WAE) for the mining block immediately adjacent to the property; and urges the State Party of Guinea to immediately withdraw this environmental conformity certificate and the exploitation license that has been granted, and that a revised version of the ESIA carried out in 2015 be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before taking any new decision on the granting of an environmental conformity certificate;
7. Also takes note of the information provided by the State Party of Guinea that the new exploration license for the SAMA Resources is located outside the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve and that an ESIA is ongoing to assess the impacts of the project, including on the OUV; and also requests the State Party to submit, as soon as available, the results of the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before the granting of an environmental conformity certificate to this Society;
8. Reiterates its position, that mining exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the position statement of the International Council on Mines and Metal (CIMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;
9. Adopts the following corrective measures, as updated during the 2019 mission, and further requests the States Parties to implement them:
  - a) Ensure that the current and future Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), (including those of the Zali Mining and SAMA Resources Societies), for mining projects located in the mining enclave and in the immediate vicinity of the property, be carried out in conformity with the highest international standards, submitted to an independent and expert evaluation, and in close consultation with all the key stakeholders,
  - b) Also ensure that these ESIA qualify and quantify the potential effects of these projects on the property, at each stage of their cycle, including construction and exploitation, taking account of their synergetic and collateral impacts, linked also to the transformation in situ of the iron-ore and its transportation, as well as to the socio-economic changes to be expected,
  - c) Submit these ESIA to the World Heritage Committee before any decision approving their conclusions and recommendations is taken,
  - d) Guarantee that no mining exploration or exploitation license encroaches on the property and that no new mining exploration or exploitation license located around the property is granted without a prior Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and that it is submitted for prior advice to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN to evaluate the impacts, including synergetic impacts, of these projects,
  - e) Correct and establish the property boundaries on the ground in the strategic and vulnerable areas and submit an updated high-resolution map of the boundaries of the property to the World Heritage Committee,

- f) *In Guinea, ensure that the parts of the hevea plantation that encroach on the property be re-incorporated into the property and rehabilitated,*
  - g) *Strengthen the management capacity of the Centre for Environmental Management of Mount Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS) and the OIPR (Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves) by: 1) providing a sustainable operating budget for the management of the site, and 2) increasing the capacity of the surveillance agents, their presence on the ground and their technical means, notably rolling stock and techniques, and control their efficacy,*
  - h) *Implement a functional buffer zone (or an equivalent measure) around the property, in collaboration with the local communities, to enable an effective conservation of the OUV of the property by, for example, resorting to the establishment of communal forests,*
  - i) *Establish a harmonized ecological monitoring system between the CEGENS and the OIPR, in both parts of the property, to enable a better knowledge of the state and the evolving tendencies of the OUV of the property as a whole,*
  - j) *Together with the IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, identify a list of critical habitats and remarkable and/or flagship species to be the subject of more specific monitoring,*
  - k) *Finalize and implement the management plans of the parts of the property located in both countries, harmonized with that of the East Nimba Nature Reserve, Liberia, and prepare a master plan establishing a common vision for the whole property. This framework will serve public and private donors in conservation activities for the property and a sustainable socio-economic development of its periphery,*
  - l) *Establish a permanent funding mechanism for conservation actions for the property and the sustainable socio-economic development of its periphery, funded, among others, by contributions from the private sector, as the case may be;*
10. *Congratulates the two States Parties for funding obtained for improvement in the management of the property, and capacity-building of the staff, expresses its concern as to the lack of sustainable funding in support of the activities linked to transboundary cooperation, and reiterates its request to the States Parties to prepare a follow-up to the Nimba Project on the integrality of the property;*
  11. *Also regrets that the widening and tarmacking project of the Danané – Lola road has begun without taking into account measures to mitigate the impacts of this project, expresses also its keen concern as to the impacts of this project on the OUV of the property and requests furthermore the State Party of Guinea to immediately undertake urgent measures to mitigate the impacts of this activity;*
  12. *Requests moreover the States Parties to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) developed during the 2019 mission, and to submit it for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;*
  13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;*
  14. ***Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## 7. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1992, 1996-present

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

- Increased poaching
- Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the flagship species of the property

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2010, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082>

Revised in 2016, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6652>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6652>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 14 (from 1980-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 353,270

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 937,000 from the United Nations Foundation, the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain and the Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

2006, 2010 and 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict and political instability
- Poaching by nationals and trans-border armed groups
- Inadequate management capabilities to address the poaching crisis

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Collaboration between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) has been further strengthened. No cases of FARDC involvement in poaching were reported;
- 50 new guards and 12 security agents were recruited, trained and equipped, bringing the total number to 243 and 49, respectively;
- Transboundary cooperation with South Sudan continues to be a challenge due to the civil war, but efforts to establish regular radio communication with Lantoto National Park and contacts with the authorities in Juba were made;
- During 2018, 447 patrols were organized, covering 72% of the property and 29% of the adjacent Hunting Areas. The number of rapid response patrols increased from 47 in 2017 to 62 in 2018. Three bridges were built to facilitate the deployment of guards;

- The proportion of arrests leading to convictions decreased (4 in 2018), but the proportion of ivory found and seized increased (18 pieces for 42.6 kg). The number of other wildlife products and parts found decreased in 2018 compared to 2017. In particular, only 2 poached elephant carcasses were found in 2018. Collaboration with the Congolese National Police led to the seizure of some illegal wildlife products;
- Consultation workshops were held on the sustainable development and community conservation strategy for the Hunting Areas and its surrounding areas;
- Several activities to strengthen the economic development for communities around the property were carried out, including: financing the development of more efficient stoves; sensitizing communities on environmental protection; growth of mobile clinics and a park-run hospital. A strategy on the development of income-generating activities was finalized and its implementation started in September 2018;
- Operations around the property currently rely on the Business Plan, but there are plans to start the process of developing a General Management Plan (GMP) for the property;
- 43 elephants are currently radio-collared;
- 48 giraffes were recorded, including one new calf, and no cases of poaching were reported. A Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation of giraffes has been validated.

On 15 May 2019, the State Party provided updated information regarding refugee camps near the property. UNESCO and European Union's interventions with UNHCR resulted in the interruption of the camps development. A new location at 35 kilometers away from the property was identified to accommodate refugees.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party's efforts to further strengthen its anti-poaching measures through collaboration between ICCN and FARDC are welcomed. The presence of over 200 guards (243) now meets the adopted corrective measure, and this achievement should be welcomed, whilst at the same time noting the importance of maintaining this level. The decline in the number of poached elephant carcasses and other seized wildlife products in 2018 provides hope that poaching has finally been brought under control, although it will be important to confirm this trend over a longer timeframe.

The ongoing unrest in South Sudan, which is preventing a collaborative transboundary management approach, is of concern but the State Party's effort to communicate with the Lantoto National Park and the Government of South Sudan despite such challenges is appreciated. As soon as the situation in South Sudan stabilizes, it will be important to increase such cooperation to reduce the transboundary environmental criminal activities like poaching.

The radio-collaring of four additional elephants in 2018 is noted, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts to enhance the monitoring and protection of this species. While the observed decline in elephant poaching is excellent news, it will be important to monitor whether the population starts recovering from the 'all-time low' of less than 1,200 elephants in the 2017 survey. It needs to be recalled that the population was estimated at more than 11,000 animals before the start of the civil unrest in 1996.

Recalling that last year the State Party noted its plans to increase the Kordofan giraffe population to at least 60 by 2022, the recording of only one new calf is of concern. In addition, the currently reported figures indicate that two individuals were lost in 2018 to causes other than poaching. With a current total population estimate of less than 2,000 individuals across a limited range, the Kordofan giraffe is now considered critically endangered. With such a small population remaining in the property, it is critical to further enhance the surveillance efforts and support population recovery. While the reported completion of the Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation of giraffes is appreciated, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The initiation of the efforts towards establishing a conservation strategy for the hunting areas is positive, but no detail of the outcomes of the workshops is provided. It will be important that this strategy establishes clear objectives for the conservation of the natural resources of these areas, which are crucial for the integrity of the property. There is also no mention of progress towards developing a recognized buffer zone for the property in order to strengthen the protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as specified in the corrective measures and Decision **41 COM 7A.7**. Whilst the State Party

previously reported that the GMP was being finalized, the current report appears to indicate the State Party's intention to start the process. The State Party should therefore be requested to expedite this activity. The State Party's report on the relocation of the refugee's camps, outside the property, is welcome.

The continued absence of a State Party response on the finalized version of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is of concern. With the 2016 aerial survey data and additional data available through the monitoring system, it would be important to develop clear indicators for the recovery of key wildlife populations in order to establish a realistic timeframe for a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.7**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7A.7** and **42 COM 7A.47** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts to further strengthen its anti-poaching measures, leading to the deployment of more than 200 guards as defined in the Corrective Measures adopted in 2016 and encourages the State Party to maintain antipoaching surveillance at these levels;*
4. *Also welcomes the decline in the number of poached elephant carcasses and other seized wildlife products in 2018, but notes that it will be important to confirm these positive trends over a longer timeframe;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's effort to engage with Lantoto National Park and the Government of South Sudan, and requests the State Party to continue strengthening this cooperation to reduce the transboundary environmental criminal activities, such as poaching and illegal trans-border trade in wildlife products;*
6. *Also notes with appreciation the radio-collaring of four additional elephants and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to enhance the monitoring and protection of this species;*
7. *Expresses again its deepest concern for the 48 remaining Kordofan giraffes in the property, a subspecies considered critically endangered, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue the efforts of ecological monitoring and protection of this species, and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation of giraffes in the property, which has reportedly been finalized;*
8. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide an update on progress achieved towards developing a Buffer Zone for the property to strengthen the protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
9. *Notes with concern the continued absence of a Management Plan for the property, urges the State Party to expedite the completion of the General Management Plan and submit a draft copy to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*



10. *Notes the State Party's confirmation of the relocation of the refugee camps outside the property and encourages the Park Management authority to continue its efforts to mitigate the threats in and around the property;*
11. *Regrets once again that the State Party has still not submitted the finalized version of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to develop clear indicators for the recovery of key wildlife species populations based on the available data of the 2016 aerial survey and the monitoring system, in order to establish a realistic timeframe for a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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 44th session in 2020;*
13. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;*
14. ***Also decides to retain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (x)

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

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

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

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

A draft has been developed during the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents>), but the biological indicators still need to be quantified based on the results of a census of large mammals available at late 2018

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2017, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/fr/decisions/6954>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6954>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1980-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 140,970

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

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

### Previous monitoring missions

1996-2006: several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme;  
December 2009 and April/May 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

### Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/>, containing the following information:

- Collaboration between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the customary chiefs continues. With 1,200 patrols organized in 2018 (24 shared patrols), surveillance of the property now is now approximately 38% of the surface of the property against 36% in 2017. However, ICCN has concentrated most patrol efforts on the evacuation of the ecological corridor;
- The surveillance efforts have enabled the registering of 20 illegal artisanal mines. A new awareness-raising programme, targeting the miners, has resulted in the abandonment and the dismantling of the camp sites. To date, there is no active camp site in the property;
- An information network and barriers at the Park entrances have been installed to combat poaching. No case of trafficking of large apes was registered in 2018;
- Staff numbers have not increased, but the guards have benefitted from several capacity building initiatives and improvement in salaries and some incentive bonuses. Infrastructures have been built at the Park base (Tshivanga), and necessary material support has been provided to improve the working conditions of the guards;
- Several actions were carried out to evacuate the ecological corridor between the lowland and highland sectors, such as consultation meetings, ground patrols, the evacuation of cattle and the visit to the property by the ICCN Director-General and the Environment Minister. These measures have resulted in the complete evacuation of the corridor and the cancellation of the land titles;
- ICCN pursues activities aimed at the autonomy of the local communities by supporting various local development projects;
- The participative delineation process only produced 9.2 km, against 147 km in 2017;
- No notable action leading to sustainable funding was undertaken for the property.

