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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Extended forty-fourth session

Fuzhou (China / /Online meeting
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Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

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

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports will also be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

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

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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

- Serious deterioration of materials in the historic town and continued decay at the archaeological sites
- Inappropriate interventions
- Erosion of the architectural coherence of the town
- Lack of enforcement and implementation of regulatory and planning tools

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6678>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 115,119

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 110,000 (Italian Funds-in-Trust); USD 23,100 (Croisi Europe); USD 86,900 (European Commission); USD 83,147. (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust); USD 71,090 (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation); 75,000 Euros (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation);

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2005: World Heritage Centre missions; 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; 2014, 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April 2017: UNESCO Expert mission to assess the state of conservation of Mali's World Heritage properties

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- No management and conservation plan
- Pressure from urban development
- Deterioration of dwellings
- Waste disposal problems
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Instable security situation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>, followed by additional information on 26 February 2020, providing the following information:

- Awareness-raising of the population continues through radio broadcasts and meetings, clarifying the role of each actor and correcting the false impression that funding for conservation measures rests with UNESCO. This has encouraged an increase of rough-rendering activities of the houses, organized by the owners themselves;
- Following the installation of solar electrification in the Djenné Grand Mosque, financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), a study on collateral effects of the increase in the numbers of worshippers is foreseen. The construction of two new mosques in the new districts of Dontémé and Tolober, will make it possible to accommodate some of the faithful living outside the old fabric of the town;
- A concern is the maintenance of houses in the old urban fabric, some of which are collapsing, suffering in particular from disagreements between heirs and members of the owner families;
- In addition, the use of cement is becoming fashionable to repair cracks or to rough-render the side exposed to rain. An awareness-raising effort was launched on the incoherence between the use of earth and cement;
- The inventory of abandoned and dilapidated houses continues with a district-by-district survey, mobilizing, in particular, the unemployed youth of each district;
- A maintenance manual for houses, aimed at the partners and owners, will be prepared, taking into consideration technical and financial aspects;
- The lack of security continues to encourage illegal excavating and prevents reinforcement of surveillance of the sites. However, the sale of archaeological objects is almost inexistent due to the absence of tourists, discouraging many looters. More legal measures against looting and the installation of fencing preventing access by animals and people, are in preparation;
- Updating of the mapping will shortly be completed;
- Modifications and earthen brick covering of the buildings are on the increase and solid buildings are built over the old fabric. In one case, legal proceedings were instigated against the owners by a bailiff;
- Various problems previously identified, such as lime decorations on houses by young people, publicity on walls, or the presence of sheet or tin sheds remain unresolved. Following consultations with the different actors concerned, solutions are envisaged, such as the creation of kiosks in recyclable material and the manufacture of advertising tarpaulins;
- *Information provided in the state of conservation report on Askia Tomb (Mali):* Steps have been undertaken with the International Blue Shield Committee for the implementation of a National Blue Shield Committee in Mali to strengthen the management capacities of cultural heritage and the protection of all the cultural properties in Mali.

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

The report submitted by the State Party demonstrates the evident strong mobilization of the Cultural Mission to raise local community awareness of conservation and management aspects of the site, notably the role of the different actors, including UNESCO, where misunderstanding caused some negligence in the maintenance of the houses. These efforts, carried out without sufficient financial means and in the context of adversity, causing concern due to continuing insecurity, are commendable.

It is crucial to pursue this awareness-raising work that is proving essential to respond to the current challenges that comprise specific concerns, in particular the maintenance of banco houses by the owner families. In the face of misunderstandings between family members regarding respective responsibilities impeding this maintenance, it is important to encourage the families concerned to find a common ground by making them aware of the significant heritage conservation issues at stake, without interference in private affairs by the Cultural Mission.