In February 2018, UNESCO addressed a letter to the State Party, concerning tension between the Park and the local communities. ICCN informed UNESCO that a reconciliatory meeting, held last August, between the different stakeholders and itself, resulted in the signature of a protocol for a resumption of collaboration between the management team and the local populations.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Very important progress has been achieved with the total evacuation of the ecological corridor between the highland and the lowland sectors of the property. The sustainability of this achievement is crucial to facilitate, on the one hand, the reestablishment of ecological connectivity between the highlands and lowlands, and on the other, the restoration of the integrity of the property. Furthermore, the deployment

of patrols in this sector, uncontrolled since 2016, and the cancellation of land titles are significant accomplishments. The State Party may be commended for this important progress and it is recommended that the Committee again request the State Party to provide additional information, including maps, to precisely assess the state of conservation of this sector. This data will enable the evaluation of the impacts of these human activities on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is also recommended that a rehabilitation plan of this zone be developed to facilitate the regeneration of natural vegetation.

The strengthening of collaboration between ICCN and the different national and provincial authorities are positive signs of progress resulting in the partial recovery of some sectors of the lowlands. These zones remain infiltrated by armed rebel groups who carry out illegal mining activities and continue to hamper the surveillance work of the property, despite the relative improvement in security reported in 2018.

The closure of the illegal mining camp sites inside the property is appreciable, as is the establishment of an awareness-raising procedure for the peaceful evacuation of the illegal miners. However, it is worrying to note that other artisanal mines could still exist since the patrols are unable to cover the entire surface of the property.

Progress is also noted concerning the management of the property, notably the training of guards and the improvement in their work conditions. However, the lack of financial means remains a major preoccupation, especially as it is crucial for the consolidation of the current achievements.

It is also noted with regret that the report does not provide any numerical data concerning wildlife, in particular as regards the gorillas, following the inventory of the property which was begun in 2014. As requested in Decision **42 COM 7A.48**, these results are crucial for the evaluation of the OUV of the property. The Committee should remind the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the inventories for analysis by IUCN. The State Party is also encouraged, based on this data, to prepare indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) project.

The signature of the agreement protocol in August 2018, between the management authority of the property and the local populations, notably the Batwas, is warmly welcomed. ICCN is encouraged to continue these initiatives, as well as the community conservation activities for the benefit of the local communities.

Taking note of the lack of action for the sustainable funding of the property, it is recommended that the Committee launch an appeal to donors to support conservation efforts undertaken by the State Party for the integrality of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.8**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the evacuation of the illegal occupants of the ecological corridor between the highlands and lowlands which answers a major concern of the World Heritage Committee and notes that it is crucial to guarantee the ecological connectivity between the highland and lowland sectors for the restoration of the integrity of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to develop a rehabilitation plan for this zone to facilitate the regeneration of natural vegetation and to submit to the World Heritage Centre all*

information, including maps, to assess the impact of encroachment on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Expresses its concern as regards the continued reduction in the surveillance coverage of the property and encourages the donors to continue their financial and technical support to consolidate the important conservation efforts undertaken by the State Party for the integrality of the property;
6. Notes with satisfaction the capacity-building activities for new guards, the increase in bonuses and salaries as well as the development of infrastructures to strengthen surveillance and improve the difficult work conditions of the ICCN guards and also requests the State Party to continue these efforts;
7. Commends the State Party for the implementation of community conservation projects encouraging the autonomy of the local communities and the recognition of the rights and traditional means of subsistence of the local communities, and particularly those of the indigenous Batwa, and also encourages it to continue these actions in this direction;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit the results of the wildlife inventory to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) project, once the results of the wildlife inventory are available;
10. Urges the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures, as updated by the 2017 mission;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
12. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;
13. Also decides to retain **Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **9. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (x)

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

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

- Impact of the conflict : looting of the infrastructures, poaching of elephants
- Presence of gold mining sites inside the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

### Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 103,400

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,450,000, from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Government of Belgium, the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPF)

### Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006: UNESCO World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2009 and 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Intensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants
- Mining activities inside the property
- Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property
- Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri Forest, which might affect the property in the near future
- Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/>

### Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>, providing the following information on the implementation of the corrective measures:

- A high-level meeting was organized between the Directorate of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) to improve their collaboration, including the withdrawal of the military from all mining areas within the Reserve;
- An army battalion is now permanently stationed at the property to allow for joint operations to secure the area. This already resulted in the dismantling of several armed groups;
- Law enforcement efforts have continued, achieving 47.72% area coverage in 2018 (49.5% in 2017). The surveillance system has been strengthened with the training of newly recruited ecoguards and the provision of additional financial and material resources. Two overflights were conducted allowing the mapping of key threats inside the property and drafting of a monitoring strategy;
- An overall strategy for the closure of artisanal mines in the property has been developed and requires validation at the national level and appropriate law enforcement equipment as well as funding before it can be implemented. Meanwhile, a few quarries have been evacuated, including the closure of the 'BAPELA' quarry, and there is now a permanent ecoguard presence in this old quarry located in the eastern part of the property;
- Regular patrols are organized along the National Road 4 (RN4) to prevent illegal mining and human migratory influx, and the road remains closed to traffic at night;
- The Integrated Management Plan (PAG) for the property is obsolete and its revision is planned for 2019. The Central Integral Conservation Zone has been established and its validation with the local communities is being finalized;

- Awareness-raising workshops were organized to improve the relationship between Reserve staff and local communities in line with the National Community Conservation Strategy;
- During 2018, progress towards establishing community forest areas adjacent to the property was made through several awareness-raising meetings with local traditional authorities, leading to the signing of land use plans.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party's ongoing efforts to implement the corrective measures are welcomed, but the continued presence of armed groups in the property, which hampers park management activities and threatens the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, is noted with concern. The improved cooperation with the armed forces, allowing more joint patrols to secure the Reserve and the removal of all military positions should be welcomed. Surveillance coverage continues to stagnate for the third consecutive year. The limited extent of law enforcement raises significant concerns regarding the persistence of poaching with control efforts hampered by continued insecurity and resource limitations. Moreover, no detail is provided on the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) data collected to enable an assessment of the illegal activities on the OUV of the property.

The progress made in closing the mines inside the property is appreciated, and the fact that the army has agreed to evacuate the mining quarries is a significant development. While taking note of the fact that a strategy was developed and its approval and funding for its implementation is needed, full priority should be given to close and rehabilitate all remaining illegal artisanal mines inside the property. Furthermore, no update is provided on the progress in rehabilitating these quarries.

It is of concern that despite the State Party previously reporting that the update of the PAG was a priority for 2018, this has still not been undertaken and it is strongly recommended that the State Party expedite its completion. In addition, priority should be given to validating the boundaries of the Central Integral Conservation Zone.

The State Party's report responds to the corrective measures, but not to Committee Decision **42 COM 7A.49**, regarding the request to update the data concerning the number of residents in the property and to assess the impacts of the increased populations on the land-use in the property and the villages located along the RN4. Furthermore, no update is provided concerning progress towards achieving the indicators defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as requested by the Committee in its Decision **41 COM 7A.9**.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.9**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 41 COM 7A.9 and 42 COM 7A.49, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Reiterates its concern for the continued insecurity, which limits surveillance coverage of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to rapidly strengthen the number and capacity of guards, as well as the budget for the property in order to extend the coverage of the patrols and progressively gain full control of the property and drastically reduce the poaching that affects the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Welcomes the improved cooperation with the armed forces, allowing more joint patrols to secure the property and resulting in the military evacuating its positions in the property, including the mining quarries;*
5. *Appreciates the actions taken to close some artisanal mines and urges again the State Party to undertake urgent measures to close all illegal artisanal mines within the property and ensure their rehabilitation;*

6. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to update the data concerning the number of residents in the property and the villages located along the National Road (RN4) to assess the impacts of the increase in populations on the land-use in the property;
7. Notes the delay in updating the Integrated Management Plan (PAG) for the property and the validation of the Central Integral Conservation Zone, and also urges the State Party to expedite the updating of the PAG, integrating provisions relating to the different zones of the property, including the subsistence zones, the Central Integral Conservation Zone and forestry concessions for local communities, and ensure its immediate implementation;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data collected to enable an assessment of the illegal activities on the OUV of the property and data concerning progress accomplished with regard to the indicators defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
10. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
11. Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## 10. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-present

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

- Impact due to armed conflict
- Increased poaching and illegal encroachment affecting the integrity of the site

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

Proposed in the 2012 mission report. However, core indicators of the results of the inventory of flagship species still needs to be quantified in view of the adoption of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by the Committee.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4575>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1985-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 149,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 320,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy and Belgium

### Previous monitoring missions

2007 and 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Poaching by the army and armed groups
- Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries
- Impact of villages located within the property
- Threat of oil exploitation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/>

### Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>, providing the following information:

- In 2018, the security of the property and the strengthening of the technical and operational capacities of the surveillance teams was made a priority by the managers of the property. Thus, 199 patrols were carried out, covering 63.4% of the property compared to 56.2% in 2017. With its partners, the State Party also proceeded with the redefinition of the surveillance sectors (increase in the number of sectors from six to eight and the creation of two operational zones);
- A judicial cell has been established and 20 police officers have been sworn in;
- Several meetings of the Site Coordination Committee (Cocosi) have facilitated continued consultation process between the park managers, the politico-military-administrative authorities, as well as the technical and financial partners. The third session of the Salonga National Park Pilot Committee was held in Kinshasa in September 2018. However, a revitalization of the permanent consultation framework between the authorities of the provinces concerned by the property was difficult due to the establishment of new provinces;
- An ecological inventory has now covered the entire property as well as the corridor. The data resulting from this inventory has enabled the estimation of the bonobo population in the property and its corridor at 14,998 individuals and that of the elephants at 1,562 individuals. Also, a monitoring/surveillance strategy based on the use of photographic traps, linear transect technique and the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool was developed;
- Several local development Committees (283), and farmers' organizations (124) have been restructured and supported by several partners through sedentary and sustainable agriculture at the farmer level;
- A total number of nine dossiers, creating 186,000 ha communal forests were submitted for approval to the concerned authorities and this step has also been initiated in the southern zone of the corridor to facilitate the creation of the ecological continuum;
- The global synthesis score of the IMET (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool) increased from 56.6% (2017) to 61% (2018) showing an improvement in management efficiency of the property. The State Party identifies the demographic explosion in the corridor of the Park and the petroleum blocks as possible threats impacting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. No additional information is provided on the petroleum exploitation project. Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party and its partners continue to deploy important efforts in the implementation of the corrective measures, improvement in the efficiency of property management and strengthening the involvement of stakeholders concerned with decisional processes. These efforts, supported by



surveillance patrols within the property, are favourably welcomed. However, no information is provided on the voluntary resettlement outside the Park of the Yaelima communities, as mentioned in the last report. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts to find a sustainable solution to settle the land conflicts, the autonomisation of the local communities, and the reinforcement of the process of community ownership of community forests in the buffer zone of the Park and the corridor.

The results of the biological inventories and the establishment of an integrated ecological monitoring plan are warmly welcomed. These results are encouraging and appear to show that the viable populations of the different flagship species are maintained, even if the elephant population (1,562) remains very low given the capacity of the Park, estimated at 14,000 individuals. It is recommended that the detailed reports of the different inventories be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as the analyses are completed.

The State Party is encouraged to develop a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) with appropriate indicators based on the data resulting from these studies, and to submit the DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

Although mentioned in the report as a threat likely to impact the OUV of the property, it is regrettable that the State Party has not provided fuller clarification concerning the attribution of petroleum blocks overlapping the property. According to information received by the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to the State Party on 12 April 2019, a production sharing contract production with the "Compagnie Minière Congolaise (CoMiCo) was signed by the outgoing President on 13 December 2018 for petroleum blocks overlapping the property boundaries. No response has been received at the time of preparation of this report. In its Decision **42 COM 7A.50** (Manama 2018), the Committee reminded the State Party that petroleum exploration and/or exploitation was incompatible with World Heritage status. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its position on the fact that petroleum and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status and it requests the State Party to immediately cancel these licenses. The Committee may also remind the State Party that all proposals to modify the boundaries of World Heritage properties regarding the extractive industries must be made in compliance with the procedure applicable for important modifications of boundaries, detailed in Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, given the potential impact of such projects on the OUV.

Due to the political situation, the State Party did not invite the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, in conformity with Decision **42 COM 7A.50**, to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures and establish a timetable for their implementation. It is recommended that the Committee reiterates this request to the State Party and maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.10**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.50**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the efforts undertaken with its partners in the implementation of the corrective measures and improvement in the management efficiency of the property, and encourages the State Party to reinforce its cooperation efforts with its partners;*
4. *Launches an appeal to donors to continue their financial support in the implementation of the corrective measures and in security for the management of the property;*
5. *Favourably welcomes the measures undertaken for the local communities and requests the State Party to continue its efforts for the autonomization of the local communities and the continuation of the community ownership process of the community forests in the buffer zone of the Park and the corridor between the two blocks of the Park;*

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the resettlement procedure outside of the Park of the Yaelima communities is voluntary and in accordance with the policies of the Convention and the relevant international standards, including the principles of free, prior and informed consent (CPLCC), fair compensation, access to social advantages and the preservation of cultural rights;
7. Regrets that the report provided no information on the petroleum project, expresses its very keen concern as regards the granting of petroleum licenses within the property, and urges the State Party to cancel the current petroleum concessions and not to authorize the granting of new concessions in the property and its periphery that could have negative and irreversible effects on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
8. Reiterates its established position concerning the gas and petroleum exploitation and/or exploration being incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the commitments undertaken by the leaders of the industry, such as Shell and Total, not to engage in such activities in World Heritage properties;
9. Recalls that modifications concerning the boundaries of World Heritage properties in respect of extractive industries must be carried out in conformity with the procedure applicable to important boundary modifications, detailed in Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, in view of the potential impact of such projects on the OUV, and also recalls that all proposals for the modification of the boundaries of World Heritage properties must be based on the strengthening of its OUV and must not be proposed with a view to facilitating extractive activities;
10. Takes note of the positive results of the biological inventories and the setting up of an integrated ecological monitoring plan, and also requests the State Party to submit the results of the biological inventories to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as they are available, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with appropriate indicators based on the data resulting from these inventories;
11. Also reiterates its request to, the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, in compliance with Decision 42 COM 7A.50, to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures and establish a timetable for their implementation;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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 44th session in 2020;
13. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
14. Also decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

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

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

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

Updated in 2018, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7224>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7224>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1980-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 268,560

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

April 1996 - March 2006 - December 2010: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission;  
August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reinforced Monitoring mission; March 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/Ramsar Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents>, containing the following information:

- Cooperation between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) has been strengthened;
- The total strength of the eco-guardians numbers 748, with support from 300 civilians ;

- The area covered by ground patrols has doubled in comparison to 2017 (from 30.5% to 63%) contributing to a reduction in the surface of the occupied property of 1.5% (from 20.9% to 19.4%). Furthermore, the ICCN is increasing development projects to respond to the needs of the communities;
- The ICCN has issued 844 reports of offenses, but only 14 resulted in judicial convictions despite strong judicial follow-up;
- Around 3,000 armed elements operate in the property, especially in the northern and southern sectors, as well as around Lake Edward. ICCN has deployed patrol efforts along the ecological corridor between the northern part of Lake Edward and the Queen Elizabeth National Park, in Uganda, to protect wildlife and limit new incursions. The guards have recovered the northern zone around Mont Tshiabirimu;
- The illegal exploitation of charcoal continues and the resulting income from this traffic is estimated at 35 million Dollar/year. Operations have been carried out to combat illegal wood exploitation, which have resulted in the seizure of 115 ovens (of the 24 identified) and the seizure of 445 sacks of charcoal. The Park continues the construction of hydroelectric plants to respond to the energy needs of the populations;
- Non-sustainable fishing practices and the poaching of hippopotamuses has increased around Lake Edward. The establishment of a new maritime command centre and a new governance convention for fishing are foreseen to mitigate these threats;
- Inventories carried out in the property in 2017 and 2018 indicate that poaching continues in all the sectors. 285 elephants, 20 to 30 lions, roughly 1,500 hippopotamuses (a 16% reduction) and 286 mountain gorillas were inventoried;
- No oil exploitation has been reported;
- Tourism activities will be recommenced in 2019, following last year's tragic attack.

During a meeting with the World Heritage Centre in July 2018, ICCN confirmed the establishment of an Interministerial Commission with a view to studying the possibility of modifying the boundaries of the protected areas to authorize extractive activities.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Due to the presence of armed groups, security remains a major concern because it threatens the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its integrity through the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and poaching. This situation has once again led to the loss of 9 guards and a driver in 2018. It is recommended that the Committee address its sincere condolences to the families of the guards.

Despite this difficult context, surveillance activities have continued to be carried out thanks to the increase in the number of guards, the strengthening of collaboration with the FARDC, and efforts in management and law enforcement. It is encouraging to note a significant increase in the zones covered by the patrols in 2018. However, it is important to recall, as in the earlier report, that the evacuation of the rebel groups and the re-establishment of law are conditions *sine qua none* to ensure adequate surveillance of the property and fully protect its OUV.

It is also encouraging that deployment operations have resulted in the recovery of the Mont Tshiabirimu zone, the only zone with a Grauer gorilla population. However, the illegal occupation of a fifth of the area of the Park remains an important concern that threatens its integrity. It is imperative to envisage a strategy to halt the encroachments as well as anticipating the recovery of the earlier-invaded zones in the western part of Lake Edward and Kirokirwe. The implementation of such a strategy requires a clear political will at the local, national and regional levels.

These invasions are, among others, caused by over-population problems and poverty following years of crisis and conflicts. The implementation of the Alliance Virunga activities for the economic and social development of north Kivu to reduce poverty and respond to energy needs of the local populations of the property could contribute to the implementation of this strategy.

While noting the renewal of unsustainable fishing practices and poaching of hippopotamuses around Lake Edward, the establishment of a new maritime command centre and a new governance fishing convention to respond to these threats is welcomed.

The results of the biological inventories that were carried out in 2018 show that poaching continues causing serious impacts on the elephant and hippopotamus populations. Only the gorilla population displays an increase of nearly 100 individuals in comparison to the 2010 census. The State Party should be congratulated for its efforts to protect this species and its habitat, even during the security crisis.

The State Party notes that no petroleum activities have been observed in 2018. Nevertheless, the possibility of carrying out petroleum exploration activities is still current in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (cf. report on Salonga National Park). The establishment by the former government of an Interministerial Commission to study the possibility to modify the boundaries of the protected areas to authorize extractive activities is very worrying. Given that a new Government is not yet in place, the mandate of this Commission remains unclear. For all these reasons, it is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its position according to which petroleum exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to prepare biological indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as the main results of the wildlife inventories are available, and to submit them as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre.

It is also recommended to the Committee to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.11**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 42 COM 7A.51, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the line of duty and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN);*
4. *Commends the management efforts of the ICCN to strengthen surveillance and ecological monitoring, in particular through the increase in the number of guards, the improvement in collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) that has resulted in the control of Mont Tshiabirimu and an increase of nearly 50% in the areas covered by surveillance in comparison to 2017;*
5. *Expresses its keen concern as regards continuing insecurity and notably the presence of 3,000 armed elements that operate in the property, rendering management operations very difficult and leading to incessant illegal activities (poaching, illegal fishing and production of charcoal) while endangering the life of the surveillance staff of the Park;*
6. *Again expresses its concern in the face of serious threats that weigh on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular the encroachment of illegal plantations in nearly 20% of the Park, illegal fishing, the exploitation of wood and poaching;*
7. *Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures updated by the 2018 reactive monitoring mission and encourages it to continue the implementation of the sustainable development activities established in the framework of the Alliance Virunga;*
8. *Notes that a clear political will at the local, national and regional levels is necessary to resolve the encroachment issues of the property and urges the State Party to develop,*

*in consultation with all the stakeholders, a strategy to halt encroachment and take measures to recover the invaded areas;*

9. *Also requests the State Party to submit the results of the inventories of the flagship species to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN and to define the biological indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
10. *Expresses its deepest concern regarding the establishment of an Interministerial Commission to study a possible modification of the boundaries of the protected areas with a view to authorizing extractive activities, and recalls again its position according to which all mining, petroleum and gas exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, a policy supported by the commitments undertaken by the leaders of the industry, such as Shell and Total, not to engage in such activities in World Heritage properties;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*
12. *Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;*
13. *Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## **15. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (x)

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

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

- Poaching
- Livestock grazing
- Dam construction project at Sambangalou

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4087>

Revised (finalization of indicators) in 2015, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1982-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 206,799

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2007 and 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions, 2011: IUCN mission and 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife
- Drying up of ponds and invasive species
- Illegal logging
- Livestock grazing
- Road construction project
- Potential dam construction
- Mining exploration and exploitation
- Loss of chimpanzee habitat

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/> :

- The General Management Plan for the property (2019-2023) was approved last December following the implementation of International Assistance;
- An inventory of large mammals was carried out in 2018 confirming the presence of flagship species and their homogeneous spatial distribution in the property. A diversity of large mammals remains present with positive tendencies for certain species (buffalo, hippotragus, waterbuck) in comparison with the 2006 inventory, but a reduction in the hartebeest population. A viable population of Derby eland remains present and the very low number of elephants is confirmed. There are reduced numbers of lions, leopards, lycaon and chimpanzee throughout the property, with the exception of the areas experiencing strong anthropic pressure;
- Fragmentation of chimpanzee habitat remains a major concern and their habitat has degraded in the intervention zone of the Petewol Mining Company (PMC) at Mako;
- Increased surveillance efforts, combined with awareness-raising and environmental education sessions, have resulted in a reduction in poaching. Surveillance has been strengthened with 22 patrol posts, 2 mobile intervention brigades and 3 zonal brigades;
- Income-generating activities to benefit the local communities have been continued;
- Mechanical actions aimed at the invasive species *Mimosa pigra* in the ponds at Simenti, Kountadala and Nianaka, as well as regular monitoring of the ponds, have improved their retention capacity. The establishment of water holes in the pastoral lands around the property have reduced pastoralism pressure;
- Measures have been defined with the PMC for environmental monitoring with analyses of dangerous substances in the various water samples. Some results were not in conformity with international standards and the microbiological analyses data are not available;
- The evaluation of impacts of the Sambangalou dam project is ongoing but detailed data is not available;
- The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has delayed the closure of the quarry at Mansadala in 2021 due to public road works.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The completion of the General Management Plan and the results of ecological monitoring show an improvement in management and a reduction of pressures linked to poaching and transhumance. The encouraging evolution of populations of certain flagship species is favourably welcomed.

However, the situation of the elephant, the lycaon and the hartebeest remains a concern, and the ecological monitoring needs to be continued over a longer period to provide a database to analyze the dynamics of these populations. The absence of wildlife in areas of high anthropic pressure like the illicit gold-mining zones and the basalt quarry demonstrates the importance of halting these activities.

The low presence of chimpanzees in the property show the importance of populations outside the site, notably in the auriferous zones of Mako and Massawa. The fragmentation of the habitat of chimpanzees in the PMC intervention zone remains a concern. The State Party should provide exact data on the monitoring of chimpanzees in the mining periphery, in order to enable an evaluation of the actual impacts of the project on the species.

The different development, education and awareness-raising actions are welcomed and should be continued to ensure their sustainability and to limit human pressure on the natural resources.

Actions aiming at the eradication of the *Mimosa pigra* species, as well as the regular monitoring of the ponds, are noted but a combat strategy combining various approaches must be given priority to eliminate the invasive species.

The results of some water samples are a cause of concern and the absence of microbiological data analyses is regrettable. It is recommended that the State Party establish a permanent monitoring system of the quantity and quality of the surface water, waste water and groundwater, upstream and downstream of the mining project at Mako.