Moreover, the use of cement, the modifications and earthen brick coverings or the construction of solid buildings are also noted with concern. The application of heritage standards protecting the integrity and authenticity of the property is therefore urgent, and the State Party should be encouraged to strengthen communication regarding heritage standards to be respected, especially by accelerating the preparation of a maintenance manual for the houses and to submit the draft publication to the World Heritage Centre for revision by the Advisory Bodies. The detailed inventory of the Old Town as a basis for monitoring and identifying urgent actions is indispensable.

The Spanish Agency for Cooperation is to be commended for providing funding enabling the electrification of the Djenné Grand Mosque, and for granting additional funds in 2021 to pursue the inventory work, conservation work on the Grand Mosque and rehabilitation of the Moroccan Palace. Also, it is appropriate to commend a new contribution from the European Union for the “Safeguarding Project for the Enhancement of Cultural Heritage of Mali 2019-2020”, with the objective of rehabilitating several monumental houses.

Furthermore, in this respect, the World Heritage Centre has developed, and committed funding, to a remote support programme for the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The programme is foreseen to begin during 2020 with the aim of submitting the DSO CR for approval by the Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

Special recognition goes to the emphasis on the mobilisation of the unemployed youth for the inventory work and for the awareness-raising efforts to halt the lime decorations on the banco houses.

Unfortunately, there remains concern linked to illegal excavations, although often superficial, at the four archaeological sites at Djenné, this, also due to the fact that the surveillance has insufficient means available. Although it is reassuring that the absence of tourists discourages illegal excavations, thus reducing the traffic of illegal objects, additional and strengthened measures must be taken for long-lasting security of the sites.

Taking into consideration the continued lack of security, despite progress achieved, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.53, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Expresses its satisfaction with regard to the important measures undertaken by the State Party to raise awareness in the local community, and more particularly the owners of the houses, on the conservation and management aspects of the site, notably the role of the different actors, including UNESCO, and requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Pursue this awareness-raising work, notably to strengthen and promote maintenance of the banco houses by the owner families,*
 - b) *Accelerate the preparation of a maintenance manual for the houses and to submit the draft publication to the World Heritage Centre for revision by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - c) *Provide all assistance to the finalisation of the detailed inventory of the old town as a basis for the monitoring and identification of the urgent actions;*
4. *Congratulates the State Party, more especially the Cultural Mission, for the mobilisation of the unemployed youth by associating them with the activities of the built heritage inventory and awareness-raising;*

5. Notes with appreciation the financial contributions from the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and the European Union to pursue the conservation actions for the Djenné Grand Mosque and the inventory, and to carry out rehabilitation work at the Moroccan Palace and monumental houses;
6. Expresses its concern regarding the maintenance practices of the banco houses using cement, modifications and coverings in earthen brick, as well as the construction of solid buildings likely to negatively impact the integrity and authenticity of the property, and also encourages the State Party to strengthen the enforcement of the heritage standards through communication channels, and accelerate the preparation of a maintenance manual for the houses and to submit the draft publication to the World Heritage Centre for revision by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Expresses its concern with regard to the illegal excavations at the four archaeological sites, in part due to the insufficient means of surveillance and continuing insecurity, and also requests that additional and strengthened measures be taken for the long-term security of the site;
8. Notes with appreciation the initiation of a remote support programme for the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
10. **Decides to retain Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1990-2005, 2012-present

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

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Absence of management
- Destruction of 14 mausoleums and degradation of the three mosques in the serial 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, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6622>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1981-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 189,352

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 55,000 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund; USD 2,100,000 from the Action Plan Fund for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali; 2013: USD 37,516 from The Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; approx. USD 313,000 granted in 2020 from the European Union (out of a total contribution of USD 556,036 for activities in Mali).