It is also regrettable that the information provided on the inter-connectivity water project of the Gambia River and the ponds located in the property do not allow an evaluation of the potential impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This project remains a potential threat to the property and must be the subject of a detailed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in conformity with the IUCN Advice Note. It is recommended that the State Party keeps the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress of the project.

It is further regrettable that the closure of the Mansadala quarry has once again been delayed. It is noted that the State Party initially affirmed that this quarry, located in the property, would be closed in 2015, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to proceed with its immediate closure given the negative impact on the OUV of the property.

The new General Management Plan mentions illegal mining activities in the property. In March 2019, the World Heritage Centre also received information from third parties concerning the granting of a mining license to the Barrick Gold Society, authorizing operations in the vicinity of the property as well as a mining extraction activity carried out by a company in the south-east part of the Park. On 6 March 2019, the World Heritage Centre addressed a letter to the State Party requesting additional information on these projects but no response has been received at the time of this report. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that all mining exploitation in the property be immediately suspended and that no new mining permits located around the property be granted without an ESIA being carried out to evaluate the impacts on the OUV, including the cumulative effects of these projects.

It is also recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.15**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 42 COM 7A.55, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),



3. Congratulates the State Party for the efforts undertaken in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular the updating of the General Management Plan of the property and its periphery, the combat against invasive species and the operationalisation of the ecological monitoring system, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts;
4. Takes note that the results of the inventory and the ecological monitoring indicate an increase in the population of some flagship species, while showing the vulnerability of other species like the elephant, the lycaon, and the hartebeest and considers that this monitoring should continue for a longer period, and also requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the inventory; notably the establishment of an emergency programme for the lycaon, a conservation programme for the Derby eland and a monitoring programme for the hartebeest ;
5. Welcomes all the development, education, information and awareness-raising activities initiated by the State Party and its partners enabling an improved involvement of communities in the management of the property;
6. Expresses its keen concern regarding the reports on mining extraction in the south-east part of the property, further requests that all mining exploitation in the property be immediately suspended, and reiterates its position concerning mining exploration or exploitation which is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the position statement of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;
7. Regrets that the State Party has not provided any information concerning the possible granting of a mining license to the Barrick Gold Society in the vicinity of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the impacts of this project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property be evaluated in the framework of an in-depth Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in conformity with the IUCN Advice Note on World Heritage and environmental assessment, and to submit, without delay, a copy to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
8. Recalls its high concern with regard to the impacts of the Petewil Mining Company mining project on the quality and regime of the waterways as well as on the chimpanzee population and their habitat, and requests moreover the State Party to:
  - a) Continue the regular monitoring of the quantity and quality of the surface water, waste water and groundwater above and below the Mako mining project,
  - b) Provide detailed data on the monitoring of chimpanzees and their habitat, to enable an evaluation on the actual impacts of the project and the proposed mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of this species,
  - c) Carry out microbiological analyses of the waterways likely to be affected by the project and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Also regrets that the information provided on the inter-connectivity water project of the Gambia River and the ponds located in the property do not enable the evaluation of the potential impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property and reiterates its request to the State Party that this project be subject to a detailed ESIA in conformity with the IUCN Advice Note and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress of the project;
10. Further regrets the report on the closure of the quarry at Mansadala due to public works and requests in addition the State Party to proceed immediately with its closure given its negative impact on the OUV of the property;

11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*
12. ***Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

**16. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **ARAB STATES**

**Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of Iraq need to be read in conjunction with Item 21 below.**

#### **18. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2003-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100, 000 Heritage Emergency Fund - support for Iraqi World Heritage properties

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities
- Managements systems/management plan
- Water infrastructure
- Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project

- Fragile mud brick structures
- Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

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

#### Current conservation issues

On 11 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The State Board for Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) has returned to work on the property following the liberation of the city in 2017 and has made a preliminary report on the significant damages incurred there, in preparation for conservation and restoration work;
- The preliminary assessment notes that the three arches of the Tabira Gate were greatly affected in March 2018 by an explosion during the armed conflict and by an earthquake that occurred in the area. Bricks have fallen and portions of the monument may collapse if not conserved. Urgent restoration is needed, according to the State Party;
- The Farhan Pasha Palace, converted in 1978 to house a local museum of the antiquities discovered in Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat), has been ruined, and the Royal Cemetery's protective glass roof has been smashed;
- In conjunction with the start of the Third Cycle (2018-2024) of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Arab Region, the State Party plans to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification of the buffer zone with the aim of better protecting the property;
- Referring to the *World Heritage Convention* and previous pledges, the State Party requests the international community to assist it in conserving and restoring the property, especially since the security situation is now encouraging for interventions and urgently needed conservation work in the field.

The State Party also requests in its report that the World Heritage Committee dispatch missions to develop centralized damage reports for its World Heritage properties.

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

The lack of detailed information about the state of conservation of the property (for the fifth consecutive year) continues to be of very grave concern.

As has been recommended by the Committee in previous decisions, it is essential that a full and detailed assessment of the damages incurred, as well as potential risks, be carried out as soon as security conditions permit, and prior to any action on the ground, with the responsible authorities working in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, any and all preliminary assessments of the property it has undertaken.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to revisit the Response Plan for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (2017-2019), which reflects the recommendations of the International Coordination Conference for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq, organized by UNESCO and the Iraqi Government in February 2017, with the objective of finding ways forward to start implementing the priority actions and securing the needed resources as urgently as possible.

As previously recommended by the Committee, any protection and emergency stabilization work should be undertaken only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention. Any elements found at the property, and resulting from conflict-related damages such as intentional destructions, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, and the boundaries of the property protected from illegal excavations and looting, as outlined in the 2017 International Coordination Conference. It is recommended once again that, when security conditions permit, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission be sent to assist in assessing the damage, as a preparatory step for the development of a comprehensive Conservation Plan.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;
4. Expresses its grave concern about the state of conservation of the property following the armed conflict and intentional destructive acts;
5. Notes with concern the continuing lack of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit any and all preliminary assessments of the property it has undertaken;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a full and detailed assessment of the damages incurred, and the potential risks to the property, as soon as security conditions permit and prior to any action on the ground, with the responsible authorities working in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq, and to submit this assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, once security conditions permit, to assist in assessing the damage, preparatory to the development of a comprehensive Conservation Plan;
9. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to revisit the Response Plan for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (2017-2019), with the objective of finding ways forward to start implementing the priority actions and securing the needed resources as urgently as possible;
10. Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
11. Calls again on all Member States of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
13. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 19. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

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

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

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

Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 3,500

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100 000 Heritage Emergency Fund - support for Iraqi World Heritage properties

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major looting of Iraqi archaeological sites
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

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

Current conservation issues

On 11 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Staff has returned to work on the property after the liberation of the city in 2017;
- Initial damage assessments carried out by the Ninawa Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate indicate that the property was not as severely damaged as the sites of Nineveh and Nimrod, and that acts of vandalism were generally limited to the human and animals faces that adorn the arches and entrances of the *iwans* (vaulted porches) in the Great Temple and the destruction of the gypsum version of the Abu Bint Deimun statue. The State Party has also summarized the damage inflicted on the temples and the *iwans* that it had reported in its 2018 state of conservation report (see **42 COM 7A.19**);

- In conjunction with the start of the Third Cycle (2018-2024) of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Arab Region, the State Party plans to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification of the buffer zone with the aim of better protecting the property;
- Referring to the *World Heritage Convention* and previous pledges, the State Party requests the international community to assist it in conserving and restoring the property, especially since the security situation is now encouraging for interventions and for urgently needed conservation work in the field.

The State Party also requests that the World Heritage Committee dispatch missions to develop centralized damage reports for its World Heritage properties.

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

The lack of complete and detailed information on the state of conservation of the property continues to be a very grave concern.

The return of staff to the property is welcomed, as is the Ninawa Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate's initial assessment that the property has not been as severely damaged as initially feared. Nevertheless, the reported vandalism by extremist groups is disturbing. Protection measures need to be taken to prevent any further damage to the property, or looting. It is recommended that the Committee encourage again the State Party to prevent further damage to the property and looting, and to address priority actions, as outlined in the Response Plan for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (2017-2019), which reflects the recommendations of the International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (UNESCO, February 2017), with the support of UNESCO and the international community.

It may be useful to remind the State Party that protection and emergency stabilization work should be undertaken only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, and according to the principle of minimal intervention.

It is also recommended that, when security conditions permit, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be sent to further assess the damage and to discuss with the State Party's authorities the short-, medium- and long-term goals and actions required to protect the property from further damage and looting, as well as to develop a more complete and detailed damage assessment in support of a comprehensive project for the conservation and restoration of the property.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.19**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground, but notes however with concern the continuing lack of complete and detailed information on the state of conservation of the property;
4. Encourages again the State Party to prevent further damage to the property and looting, and to address priority actions as outlined in the Response Plan for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (2017-2019), with the support of UNESCO and the international community;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, once security conditions permit, to further assess the damages and to discuss with State Party authorities the short-, medium- and long-term goals and actions required to protect the property;

6. *Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;*
7. *Calls again on all Member States of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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 44th session in 2020;*
9. ***Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## 20. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Total amount granted for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq:

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100,000 Heritage Emergency Fund - support for Iraqi World Heritage properties
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Iraq (Ministry of the Sunni Fund) for specialized and conservation of the Great Mosque of Samarra and other mosques in the city



### Previous monitoring missions

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

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

### Current conservation issues

On 11 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents> and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- As the State Party had reported in 2018 (see **42 COM 7A.20**), many sites in this archaeological property have been affected by military operations, including the Sur Ashnas palace and the Qubbat al-Sulaibiya mausoleum;
- Conservation and restoration work have not been carried out, the work being limited to an initial assessment of damage to the property;
- Citing the *World Heritage Convention* and previous pledges, the State Party requests the international community to assist it in conserving and restoring the property, especially since the security situation is now encouraging for interventions and for urgently needed conservation work in the field.

The State Party also requests that the World Heritage Committee dispatch missions to develop centralized damage reports for its World Heritage properties.

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

In 2016, the UNESCO Office for Iraq, in collaboration with the Samarra Antiquities Office, conducted a survey, documentation and assessment of damage at specific monument within the property (Malwiya and Great Mosque, Al-Asheq Palace, Al-Qubba al-Salibiyya, and Ashnas Wall). The data was generated in 3D models and integrated in an interactive content format.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that the Committee request again the State Party to submit, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a copy of any additional documentation that was mentioned in the State Party's 2017 state of conservation report. It is further recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that a full and updated comprehensive assessment be carried out in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq, as soon as security conditions permit and before any remedial actions are undertaken. Priority should be given to identifying any necessary emergency stabilization work and establishing a road map for longer-term conservation and management actions. As previously recommended, any required emergency stabilization work should adhere to the principle of minimal intervention.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.20**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;

4. Expresses its grave concern about the state of conservation of the property following the armed conflict and intentional destructive acts;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit documentation of the damage done to the property as a whole and its affected monuments, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also reiterates its request that a full and comprehensive assessment be carried out in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq, as soon as security conditions permit and before any remedial actions are undertaken, with the aim of identifying any necessary emergency stabilization work and establishing a road map for longer-term conservation and management actions;
7. Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls again on all Member States of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
10. Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **21. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of Iraq**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

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

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

## **23. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 15,000 for the European Project "Protection of Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Peace and Stability"

Previous monitoring missions

March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2006: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 8 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Urban encroachment has declined significantly in the property but has increased in the areas surrounding the archaeological sites. The affected areas include the Northern and Western necropolises and the extramural Demeter sanctuary. Several meetings and awareness-raising campaigns have been undertaken to encourage local residents to stop construction around the archaeological sites, which local residents have committed to do;

- As part of the Protection and Conservation Strategy established in 2018, the Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the Urban Planning Authority are creating guidelines for land use within the buffer zone;
- The boundary clarification adopted in 2018 has been shared with the Municipality of Shahat and the Urban Planning Authority for protection and conservation purposes. A proposal for a boundary modification has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;
- The pollution caused by sewage disposal into Wadi of Belghader continues to threaten the archaeological monuments;
- The DoA and the Municipality of Shahat are working to address the issue of forest fires, another major threat to the property;
- The Engineering Consulting Office for Utilities (ECOU) has prepared a proposal to build a hotel near the Temple of Zeus;
- The Presidential Council has issued a decree for the creation of a special committee to follow up on illicit trafficking of cultural property. Bilateral memoranda of understanding with several countries on this matter are envisaged. Important work with Arab and European security agencies and Interpol to limit illicit trafficking has been achieved. In close cooperation with the Spanish authorities, efforts are underway to return a “funerary statue” smuggled from Cyrene.

The State Party intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support for the conservation of its cultural heritage, and has formally invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property.

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

The information provided by the State Party demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the property, despite the prevailing conflict. Progress is being made regarding the analysis of the situation and the implementation of remedial actions. Although urban encroachment within the property has decreased, the significant increase around the archaeological sites remains a major concern.

The lack of effective management and the evolving security conditions make the conservation of the property difficult. Updated information about the damage caused by pollution and forest fires, two major areas of concern, is needed. Information on the proposed Shahat Grand Hotel near the Temple of Zeus also needs to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The effort made to clarify the property’s boundary is recognized as an indispensable step towards its effective protection and management. The ongoing close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in defining an appropriate buffer zone is appreciated. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue this cooperation, in line with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The important efforts carried out by the State Party against the illicit trafficking of its cultural heritage are welcomed. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the Member States of UNESCO to support these efforts by providing funds and specialized assistance to continue urgent conservation activities, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking and the protection of Libyan cultural heritage.

On the occasion of the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the State Party indicated its willingness to start the elaboration of management plans for all five of its World Heritage properties, and will seek international support to achieve this objective. It also reported an increasing awareness by civil society, local and national authorities, and high-level decision-makers about the necessity to protect cultural heritage in Libya, including World Heritage properties. The organization of workshops and symposiums on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties has emphasized the importance of their protection and conservation, linking national identity with cultural heritage.

It is therefore further recommended that the State Party’s important efforts to conserve this property are oriented in line with the action plan that was developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage, held in Tunis in May 2016 (report is available at

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>), and building on the short-, medium- and long-term measures identified during that meeting.

The recent escalation of violence raises much concern about the sustainability of the efforts made to conserve the Archaeological Site of Cyrene, as it prevents the State Party from undertaking the necessary actions to ensure its protection and conservation. It remains essential that the joint mission invited by the State Party and requested by the Committee at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively, takes place as soon as the security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party pursue its efforts to keep the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, updated on the situation on the ground, as well as on the further implementation of the measures it has launched, while addressing, to the extent possible, the comments and requests made by the Committee.

Considering the above-mentioned information, it is recommended that the Committee retains the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.23**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.22**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the important efforts made for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in close coordination with local communities and civil society, despite the prevailing unstable situation and difficult working conditions on the ground, and urges it to continue its efforts in this regard to the degree possible;*
4. *Requests the State Party to keep the Committee regularly informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the proposed construction of a hotel near the Temple of Zeus, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to provide updated information about the damage caused by pollution and forest fires;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to continue the finalization of the Minor Boundary Modification in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Acknowledges the invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and also encourages it to take place as soon as the security conditions permit;*
8. *Calls for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, to implement the short-, medium- and long-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);*
9. *Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Libya and engaging in the protection*

of cultural heritage during armed conflict, as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and further encourages the State Party to ratify the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;

10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
11. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **24. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) (C 183)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified  
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures  
Not yet established

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

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds  
Total amount granted: USD 24,543 for the European Project "Protection of Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Peace and Stability"

Previous monitoring missions  
1988: UNESCO mission; March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Flooding (issue resolved)
- Conflict situation
- Deterioration of the stone masonry
- Sand covering certain areas of the property
- Graffiti and fires
- Discharge of domestic wastewater at the west of the property

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

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/183/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Vandalism continues to decrease, as does the amount of vegetation overgrowth and animal grazing, this being achieved by periodic weeding, with assurances that it will not damage any archaeological remains buried near the surface or create any disturbance to wildlife. Trees that are dangerous to the public or to the archaeological remains and buildings have also been removed. Efforts are still underway with the local authority to address the issue of unauthorized discharge of domestic wastewater and sand drift;
- There is a general improvement in relation to addressing the impact of human and environmental threats at the property, which is due to an increase in trained staff. The property remains open to the public. However, site museums are secured and remain closed, with collections stored in safer locations;
- The boundary clarification adopted in 2018 has been shared with the Municipality of Al-Khoms and the Urban Planning Authority, for protection and conservation purposes;
- Measures have been identified and are being undertaken to prevent damage and violations that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in collaboration with the tourist police and the local community. Periodic cleaning of Wadi Lebda is conducted to avoid the repeat of the 1978 flooding, and continuous cleaning of undergrowth is done to protect the archaeological buildings and the city from fires in summer. The local authority has been asked to build a barrier to prevent sand encroachment. Efforts are also underway to establish permanent laboratory facilities for basic conservation and research, as well as training of conservators to help restore buildings and archaeological objects;
- The lack of funding is still a concern that prevents regular maintenance of the property, which is the main cause of deterioration. The State Party intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support.

The State Party requests the World Heritage Committee to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to this end has formally invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property.

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

The information provided by the State Party demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the property, despite the prevailing conflict. Nevertheless, the recent escalation of violence as well as a lack of funding is preventing the State Party from carrying out major conservation works. It is recommended that the Committee call upon the international community to support the State Party in its conservation efforts.

No information was submitted that addresses the deterioration of stone masonry or the control of graffiti. Measures reported by the State Party with regard to sand control, fire prevention and the discharge of domestic wastewater west of the property are welcome.

With the commencement of the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the State Party has expressed its willingness to initiate the elaboration of management plans for all five of its World Heritage properties, and will seek international support to achieve this objective. It also reported on an increasing awareness by civil society, local and national authorities and high-level decision-makers about the necessity to protect cultural heritage in Libya, including World Heritage properties.

The effort made to clarify the property's boundary is recognized as an indispensable step towards its protection and management. The ongoing close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS concerning the definition of a buffer zone is highly appreciated. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the State Party to continue this cooperation, in line with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is recommended that the State Party's important efforts to conserve the property are oriented in line with the action plan that was developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan

Cultural Heritage, held in Tunis in May 2016 (report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>), building on the short- and medium-term measures identified during that meeting.

The recent escalation of violence, raises much concern about the sustainability of the efforts made by the State Party in the conservation of the property, as the situation prevents the State Party from undertaking essential actions to protect and conserve the property. It remains crucial that the joint mission invited by the State Party and requested by the Committee at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions takes place as soon as the security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party pursue its efforts to keep the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, updated on the situation on the ground, as well as on the further implementation of the measures it has launched, while addressing, to the extent possible, the comments and requests made by the Committee.

Considering the above-mentioned information, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.24**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the important efforts made for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in close coordination with local communities and civil society, despite the prevailing unstable situation and difficult working conditions on the ground, and urges it to continue its efforts in this regard to the extent possible;*
4. *Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and of any new measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation, as well as any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to continue the finalization of the Minor Boundary Modification in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Acknowledges the invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to take place as soon as the security conditions permit;*
7. *Calls for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, to implement the short-, medium- and long-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*



9. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**25. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) (C 184)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

**26. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) (C 362)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified  
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures  
Not yet established

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

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds  
N/A

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Vandalism including graffiti
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Human Resources
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country

- Illegal activities

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

Current conservation issues

On 8 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The scale of vandalism to the rock art has decreased following the establishment of regular inspection patrols by the Tourist Police, who are working in close cooperation with the Department of Antiquities (DoA) offices in the region and the local community. The DoA has also increased its outreach activities in the towns and cities surrounding the property;
- The boundary clarification adopted at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee is now the official map of the property and has been shared with the Municipality of Ghat for protection and conservation purposes;
- Planning is underway to create a cultural and visitor centre in the old fort at Alawenat;
- Existing signage has been repainted to include guidance in local languages on how to protect the rock art, and a cleaning campaign involving NGOs and local communities was organized. Protection patrols and the protection of antiquities were intensified;
- Regarding actions intended by the State Party to facilitate removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the documentation of 20 rock art sites and topographic surveys were carried out; an awareness-raising project on the importance of archaeology and cultural heritage was undertaken; preparations are underway to designate the property as a National Park; and the DoA staff took part in capacity building programmes for GIS and survey techniques;
- The Presidential Council has issued a decree for the creation of a special committee to follow up on illicit trafficking of cultural property. Bilateral memoranda of understanding with several countries on this matter are envisaged. Important work with Arab and European security agencies and Interpol to limit illicit trafficking of cultural property has been achieved, and workshops to train experts have been conducted with international cooperation and support. The State Party affirms its efforts to ratify the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

The State Party intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support for the conservation of its cultural heritage. In addition, it requests the Committee to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to this end has formally invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property.

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

The report provided by the State Party demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the property, despite the prevailing conflict. The efforts made to improve the vigilance, to undertake cleaning and documentation actions, and to organize awareness-raising campaigns and capacity building activities are essential steps to prevent vandalism and to set out a roadmap of actions for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Working in close coordination with the local communities is fundamental to the conservation of such a large property.

Notwithstanding these efforts, there remains a lack of effective management. The security conditions and the size of the property remain challenges in terms of preventing vandalism and thus ensuring the state of conservation of the property. Updated information is needed about the damage caused by graffiti, an issue that was raised in the previous state of conservation report.

It is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat as a cultural and visitor centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

The effort made to clarify the property's boundary is recognized as an indispensable step towards its effective protection and management.

The important efforts carried out by the State Party against the illicit traffic of its cultural heritage are welcomed. It is also recommended that the Committee call upon all Member States of UNESCO to support these efforts by providing funds and specialized assistance to continue urgent conservation activities, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking and the protection of Libyan cultural heritage.

On the occasion of the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the State Party indicated its willingness to start the elaboration of the Management Plan for all five of its World Heritage properties, and will seek international support to achieve this objective. It also reported an increasing awareness by civil society, local and national authorities, and high-level decision-makers about the necessity to protect cultural heritage in Libya, including the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The organization of workshops and symposiums on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties has emphasized the importance of their protection and conservation, linking national identity with cultural heritage.

It is therefore further recommended that the State Party's important efforts to conserve this property are oriented in line with the Action Plan that was developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage, held in Tunis in May 2016 (report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>), and building on the short- and medium-term measures identified during that meeting.

The recent escalation of violence raises much concern about the sustainability of the efforts made by the State Party in the conservation of the property, as it prevents the State Party from undertaking the necessary actions to ensure its protection and conservation. The joint mission invited by the State Party and requested by the Committee at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions should be sent to the property as soon as the security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party pursue its efforts to keep the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, updated on the situation on the ground, as well as on the further implementation of the measures it has launched, while addressing, to the extent possible, the comments and requests made by the Committee.