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009 and 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO emergency missions to Mali; June 2013: UNESCO assessment mission to Timbuktu; April 2017: UNESCO Expert mission to assess the state of conservation of Mali's World Heritage properties

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Lack of management structure at the site (problem resolved in 2019)
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>), providing the following information in response to Decision **43 COM 7A.55** of the Committee:

- The different municipal and regional authorities are increasingly mobilized in the conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures;
- The Management Committees for the Djingareyber and Sidi Yahia mosques have been renewed and the traditional corporation of masons has designated a new chief. They have committed to removing the containers and small tin houses from the medina, and wish to have a legal regulatory intervention framework to better prevent inadequate architectural interventions;
- Torrential rains in 2019 have caused the partial collapse of the roof of the Sidi Yahia mosque. Repair work was carried out by the corporation of masons. Rain also damaged the small minaret of the Djingareyber mosque. Despite repair work, the entire façade needs to be rehabilitated;
- An architect expert mandated by UNESCO to examine the damage noted a lack of vigilance in the monitoring of the Sidi Yahia mosque;
- The Djingareyber mosque Committee wished to construct a building in the courtyard to welcome the worshippers, with support from Barkhane Forces, but without consulting the Cultural Mission. It was finally accepted to halt and demolish the work already undertaken;
- The increasingly hard winters and the more violent and frequent sandstorms have perturbed the annual recurrence of rough rendering of the mosques, exposing them to risks of erosion and collapse. Henceforth, rough rendering shall be better planned;
- The maintenance of the mausoleums is neglected since the implementation of the rehabilitation programme. A request was addressed to the families responsible for the mausoleums to organize an association to coordinate maintenance;
- The cemeteries housing the mausoleums are surrounded by rubbish and degraded due to the absence of guardians and maintenance. The fencing of the two cemeteries have been repaired, whilst those of the mausoleums of Sidi Mahmoud and Cheikh Sidi Elmoctar have collapsed due to silting;
- The Cultural Mission continues to lack financial, human and logistical means and only has obsolete and old equipment;

- The problem of vibrations caused by heavy vehicles in the vicinity of the mosques remains current;
- The different stakeholders are not familiar with the texts relating to the 1972 *Convention*, and the illiteracy of the workers render the Maintenance Guide for the Mausoleums useless;
- New funding from the European Union began in March 2020.

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

The State Party's commitment to the conservation of the property is noted and appreciated, in particular the mobilization of the municipal and regional authorities and through the renewal of the Management Committees for the mosques. Increased mobilization of the Management Committees in the maintenance activities of the mosques and their surroundings is required to prolong the actions carried out over past years. The desire expressed by these Committees to dispose of a legal and regulatory intervention framework as well as their need to strengthen their capacities, illustrates this renewed commitment.

However, the insufficient monitoring of possible inadequate interventions on the urban fabric of the medina is demonstrated by the construction of a building in the courtyard of the Djingareyber mosque with massive masonry pillars, without involving the Cultural Mission or the designated mason for the mosque. On 18 February 2020, the World Heritage Centre addressed a letter to the State Party concerning this issue and requesting the suspension of this construction, in non-conformity with the architecture of the mosque. This letter also indicated that on-going construction of new buildings within the medina out of line with its architecture was likely to affect the visual integrity of the property and possibly impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

On 16 April 2020, the State Party informed the Secretariat of the demolition of the constructions within the mosque and that solutions have been found to make the new constructions conform with the traditional architecture of the medina. However, a mission led by the Head of the UNESCO Office in Bamako in November 2020 again noted the anarchic construction of a hangar in the courtyard of the mosque, the lack of leveling of the roof of the mosque which could cause infiltration of rainwater, concrete block constructions around the mosque, and the lack of maintenance of the rehabilitated mausoleums. On 30 December 2020, the State Party informed the UNESCO Office in Bamako of the Management Committee's decision to demolish the constructions in the main courtyard of the mosque, to level the roof of the mosque, to completely cover the walls of the houses around the mosque with alhore stone, and to replace the tin doors and windows with local wood joinery.