Considering the above-mentioned information, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.27**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the important efforts made for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in close coordination with local communities and civil society, despite the prevailing unstable situation and difficult working conditions on the ground, and urges it to continue its efforts in this regard, if possible;*
4. *Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat as a cultural and visitor centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*

5. Acknowledges the invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and encourages it to take place as soon as the security conditions permit;
6. Calls for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
7. Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Libya and engaging in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict, as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and also encourages the State Party to ratify the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
9. **Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 29. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) (C 1565)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

## 30. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

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

- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations

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

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6989>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2016-2016)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- New constructions within the property's boundaries

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues previously addressed by the Committee is presented, as follows:

- A draft Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2018 and reviewed by ICOMOS. Response to the technical review was submitted for further review in December 2018. The MCP will be endorsed and implemented by the State Party once final feedback is received;
- The new Decree Law on Tangible Cultural Heritage no. 11/2018 requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be conducted prior to any significant intervention or proposed development within the property;
- Progress is made towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and in implementing corrective measures:
  - *Dismissal of plans to build a "Wall" along the property, or within its surroundings.* No progress has been made, since this is dependent on actions and decisions that are beyond the control of the State Party,
  - *Adequate conservation of the agricultural terraces and their associated components.* Key stakeholders have implemented projects toward achieving this objective, which are anticipated to be completed by 2024,
  - *Adequate restoration of the irrigation system and the development of a sufficient sewage system.* A Water and Sewage Unit has been established for managing sewage water within the property and for seeking funds to develop an adequate sewage system,
  - *Protection methods are in place for the property and its buffer zone.* The MCP will provide strong guidance for several management issues and activities within the property. This desired state of conservation and its related corrective measures are planned to be completed by 2021,
  - *Adoption of a management plan and monitoring system, and a sustainable management structure.* Once the MCP is adopted and the management system is operational, a monitoring system will be established for the property and its buffer zone. A specialized "General Directorate of the World Heritage Sites in Palestine" will be established within the

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), with the primary responsibility of conserving the State Party's properties on the World Heritage List and Tentative List;

- The State Party draws attention to the negative impacts of several constructions undertaken in and near the property during 2018.

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

After taking into account the April 2018 ICOMOS technical review, the State Party has improved the draft Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), on which the Advisory Body may provide additional comments as necessary. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee congratulate the State Party on this achievement, and encourage it to take a participatory approach to the MCP's implementation, whereby the municipality, local inhabitants, and stakeholders are fully involved and committed (e.g. by means of a signed declaration or inter-institutional agreement).

It is also recommended that the Committee express satisfaction with the new Decree Law on Tangible Cultural Heritage's requirement that HIAs and/or EIAs be prepared for all potential developments within the State Party's World Heritage properties in order to evaluate effectively the potential impacts on their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The State Party continues to work on the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in 2015 to achieve the DSOCR, among them the finalization of the MCP and rehabilitation of the agricultural terraces and dry-stone walls.

It is reported that little progress has been made on the development of a sufficient sewage system, though a Water and Sewage Unit has been established to manage sewage water within the property and to seek funds to develop an adequate system. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to continue seeking, on a priority basis, the required funds for this corrective measure. It is also noted that the dismissal of plans to build a "Wall" along the property, or within its surroundings, is essentially beyond the State Party's control.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

Considering the above-mentioned information, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.30**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.29** adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property;
4. Congratulates the State Party for its progress towards finalizing the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), and encourages the State Party to take a participatory approach to its implementation, whereby the municipality, local inhabitants, and stakeholders are fully involved and committed;
5. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party's new Decree Law on Tangible Cultural Heritage includes a requirement for the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and/or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to evaluate effectively the impact of potential developments on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of its World Heritage properties;

6. *Welcomes the efforts being made by the State Party to implement the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and urges the State Party to continue seeking, on a priority basis, the required funds to undertake the development of a sufficient sewage system and the adequate restoration of the irrigation system;*
7. *Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*
9. ***Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

**Note :** the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 37 below.

### **31. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 21)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 5,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 95,255 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund

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

#### Previous monitoring missions

January 2017: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

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

Since 2013:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

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

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>, and includes updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The recovery process started at a slow pace, mainly due to the high level of destruction, the large amount of debris and the high cost of rehabilitation works, requiring traditional materials that are scarce on the market. The absence of a comprehensive Integrated Management Plan has led to conflicting priorities among stakeholders, despite regular coordination meetings and communication. The lack of awareness by local communities, and inadequate laws and procedures represent additional challenges;
- Several buildings collapsed during the winter, due to harsh weather conditions and lack of funding for emergency works;
- Despite the extremely difficult situation, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) is actively implementing an Emergency Plan, based on the recommendations of the UNESCO rapid assessment mission (January 2017) and Technical Coordination Meeting (March 2017). Committees and teams have been created and meet weekly to determine risks, to document buildings, to raise awareness among local communities and follow-up on the implementation of recovery activities, including:
  - Management of debris, which is carried out in order to open roads and save historical remains. 70% of the main streets in the old city have reopened,
  - Preparation of rehabilitation studies, including for the National Museum,
  - Rehabilitation works at the Great Umayyad Mosque, funded by the Republic of Chechnya (USD 1.4 million), in collaboration with the University of Aleppo: Works at Suq al-Saqatiyya are being carried out, in collaboration with the Aleppo Governorate, the Aga Khan Cultural Service in Syria and the Syrian Trust for Development. Rehabilitation works in several religious buildings and at the citadel have also been implemented,
  - Delivery of 335 permits for simple rehabilitation works on residential and commercial buildings;
- During an international meeting in Aleppo (January 2019), the “Vision and Planning Framework” for the reconstruction and recovery of the property was presented;
- In August 2018, the DGAM submitted a request for funds to the UNESCO Office in Beirut to support implementation of the Recovery Plan 2018-2020 (USD 385,620);
- A Minor Boundary Modification proposal is being prepared.



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

See General Decision **43 COM 37** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The UNESCO-UNITAR joint publication “Five years of Conflict: the State of Cultural Heritage in the Ancient City of Aleppo” was launched in November 2018 and is available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000265826?locale=fr>. It is being translated into Arabic and French.

The strategic document entitled “Vision and Planning Framework” transmitted to UNESCO following the January 2019 international meeting is a comprehensive document that clarifies the way forward for the property, while providing a good understanding of the situation regarding rehabilitation interventions conducted between 1990 and 2018. It sets key objectives for several action areas, include the development of a reconstruction and recovery plan, the establishment of a new governance and planning framework with special area plans, building operational and financial tools for reconstruction and recovery, and the financing of reconstruction within a specified timeframe. Opportunities in the reconstruction and recovery phase are highlighted, as well as the need to reassess the integrity and authenticity of the overall property in the light of the damage it has sustained.

The elaboration of a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan for the city, and an updated Management Plan for the property are outlined as priorities in the document. Both of these, would facilitate ongoing collaboration at the property, which is challenging given the number of activities that need to be undertaken. It is recommended that these plans should be developed in line with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The DGAM, its partners and the local community need to be commended for the works carried out at the property despite the extremely difficult conditions and encouraged to pursue the activities as outlined in the Emergency Plan, 2018-2020 and the strategic document “Vision and planning framework”. It is to be highlighted that women and youth are actively involved, on a voluntary basis, in clearing rubble and other rehabilitation tasks at major historic monuments. This conveys a strong message about the importance of cultural heritage for Aleppo’s inhabitants and their commitment for its preservation. On the other hand, one of the major challenges is the lack of available funds. This may already have had an impact on the authenticity of the historic fabric since materials that are readily available on the market are being used. In addition, the lack of technical and financial resources has also resulted in further collapse of some historic structures where it has not been possible to implement consolidation work.

Given the immense challenges of reconstruction and recovery in Aleppo, and considering that it is critical to intervene swiftly during the early stages to avoid further irreversible loss, it is recommended that the international community should be encouraged to support the implementation of activities outlined in the “Vision and Planning Framework” document within the framework of the Emergency Plan and the DGAM Recovery Plan 2018-2020 for the property.

Given the instability of buildings within the property, it is recommended that the State Party undertake a detailed risk assessment for those most in need, and develop emergency measures to enhance the safety of inhabitants.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to finalize and submit to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies the Minor Boundary Modification proposal that is being prepared to enhance the protection of the property and preserve it from extensive developments in its setting.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.31**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 42 COM 7A.30 and 42 COM 7A.36, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*

3. Taking into account Decision **43 COM 7A.37**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its great concern at the impact of the armed conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis and irreversible destruction within the property, including of entire neighborhoods;
5. Reiterates its deep concern about the instability of buildings within the property and urges the State Party to undertake a detailed risk assessment for structures most at risk, and undertake necessary emergency measures in order to enhance the safety of inhabitants;
6. Notes the efforts mobilized by the State Party for the recovery of Aleppo since December 2016, encourages it to continue its efforts in documenting and assessing damages and carrying out emergency interventions defined in the Emergency Plan, despite the extremely difficult situation and commends the commitment of the local community who volunteer for the rehabilitation of historical buildings;
7. Welcomes the Strategic document entitled “Vision and Planning Framework” and also encourages the State Party to implement its priority actions “in particular the development of a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan and an updated Management Plan for the property, and recommends that these should be developed in line with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and be carried out in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures outlined in the Strategic document entitled “Vision and Planning Framework”, within the framework the Emergency Plan and the Recovery Plan 2018-2020 elaborated by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM), and also activities carried out through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Reiterates its request that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission should take place as soon as the situation allows, in order to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation and protection of the property even as rehabilitation and infrastructure development works are carried out in other parts of the city;
10. Further encourages the State Party to finalize the Minor Boundary Modification proposal for the property, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2020**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
12. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 32. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1995-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 81,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Since March 2011:

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 8 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>, and includes updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The State Party regained control of the property in June 2018. The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM) was able to carry out a rapid assessment on 27 July 2018. Two categories of damages have been inflicted: minor damages due to the impact of shrapnel, and, major damages such as the collapse of most of the architectural elements in the Kalybe of the 'Cradle of the King's Daughter', confirming the reports of 2015. The Traditional Folk Museum and Site Museum was looted, and an inventory of the collections is being made to evaluate the extent of the loss;

- On 29 August 2018, the DGAM submitted a request for funds to the UNESCO Office in Beirut to support the implementation of the Recovery Plan 2018-2019 for the property (USD 305,000);
- On 5 September 2018, an Emergency International Assistance request was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in order to carry out a detailed damage assessment, evaluate the adequacy of the site boundaries and initiate the preparatory works for the recovery of the property.

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

See General decision **43 COM 37** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the works that are being carried out in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request approved on 21 December 2018 for initiating the preparatory works for the recovery of the property, including carrying out an extensive damage assessment, conservation setting a methodology for conservation interventions and verifying, and eventually revising, the boundaries of the property and its legal protection.

Apart from capacity building, it is recommended that restoration works are limited to first aid interventions, until detailed studies are carried out and optimal approaches are defined. It is also recalled that any restoration project planned at the property should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

On 19 May 2019, the State Party endorsed the Italian Funds-in-Trust (FIT) project entitled “Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Protection in Syria”, with particular focus on the Ancient City of Bosra. This initiative is in line with the previous decisions of the Committee that calls upon the international community to further support the recovery of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the international community to support the implementation of the DGAM Recovery Plan 2018-2019, which includes carrying out the necessary studies to enable restoration interventions.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.32**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.31** and **42 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Taking into account Decision **43 COM 7A.37**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Welcomes the works planned in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request approved in December 2018, and requests the State Party to limit restoration works to first aid interventions until the detailed studies and discussions on defining optimal restoration approaches are carried out;
5. Calls on all UNESCO States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures and the implementation of the Recovery Plan 2018-2019 elaborated by the DGAM, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
6. Also reiterates its request that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission should take place as soon as the situation allows, in order to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation and protection of the property;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;
8. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **33. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

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

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1981-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 156,050

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 Euros by the Italian

Government for movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union,

USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 Euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000

by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional

Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain

Previous monitoring missions

March and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the King Faisal Street project; April

2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. April 2016: World Heritage

Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

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

Since March 2011:

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

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

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>, and includes updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The property is indirectly impacted by the conflict situation. Due to the scarcity and higher costs of traditional materials, the inhabitants are undertaking inadequate restoration works on their houses and in the suq area. The absence of a Master Plan is still one of the major constraints to the adequate preservation of the property;
- The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) started the elaboration of a management plan in 2010, but works were halted by the conflict situation and the priority was given to the documentation of damages and risk management, particularly concerning fires. Nevertheless, the DGAM resumed works and has initiated several activities, including the creation of a databank of existing documentation (works include digital archiving, gathering scientific documents, 3d documentation, etc.), the preparation of communication and awareness raising material, fostering exchanges between stakeholders, and training a specialized team. Given the lack of funds, the implementation rate is slow;
- In addition, the DGAM is cooperating with the Directorates of Endowments (Aqwaf) and Education to document and preserve several historic buildings owned by the two Directorates. The DGAM is also resolving property issues, setting regulations for licensing of traditional craft centres, and is establishing a centre for the traditional production of building material, in cooperation with Damascus Governorate. It is also engaged in reinforcing academic studies in the field of restoration and management;
- The report highlights the lack of financial and technical resources needed to implement a digital tour guide designed to benefit of local communities and a 'digital footprint' project for understanding the state of conservation of the historic buildings before damage;
- Regarding the restoration of the "Ottoman Bank", structural works were initiated according to the recommendations of the UNESCO experts, following the workshop that took place in 2016. However, the DGAM has highlighted difficulties in controlling the works, due to the lack of funds and conflicting interests among stakeholders;
- In 2019, focus was given to monitoring Al-Azem Palace where cracks have been observed, though the causes remain yet to be identified.

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

See General Decision **43 COM 37** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

No information has been provided in response to the requests by the Committee (Decision **42 COM 7A.32**) to analyze the reasons behind fires previously reported within the property, and to implement necessary risk-prevention and mitigation measures outlined in the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013.

On the other hand, despite the difficult financial situation, some of the issues that were raised in former Committee decisions are being addressed. The establishment of a center for the traditional production of building materials, and the setting up of licensing regulations, are both to be welcomed as ways of addressing the use of non-traditional construction techniques and materials for restoration works, which were resulting in the gradual diminution of the authenticity of the property.

The DGAM has also initiated several activities for the elaboration of an Integrated Management Plan, including a database of documentation and archives. These activities remain crucial to inform restoration decisions, reduce conflicting interests and ensure coordination among stakeholders. The proposed

digital tour guide for local communities and the 'digital footprint' project will also both greatly support efforts to raise awareness, if the necessary technical and financial resources can be found.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the international community to support the implementation of these activities, and encourage the State Party to consider requesting International Assistance for the development of the Management Plan for the property.

Regarding the rehabilitation works at the "Ottoman Bank", it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide the revised detailed designs for the proposed project, and details of work already undertaken and to encourage it to continue implementing all the recommendations of the 2016 UNESCO Technical Assistance Workshop.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.33**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.32** and **42 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Taking into account Decision **43 COM 7A.37**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,*
4. *Welcomes the establishment of a center for the traditional production of building materials and the setting up of licensing regulations as ways to encourage the use of traditional construction techniques and materials for restoration works and address cumulative threats to authenticity of the property; and also welcomes the proposed development of a digital tour guide for local communities and a 'digital footprint' project to raise awareness to the history of the property, if the necessary technical and financial resources can be found;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in implementing the Committee's decisions, despite a difficult technical and financial situation, particularly in addressing the need to gather historical archives and documentation, and in the efforts to use traditional materials and techniques in restoration works;*
6. *Also encourages the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2016 UNESCO First Aid Support Meeting and the 2016 UNESCO Technical Assistance Workshop, to pursue its efforts towards the development of a Management Plan for the property and consider applying for an International Assistance request to this end;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party:*
  - a) *To analyze the reasons behind the previously reported fires, to continue implementing all necessary risk-prevention and mitigation actions outlined in the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013, and to report back to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made thereon,*
  - b) *To submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, information on any proposed reconstruction and restoration projects within the property, and on of all damaged structures, including the revised detailed designs and work so far undertaken for the restoration of the "Ottoman Bank";*
8. *Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*

9. Also reiterates its request that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out as soon as the security situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay, ensuring the conservation and protection of the property;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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 44th session in 2020;
11. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **34. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2007-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes
- Lack of human and financial resources



- Development or infrastructure projects that may affect the integrity of the property
- Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan

Since March 2011:

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

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

*Current conservation issues*

On 8 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>.

The State Party reports that the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) is still unable to access the site due to the conflict, and highlights the previously reported damages of 21 March 2018 at the Monumental Tomb and adjacent buildings at the archaeological site of Brad, as confirmed by satellite images provided by UNITAR-UNOSAT in 2018.

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

See General Decision **43 COM 37** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The current lack of access to the serial property remains of great concern and precludes a better understanding of the damages and any first aid measures.

In view of the ongoing conflict in the area, it is recommended that the Committee express its deep concern about the situation at the property, and call on all concerned parties to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the property, including its use for military purposes.

It is necessary to initiate a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation and protection of the property.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.34**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined* Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. *Recalling* Decisions **42 COM 7A.33** and **42 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. *Taking into account* Decision **43 COM 7A.37**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. *Expresses its concern* about the situation at the property, in particular of the potential escalation of the conflict in and around the property, and the lack of detailed information on damages;
5. *Calls on* all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the property, including from its use for military purposes;
6. *Also calls on* all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

7. *Reiterates its request that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission should take place as soon as the situation allows, in order to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation and protection of the property;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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 44th session in 2020;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

### **35. Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1229)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 65,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the limits of the properties and of their buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works

- Urban encroachment
- Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties

Since 2011:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict
- Tourism development project

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

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>, and includes updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The joint Syrian-Hungarian mission continued its archaeological investigation and documentation work at the Crac des Chevaliers, filling gaps in the general knowledge of the site. The excavation started in 2017 at the southern side of the esplanade, at the inner western wall, and at the south-eastern part of the hall of the Knights, providing insight into the water drainage system that was used. The remains of pottery and human bones found during excavations have been cleaned and documented;
- On 23 November 2018, the State Party submitted an International Assistance request in response to the recommendations of the UNESCO Technical Assistance Workshop organized in Beirut (December 2016) and to Decision **41 COM 7A.48**, with the aim of developing a Master Plan for the site of the Crac des Chevaliers and its surroundings;
- Preventive conservation works were carried out at Qal'at Salah El-Din. No decision has been taken yet by the Syrian authorities concerning the potential cable car project at the site, while an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been requested by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM) to the project developers. The State Party has renewed the invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, particularly for assessing the potential impact of the cable car project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

On 16 April 2019, the State Party sent an invitation to request further technical support on the ground at the site of Qal'at Salah El-Din in regards to the cable car project.

On 17 May 2019, the State Party submitted an additional report on structures that collapsed at the site of Qal'at Salah El-Din, at the Crusaders' Tower and the South East Crusader Wall, due to weathering during the last winter and lack of proper restoration during the years of conflict. Cracks appear on some wall, which raises concerns on further potential damages at the site. The report highlights the lack of funds to implement emergency measures and consolidation works at the site.

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

See General Decision **43 COM 37** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It recommended that the Committee welcome the archaeological investigation and documentation work that are being carried out at Crac des Chevaliers and those planned in the framework of the International Assistance request that was approved in January 2019. These include undertaking extensive documentation of the site of the Crac des Chevaliers and conducting studies for the restoration of damaged structures, as recommended by Decision **41 COM 7A.48**, in addition to elaborating a Master Plan for the site and its surroundings, with the support of Hungarian experts.

According to the proposal that was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, the cable car project at Qal'at Salah El-Din is a part of a major project that also includes tourism facilities, such as a hotel, cafeterias, shops, and observatories. The project would be based on the construction of four stations, with cabin height ranging from 15 to 130 meters above ground. Three out of the four stations would be located in the buffer zone of the property.

Proposed cable car projects were already an issue for both sites at the time of inscription of the property. ICOMOS voiced its concerns about the potential impact of such projects, considering that they are not

compatible with the character of the sites, and should not be developed anywhere in the surroundings. An ICOMOS assessment of the currently proposed Qal'at Salah El-Din project concludes that the project "would be a disproportionate intrusion into the scale of the surrounding landscape and would appear to have the potential for a high adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property".

Besides the negative recommendation of the ICOMOS evaluation of the project, notes that the State Party has also requested further technical support in regards to the project.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to urgently abandon the cable car project. Interventions at the site should be limited to emergency measures, consolidation and conservation activities which should be urgently implemented considering recent development at the site.

Furthermore, it is recommended that a Master Plan should be developed for the site and its setting which includes policies to foster sustainable tourism development that respect the OUV of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.35**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.34** and **42 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Taking into account Decision **43 COM 7A.37** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Notes with concerns recent damages at the site of Qal'at Salah El-Din and urges the State Party to seek for fundings in order to implement emergency safeguarding measures to avoid further collapses;
5. Welcomes the works carried out by the State party through its Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM) and the ones planned in the framework of the International Assistance request approved in January 2019 for the Crac des Chevaliers; Reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently abandon the cable car project and limit activities at Qal'at Salah El-Din to emergency measures and urgent conservation interventions and requests the State Party to consider developing a Master Plan for the site and its setting including policies to foster sustainable tourism development that respects the OUV of the property;
6. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
7. Also reiterates its request that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission should take place as soon as the situation allows, in order to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;

9. **Decides to the retain Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**36. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1989-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 81,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 38 543 by the Flemish Government, 18 560 USD from the UNESCO Emergency Fund

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

Previous monitoring missions

April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

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

Since March 2011:

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

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

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>, and includes updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- As previously reported, several monuments were damaged and destroyed at the property. In particular, the portico of the Temple of Bel and the Triumphal Arch require urgent consolidation works. However, the lack of funding prevents the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM) to proceed with such measures;
- On 29 August 2018, the DGAM submitted a request for funds to UNESCO Office in Beirut to support the implementation of the Recovery Plan 2018-2020 for the property (USD 915,520).

In March 2019, and in the framework of its Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO on the protection and restoration of cultural property in conflict areas, especially in the Middle East, the State Hermitage Museum submitted to the World Heritage Centre a set of three-dimensional models for the Temple of Bel and surveys of the Geographic Information System (GIS) that they conducted at the property and surroundings

The World Heritage Centre has been informed that the University of Lausanne is implementing a documentation project in open access entitled “Collart – Palmyre 2017-2021” and has been invited to participate in an international meeting that will be held on 16-17 December 2019 to foster the exchange of documentation on Palmyra among the international community of researchers.

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

See General Decision **43 COM 37** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is recommended that the Committee express its concern that the portico of the Temple of Bel and the Triumphal Arch are at risk of collapse due to the lack of funding available for emergency consolidation works. No information has been provided on potential rehabilitation projects.

It is recommended that any project planned at the property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencing any works in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The World Heritage Centre is planning to organize an international meeting for the recovery of the property at UNESCO Headquarters in December 2019. The objective of the meeting will be take stock of the situation at the property since its liberation in 2017, and to initiate discussions with the international community of experts on defining optimal approaches for the recovery of the property. Exchanges with the University of Lausanne are being initiated to ensure complementarity of meetings.