This demonstrates the importance of implementing the Management and Conservation Plan to further raise awareness of the local population and private owners of the heritage prerogatives of the property, and to ensure that the local authorities apply and, when necessary, strengthen the enforcement of urban regulations. It should also be recalled that the State Party should inform the World Heritage Centre before launching any major construction project, in compliance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The partial collapse of the Sidi Yahia mosque roof following torrential rains in August 2019 and the deterioration of the state of conservation of the Djingareyber mosque is a cause for concern at several levels, as confirmed by the architect expert after examination of the damage. In the case of Sidi Yahia, damage is mostly due to lack of monitoring, while the Djingareyber mosque, that has not been rough-plastered since 2017, suffers from a weakening in traditional conservation mechanisms.

As indicated by the State Party, it would appear that the substantial financial support granted over several years, despite its evident beneficial impact, has installed an expectancy with regard to UNESCO and other partners, by which the maintenance of the heritage would now depend upon their continued financial support, and this at the cost of the intrinsic traditional conservation practices and mechanisms that have preserved the heritage value of the property over centuries. Therefore, it is necessary to revitalize this central aspect of the heritage, especially through awareness raising actions and mobilization of all the stakeholders at the local community level by ensuring an appropriate communication in this respect.

Nevertheless, in addition to the continuing unstable security situation, the impact of climate change has become a cause of major concern, generating hard winters and increasingly frequent and violent sandstorms. A dialogue with the local actors would appear to be necessary to study the measures and needs to be undertaken in the future to respond to this phenomenon and its impacts.

Finally, it should be noted that in application of the conviction by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of Admad Al Faqi Al Mahdi for his responsibility in the destruction of several cultural properties in Timbuktu, in particular several mausoleums as well as the sacred door of the Sidi Yahia mosque, a ceremony to award a symbolic euro to the Government of Mali and to UNESCO for the damage suffered by the Malian people and the community of Timbuktu took place on 30 March 2021. On 27 September 2016, Mr. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi was found guilty and sentenced to nine years in prison and the payment of 2.7 million euros in reparation to victims, following which individual and collective reparation began in January 2021. While appreciating the outcome of this procedure, it will be important to ensure that the potential impacts of these repairs and the actions to be carried out within the framework of collective reparations, representing a total amount of 428,000 euros, be taken into account in future reports on the state of conservation of the property.

In the light of all these issues, and taking account of the sanitary conditions, it is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.54**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku,2019),*
3. *Expresses its appreciation for the efforts deployed in the conservation of the property, notably by reinforcing the mobilisation of the municipal and regional authorities, and the local community through the Management Committees of the mosques and the masons' corporation;*
4. *Thanks the State Party for its intervention through the Management Committee for the Djingareyber mosque to halt the construction work for a building in the courtyard of the mosque, as well as the Management Committee of the mosque for having accepted the demolition of the work already undertaken in non-conformity with the mosque architecture, and reminds the State Party of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre prior to the start of a major construction project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction the cessation of new on-going constructions in the medina for the necessary corrections to be made in conformity with its traditional architecture, and also reminds the State Party of the need to implement the 2018-2022 Management and Conservation Plan, in particular as regards the urban framework, in order to revitalize awareness, interaction and coordination of the stakeholders at all institutional levels, and to ensure the enforcement of urban regulations;*
6. *Requests the State Party to further raise awareness of the local population and with the private owners of the heritage prerogatives of the property and to strengthen the enforcement of urban regulations;*
7. *Expresses its concern with regard to the degradation caused by a lack of maintenance and monitoring of the mosques and mausoleums, thus exposing them to risk of collapse, especially during the winter period, and also requests the Management Committees of the mosques and the families responsible for the conservation of the mausoleums to increase maintenance and monitoring;*
8. *Also expresses concern about the diminishing traditional conservation practices and mechanisms, in particular in ensuring the annual rough plastering of the mosques, and*

the possible incomprehension of the local stakeholders of the role and responsibilities of external national and international partners, and further requests the State Party in collaboration with these national and international partners, to ensure that adequate measures, notably revitalization, are taken for the safeguard of the intrinsic traditional conservation practices and mechanisms of the property;

9. *Further expresses concern, in addition to the continuing unstable security situation, about the impact of climate change that has become a major issue generating increasingly hard winters and frequent and violent sandstorms, and encourages the State Party to initiate a dialogue with local stakeholders to study the measures and needs required to respond to this phenomenon and its future impacts;*
10. *Notes with satisfaction that, in application of the conviction by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi for his responsibility in the destruction of several cultural properties in Timbuktu, a ceremony for the presentation of a symbolic euro to the Government of Mali and UNESCO for the harm suffered by the Malian people and the community of Timbuktu took place on 30 March 2021, and that individual and collective reparations began in January 2021, and further requests the State Party as well as the Secretariat to ensure that the potential impacts of these reparations and the actions to be taken in the context of collective reparations are taken into account in future reports on the state of conservation of the property;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
12. **Decides to continue to apply the Reactive Monitoring Mechanism for the property;**
13. **Also decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

3. Tomb of Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

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

- Occupation of Gao city by armed groups
- Inability to ensure daily management in the protection and conservation of the property
- Risk of collapse 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, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6623>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2000-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 79,822

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 40,000; Action Plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali: USD 50,000; USD 500,000 funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for the rehabilitation of the property.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako; February 2014: UNESCO assessment mission to Gao; April 2017: UNESCO Expert mission to assess the state of conservation of Mali's World Heritage properties

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of site management
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>, providing the following information in response to Committee Decision **43 COM 7A.55**:

- The International Assistance granted in 2018 has enabled the execution of restoration work at the property, replacing and abandoning the eucalyptus poles by *hasu* poles on the central tower and around the property, and the repair of the roof of the men's prayer room. Regeneration of *hasu* plants to respond to the lack of poles required for the conservation of the property has been launched;
- The fine layer of sand in the prayer room has enabled the consolidation of the mechanism installed to combat water erosion;
- Awareness has been raised through radio programmes and exchanges at the work site and has contributed towards a better comprehension of the restoration work and mobilized the local communities to safeguard the property;
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for Culture and ALIPH was signed on 19 December 2019 concerning the rehabilitation project of the property, the granting of equipment and strengthening of the property funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH). A grant agreement between ALIPH and the National Directorate for Cultural Heritage (DNPC) was signed on 9 January 2020 and a Pilot Committee for the Project was established in January 2020, following a launch ceremony celebrated on 11 March 2020;
- The Memorandum of Understanding, signed in November 2018 by the State Party with the Italian Organization Archi-Media-Truste-Onlus, enabled the development and submission of three projects to different partners (MINUSMA, African World Heritage Fund, ALIPH). These projects aimed to better manage and conserve the property, to document and rehabilitate some historic graves of the Necropolis, and promote culture for the maintenance of peace;
- The Blue Shield International Committee has been approached regarding the creation of a Blue Shield National Committee in Mali to strengthen the capacities of the cultural heritage managers and the protection of all the cultural properties in Mali;
- A new risk is the possible occupation of the buffer zone by the neighbouring population;
- The development of two parking areas, in front of the main gate of the property and behind the road, is envisaged;

- The major problem remains insecurity.

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

The progress achieved by the State Party for the conservation of the property is commendable, notably thanks to International Assistance, enabling important actions to be implemented for the repair of the roof of the men's prayer room, the reduction of water erosion, and the plantation of *hasu* trees. The immediate reaction of the Cultural Mission of Gao in response to the request of the Committee in 2019 to avoid planting eucalyptus trees within the property, which would have been likely to weaken it, and replacing them with *hasu trees*, should be appreciated, as it demonstrates efficient communication between the different stakeholders.