#### **Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.36**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.35** and **42 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Taking into account Decision **43 COM 7A.37**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its concern that the portico of the Temple of Bel and the Triumphal Arch are at risk of collapse due to the lack of funding for their emergency consolidation;

5. *Takes note that the World Heritage Centre plans to organize an international meeting before the end of 2019 in order to define optimal approaches for the recovery of the site with the international community of experts;*
6. *Reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the UNESCO technical assistance workshop of 2016, and in particular the emergency consolidation measures, and to seek funding in this regard, and reiterates its request to the State Party to limit restoration works to first aid interventions until detailed studies and extensive field work are conducted to assess the damage, and discussions on defining optimal restoration approaches are held with relevant experts;*
7. *Reminds the State Party about the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, any restoration project planned at the property and before any work is implemented, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures and the implementation of the Recovery Plan 2018-2020 elaborated by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM), including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
9. *Also reiterates its request that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission should take place as soon as the situation allows, in order to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation and protection of the property;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*
11. ***Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

### **37. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

### **38. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

### **39. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

**40. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2



## **ASIA AND PACIFIC**

### **44. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)**

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 45. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2017-present

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

The current planning controls: adopted developments and lack of adequate planning rules

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the “Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn”; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the “Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn” and “Historic Centre of Vienna”; November 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to “Historic Centre of Vienna”; November 2018: joint high-level WHC/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the Historic Centre of Vienna.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing: High-rise construction projects in Central Vienna (proposed Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project)
- Proposed new developments, including the Wien Museum and the Winterthur Building
- Legal framework: Lack of effectiveness of the overall governance of the property
- Legal framework: Lack of appropriateness of planning controls in the ‘High-Rise Concept 2014’ and the ‘Glacis Master Plan’
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Desirability of conservation of historic roof constructions within the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 April 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/documents>, which summarizes the response to Decision **42 COM 7A.5**, as follows:

- An agreed three-stage process has addressed threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Step 1 was an independent expert workshop in March 2018, the results from which are available at: [https://www.kunstkultur.bka.gv.at/prufungen-studien-monitoring-berichte#UNESCO\\_Expert\\_Workshops\\_2018](https://www.kunstkultur.bka.gv.at/prufungen-studien-monitoring-berichte#UNESCO_Expert_Workshops_2018). Step 2 was a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Intercontinental Hotel – Ice Skating Club – Vienna Concert Hall (Heumarkt Neu) project. Step 3 was a high-level Advisory mission in November 2018. The HIA and the mission report are available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/documents/>;
- The State Party has requested a commitment from the City of Vienna that the Heumarkt Neu project not be implemented in its current form and that the Mission recommendations should be implemented. The Austrian Federal Administrative Court found in April 2019 that the Heumarkt Neu project poses a major threat to the historic skyline that is essential to the OUV of the property, noting the potential major disturbance to its authenticity and integrity. It also found that existing Austrian EIA legislation does not sufficiently guard against negative impacts on the OUV in urban World Heritage properties in Austria. However, the Court's finding is subject to legal appeal. A two year moratorium is proposed for all planning measures jeopardizing the OUV of the property, including the Heumarkt Neu project, to allow possible alternatives to be explored. The State Party has expressed commitment to pursuing further steps towards developing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSCOR) and the City of Vienna has indicated that the moratorium will be observed and that it will help to find a solution for the Heumarkt Neu project;
- The 2018 Advisory mission was briefed on the study on historic roof constructions of the property, which presents a detailed picture of the status of roof structures. Consideration is being given to extending the roof cadastre to allow for steel and composite roof constructions. Reports on the proposed development of Wien Museum / Winterthur Building, have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Mission found that the design has developed in a positive direction, although the final design for the entrance and the material of the vertical extension require further review;
- Information about a development project in the "Belvedere Stöckl" area of the Schwarzenberg Gardens has been submitted in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and the project has been subject to a technical review by ICOMOS. The Advisory mission noted the "degraded character" of the gardens and recommended that an integrated conservation plan be placed at the core of a long-term upgrading vision. The State Party advises that such a plan is in place and that assessment of the impact of the current projects on the OUV of the property will occur in cooperation with the Federal Monuments Authority.

The State Party acknowledges that the property should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger, noting that the Advisory mission recommendations and findings of the HIA, provide a basis for the required DSCOR. An updated road map outlining issues and action points was submitted with the State Party report.

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

The three-stage process undertaken by the State Party, in collaboration with the City of Vienna and other stakeholders, has resulted in a consistent set of conclusions regarding the threats posed to the OUV of the property by the current planning and development controls and development projects, including the Heumarkt Neu project. While the updated road map is welcome, it is vital that the outcomes from the three-stage process, particularly the findings and recommendations of the HIA for the Heumarkt Neu project, and the recommendations of the 2018 high-level Advisory mission now be carried through to an agreed DSCOR and a related set of corrective measures, which can be adopted by the Committee.

It remains a matter of grave concern that legal approval has been given for the Heumarkt Neu project, which the Committee has consistently advised would adversely affect the OUV of the property, if implemented in its current form. The commitments from the State Party, the recent findings of the Federal Administrative Court and the proposed two-year moratorium are all welcome. The HIA for the Heumarkt Neu project is of a high standard and its findings and recommendations are cogent, values-based, and warrant strong support and decisive implementation. It is highly desirable that negotiations occur with the developer to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures.

The OUV of the property remains in danger from existing planning controls, such as the 'High-Rise Concept' and 'Glacis Masterplan' as well as the critical level of urban development reached since inscription, with resulting cumulative impacts. New tools are required to guide the development process

towards sustainable development that protects the attributes, which contribute to the OUV of the property. To that end, the Committee should urge the State Party to implement fully the recommendations to the 2018 Advisory mission, including revising the management structure of the property, comprehensive review of its current state of conservation, preparation of a new management plan, and instigation of a comprehensive process for continued monitoring and evaluation.

The Committee should encourage the State Party to pursue legislative protection for the Schwarzenberg Gardens and to continue to submit detailed plans and supporting documentation for the Belvedere Stöckl redevelopment project and other current and proposed projects within the Gardens, as well as elsewhere in the property and its buffer zone, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to implementation, or the making of any irreversible decisions, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. There has been welcome progress with measures to manage and conserve the important historic roof constructions in the Historic Centre of Vienna, and the Committee should further encourage appropriate extensions to the roof cadastre, and reiterate its 2017 request for a moratorium on rooftop conversions until appropriate tools and approvals processes are in place.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.45**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018);*
3. *Welcomes the three-stage process implemented by the State Party with the City of Vienna and notes the commitment of the State Party and of the city of Vienna to ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and consequently urges all parties to support and pursue:*
  - a) *The proposed two year moratorium on all planning measures which may jeopardize the OUV of the property, especially the Heumarkt Neu project,*
  - b) *Actions to address the findings and recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Heumarkt Neu project, including negotiations with the developer to identify and implement mitigation measures which avoid adverse heritage impact,*
  - c) *The recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission, including:*
    - (i) *Reviewing and revising the management structure of the property at the city and national level,*
    - (ii) *Undertaking a comprehensive review of the current state of conservation of the property, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and ICCROM) and national and local stakeholders,*
    - (iii) *Preparing a new Management Plan for the property, based on identification, description and mapping of tangible and intangible attributes of the property,*
    - (iv) *Assessing the Belvedere Stöckl redevelopment project and other projects currently being executed or planned through an HIA process before they are approved and/or implemented, and halting works until this occurs,*
    - (v) *Pursuing legislative protection for the Schwarzenberg Gardens,*
    - (vi) *Implementing a comprehensive process for continued monitoring and evaluation that is focused on retention of OUV while sustaining the economic growth of the City of Vienna;*

4. *Reiterates its concern that the current planning controls for the property, and the critical level of urban development reached since inscription with resulting cumulative impacts, require new tools to guide the development process towards sustainable development that protects the attributes which contribute to the OUV of the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party, based on the findings of the HIA for the Heumarkt Neu project and the 2018 Advisory mission recommendations, to facilitate the preparation of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a related set of corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation, addressing Decisions **40 COM 7B.49**, **41 COM 7B.42**, and **42 COM 7A.5**, and the recommendations of the 2012, 2015 and 2018 missions, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for adoption by the Committee;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to support and facilitate appropriate measures to manage and conserve the historic roof constructions in the Historic Centre of Vienna as an important attribute of the property, through appropriate extensions to the roof cadastre, a moratorium on rooftop conversions until appropriate tools and approvals processes are in place, and also requests that any such changes be referred to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to adoption and implementation;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, final plans for the Wien Museum and Winterthur Building, and detailed plans and supporting documentation for the Belvedere Stöckl redevelopment project, and any other proposed developments within the Schwarzenberg Gardens, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to implementation or the making of any irreversible decisions;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, 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 44th session in 2020;*
9. ***Decides to retain Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

#### **46. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004, extension 2006

Criteria (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2006 to present

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

- a) Lack of legal status of the property;
- b) Lack of legislative protection of buffer zones;
- c) Lack of implementation of the Management Plan and of active management;
- d) Difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation (visits under the Kosovo Stabilisation Force / United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (KFOR / UNMIK) escort and lack of guards and security);
- e) Unsatisfactory state of conservation and maintenance of the property.

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

- a) Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;
- b) Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
- c) Implementation of the Management Plan, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljevisa;
- b) Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljevisa, that was partly removed);
- c) Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and with Decisions **28 COM 10B.** and **30 COM 7.2;**

Long-term corrective measures:

- d) Ensure the adequate long-term administrative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- e) Put in place strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
- f) Adequately delineate the boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Pec to include more of its riverside-valley settings);
- g) Prepare detailed state of conservation reports as a basis for adapted monitoring, preventative conservation measures, and specific conservation projects to reverse decline;
- h) Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Management Plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Urgent / short-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo\*;
- b) Regarding the long-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo, no specific timeframe can be given at this stage due to the uncertain political situation.

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount granted: USD 2,798,348 in 2008-2014 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005; USD 693,330 in 2008-2013 by the Italian Government; USD 76,335 in 2008-2013 by the Czech Government; USD 132,833 in 2008-2013 by the Greek Government; USD 2,010,000 in 2011-2014 by the Government of the Russian Federation and USD 45,000 in 2012-2013 by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo; July 2008, January and August 2009, July 2010, July 2012, January and July 2013, January and June 2014, June and October 2015, April 2016, September 2017: missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice.

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

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\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

### Current conservation issues

**Note:** *The Secretariat was informed by UNESCO's Legal Advisor in 2008 that the UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement is achieved.*

At its 42nd session (Manama, 2018), the World Heritage Committee decided to adjourn until its next ordinary session the debate on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **42 COM 7A.6**). The state of conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/3771>.

On 31 January 2019, the Permanent Delegation of Serbia to UNESCO submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/document/172038>. The report provides the following information:

- At the Dečani Monastery, continued monitoring of buildings and wall painting in the main church (including its furniture and movable artistic material kept in the monastery) were performed. The concern about the construction of the main road Dečani-Plav (Montenegro) in the buffer zone was attenuated by the decision to cease the construction that would no longer affect conditions for the transformation of the site. However, the terrain was damaged to some extent and was not restored to its original state.
- At the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, continued monitoring of wall paintings, monastery objects and movable artistic material was performed. Although moisture detected in the roof structure above the Saint Apostles, it was noted that it has not damaged the vault's surfaces of the church. Further intensive measures were conducted for the preparation of upcoming roof replacement.
- At the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša, no conservation and restoration works were carried out in 2018. The consternation about the capillary moisture as well as visible damage of wall painting in the church due to the fire in March 2004 remains unresolved. However, an inventory for documenting the endangered state conditions for the site's structures and art and the necessary conservation interventions have been performed.
- At the Gračanica Monastery, as an extension of conservation works which started in 2015, the altar and six columns in the nave of the temple were restored. Based on the performed physical-chemical research, salt characterization and determination of dark sediments, a methodology of their removal and further conservation of the paintings were determined. The extremely exposed units near observers are now clean, preserved and presented appropriately. The color of the paintings are brighter and the details of the iconographic are more legible, both contributing to the ceremonial appearance of the space and to the dignity of the preserved fresco ensemble.
- The World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and its Antenna Office in Sarajevo continues to closely monitor the situation through regular exchange of information with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).
- Due to the fact that the security situation is unstable and to avoid further endangerment of the sites, the Kosovo Force (KFOR), a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led international peacekeeping force, remains present at the Dečani Monastery to establish a secure environment in the area. The Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša and the Gračanica Monastery are also secured by local police forces on a daily basis.

**Draft Decision: 43 COM 7A.46 \***

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28, 32 COM 7A.27, 33 COM 7A.27, 34 COM 7A.28, 35 COM 7A.31, 36 COM 7A.32, 37 COM 7A.34, 38 COM 7A.18, 39 COM 7A.42, 40 COM 7A.30, 41 COM 7A.21, 42 COM 7A.6 and 42 COM 8C.2**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the information provided in the state of conservation reports of 2009-2019, and the results of the missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice, to the property;
4. Reiterates its request, in cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions in Kosovo to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the monuments and the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the Management Plan;
5. Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation defined for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;
7. Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue applying the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020.

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\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).