Support efforts on the part of the State Party, particularly through the Cultural Mission, to establish partnerships such as the one signed with the Italian Archi-Media-Truste-Onlus Organization that mobilizes funds from various donors such as MINUSMA, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), ALIPH, and the Blue Shield International Committee in order to strengthen local capacities for an improved conservation and management of the property, document its components, and thus contribute towards future conservation measures, should also be applauded. The State Party has also submitted a rehabilitation project for the property funded by ALIPH to an amount of 500,000 US dollars. It is noted and appreciated that the project objectives aim to achieve significant progress in accomplishing at least six corrective measures (out of nine) with a considerable positive impact on conservation, management, and the use and knowledge of the property. However, it is recommended that the Committee encourages the State Party to cooperate with the different partners and donors concerning the projects developed for the mobilization of funds to ensure greater coherence between the actions proposed and to establish a consultation between these partners for efficient follow-up.

The details submitted with regard to the ALIPH project in response to the Committee request and the information that work should begin in February-March 2020 has been noted. A meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre with the State Party, the partner CRAterre, ICOMOS, ICCROM, and the Bamako Bureau in order to clarify certain points of concern, notably relating to the projects to lighten the roof of the men's mosque and the creation of a new covering structure. This meeting provided improved understanding of the nature of interventions and agreement on future information sharing, to be facilitated by the UNESCO Bureau in Bamako, which is a member of the Pilot Committee for the project.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed with regard to the development of two parking areas foreseen in front of the main gate of the property and behind the road. This project should be submitted for examination by the Advisory Bodies before the work begins to ensure that these projects do not affect the integrity and authenticity of the property.

In addition, in January 2021, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre of a project to build a water tower near the Tomb of Askia, acknowledging that the place intended for this construction would not be visually harmonious with the architectural environment, would likely alter the authenticity of the property and would be incompatible with the interpretation and the historical, cultural and aesthetic values of the property as well as with national legislation. In response to a letter sent to the State Party on 1st February 2021 requesting to suspend the implementation of this project, the State Party responded by letter dated 1st April 2021 confirming the abandonment of this project, pending the identification of a more suitable alternative location for the water tower, which is noted with satisfaction. A new site for this project will therefore have to be designated outside the property and its buffer zone, and the State Party should be requested to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of this project with details of its new location and possible connection works to the city's drinking water network. This would allow the Advisory Bodies to determine, if applicable, whether the works could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The actions carried out to inform and raise awareness in the local community on current and future activities, through messages broadcasted by radio, further motivate their involvement in the safeguarding and promotion actions and are to be applauded. However, the State Party should be encouraged to strengthen its information campaigns in order to alert the local community of certain risks, such as the possible impacts of illegal occupation of the buffer zone by the population.

Progress on the corrective measures could already contribute towards establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) that still remains to be prepared. In this respect, the World Heritage Centre has committed funds from the World Heritage Fund and has developed a distance support capacity-building programme to develop

the DSOCR for each of the three Malian properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This programme is expected to begin in 2020.

In view of the particularly precarious security situation in Mali, it is recommended that the Committee decide to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.55**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Expresses its satisfaction with the important actions undertaken by the State Party for the repair of the roof of the men's prayer room, the decrease in water erosion, and the plantation of hasu trees, particularly congratulates the Cultural Mission and the local stakeholders concerned for having decided to renounce replacing the hasu plantation with eucalyptus plants following a fruitful communication between the parties;
4. Also congratulates the State Party for supporting efforts to establish partnerships and mobilize funds from the various donors such as MINUSMA, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and the Blue Shield International Committee, and for strengthening local capacities for an improved conservation and management of the property;
5. Further congratulates the State Party for the recent launching of the rehabilitation project for the property with funding from the International Alliance for Heritage Protection in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), for the exchange of information between all the parties clarifying the issues of concern regarding the planned interventions, and requests the State Party to submit detailed documentation at every stage of the project to constitute archives on the work to be accomplished;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, with the detailed plans of the development project for the two parking areas in front of the main gate of the property and behind the road for examination by the Advisory Bodies before work begins, in order to ensure that these projects do not affect the integrity and authenticity of the property;
7. Notes with satisfaction that the project to build a water tower near the property, which could negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, has been abandoned, and requests the State Party to identify an alternative location more appropriate for this water tower outside the property and its buffer zone, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the revised project with details of its new location and possible works to connect to the drinking water network of the city, in order to allow the Advisory Bodies to determine, if necessary, if the works could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Encourages the State Party to share the different projects developed with the diverse partners and donors in order to mobilize funds and ensure greater coherence between the proposed actions and establish a consultation mechanism between these partners for efficient monitoring;

9. *Further requests* the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with plans for the development of two car parks planned in front of the main gate of the site and behind the road for examination by the Advisory Bodies, before the start of works, in order to ensure that these projects do not affect the integrity and authenticity of the property.
10. *Notes with satisfaction* the actions to inform and raise awareness in the local community regarding the activities undertaken and to further motivate it to become more involved in safeguarding and promotional activities, and *also encourages* the State Party to reinforce these information campaigns to alert the local community of certain risks, such as the possible impacts of illegal occupation of the buffer zone by the population;
11. *Also expresses its satisfaction* regarding the establishment of funds for a distance support capacity-building programme to prepare the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
12. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
13. ***Decides to maintain the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;***
14. ***Also decides to retain Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

4. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

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

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Fire that resulted in the destruction of part of the property

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/4351>

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted in 2011 and revised in 2017 - see pages <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351> and <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6977>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 5 (from 1998-2020)
Total amount approved: USD 210,363
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 2011-2012: 68,365 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for an Expert Appraisal Mission; 2013-2016 and 2019-2020: USD 650,000 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the

project: Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger. 2017: USD 4,300 from the World Heritage Fund for ICOMOS advisory consultancy for the finalization of the elaboration of the Master Plan; USD 75,000 from Emergency assistance for installation of fire-fighting equipment, USD 30,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund, USD 100,000 in 2021-2022 through UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation

Previous monitoring missions

April 2010, August 2011, November 2011 and August 2013: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2010: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; since 2014, regular missions by UNESCO Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction by fire of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga
- Ground transport infrastructure: Proposed widening of the Masiro Road
- Management systems/management plan: lack of a Master Plan and a complete Management Plan with detailed disaster risk management plan and a tourism management plan
- Management activities: Management structure (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/> and reports progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Some of the corrective measures towards achieving the adopted Desired state of conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) are reported, as follows:
 - Completion of appropriate reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga: The reconstruction is progressing, with the laying of the final thatch roofing layer ready to commence,
 - Adoption of an overall Master Plan for the property: The draft Master Plan 2018-2028 for the property has been completed and has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - Existence of a disaster risk management strategy, including installation of an effective fire protection system for the whole of the property: This strategy was developed by the State Party in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and reworked after review by the Advisory Bodies. Support from the Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) for the installation of firefighting equipment will allow the infrastructure installation to be completed;
- The State Party (at time of submission) expected to be able to develop an updated timeline for reaching the DSOCR by December 2020. But due to the COVID-19 situation, the timeline was extended to December 2021;
- Development guidelines for the property's buffer zone are being elaborated despite some challenges and through a phased multi-stakeholder process, which includes public consultation. The State Party expected this process to have been completed by October 2020, after which the Kampala Capital City Authority planning instruments would need to be amended to accommodate the guidelines;
- Detailed documentation of the Bujjabukala (gate house) building—including documentation of on-site investigations, as well as detailed architectural drawings for its restoration—was annexed to the State Party's report. The report also includes decision-making protocols for the restoration process. The building has been stabilized and protected against further weather-induced decay.

In addition, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that a fire at the property on 5 June 2020 destroyed the "Enyumba za Balongo", one of the three spiritual houses in the courtyard. On 23 June, the State Party submitted a short report of the incidence to the World Heritage Centre, which informed that a detailed report will be shared after the full investigation by the local authorities.

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

The State Party has actively engaged the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the process of implementing the corrective measures to achieve the DSOCR. These ongoing engagements have been greatly beneficial to the property, as described below.

The reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga is reaching its final stages. The State Party should look towards augmenting the surviving collection of power insignia that were recovered from the building following the fire of 2010.

The Master Plan for the property was developed through repeat meetings and submission and review of material. The Master Plan, which has already been adopted by the Kampala Capital City Authority, should now be implemented.

The detailed documentation submitted by the State Party on the Bujjabukala provides a solid basis for decision-making on the restoration of this important building and has informed the detailed architectural drawings submitted. An ICOMOS Technical Review and further discussions between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies concluded that the State Party should further develop the proposal and submit further details for review.

Elaborating development guidelines for the buffer zone of the property is a complex and expensive task involving many stakeholders and fields of expertise. A crucial aspect that the State Party is already addressing is public engagement. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to invite the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to collaborate in this process, guided by the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011). Final details of infrastructure upgrades, especially transport infrastructure, in the buffer zone of the property remain outstanding. The financial assistance through the UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation provides timely support to the State Party to tackle this challenge.

The completion of the fire-fighting installation is critical to help safeguard the reconstructed structure and other structures in the property. The fire of 5 May 2020 could be contained and damage limited to one structure. The State Party is working with the local authorities and police to determine the source of the fire. The World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Regional Office in East Africa and the State Party have developed emergency measures to protect the property from another fire disaster. Following a series of Technical Reviews by ICOMOS, final agreement on the details of the permanent system, except for the location and design of a fire station, was reached with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in January 2021.

The State Party is well on its way to completing the corrective measures and achieving the DSOCR. Some aspects, such as the reinstatement of fences and boundary trees, can be achieved within the short term, but proving that measures are in place to ensure the vitality of the property is sustained through the transfer of knowledge to future generations may take longer. In collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for East Africa, the State Party developed a matrix indicating progress made on the implementation of the corrective measures, which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in April 2018. This matrix should be updated and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, indicating progress made, outstanding issues and a work plan towards achieving the DSOCR.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.56**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Acknowledges the State Party's continued engagement of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in developing instruments and approaches to safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
4. *Thanks the Governments of the Norway and Japan for their financial support to the property;*

5. Welcomes the continued progress that the State Party has made in responding to previous Committee decisions, in the reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and the restoration of the Bujjabukala (gate house), as well as towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to date;
6. Expresses its solidarity with the State Party for the fire that occurred at the property on 5 May 2020, and notes with concern the damage caused to the “Enyumba za Balongo”, one of the three deity houses at the property;
7. Also notes the State Party’s commitment to developing development guidelines for the property’s buffer zone, and recommends the State Party to engage with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in this process, guided by the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), as well as encourages the State Party to mobilize funds (through International Assistance for example) to facilitate the activity and submit the completed guidelines to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests the State Party to implement the Master Plan and amend the Kampala Physical Development Plan to align it with the property’s Master Plan and buffer zone development guidelines, once the latter have been completed and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Complete the reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and consider augmenting the surviving collection of power insignia that was recovered from the building following the fire of 2010,
 - b) Submit further details for the restoration project of the Bujjabukala (gate house), for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, specifically on details that have not yet been agreed to, especially relating to the roof pitch, introduction of contemporary technologies and infrastructure in the structure,
 - c) Install with urgency the firefighting infrastructure for the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and its ceremonial courtyard and buildings for which agreement has already been reached with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and also develop proposals to extend the firefighting infrastructure to include buildings beyond the court yard around the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga, and submit these proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - d) Submit final details of the development guidelines for the buffer zone along with all infrastructure upgrade projects, including transport infrastructure, planned for the buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit an update of the matrix with a timeframe and work plan for the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to review the current state of conservation and evaluate whether the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been met;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;

13. **Decides to retain Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

5. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2001-present

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

- A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table
- The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the property, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the property
- A large, banked road has been built to enable movement within the property

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/1279>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279> but outdated and needs to be updated

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 7,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2000 and 2002: Expert missions; 2005, 2009 and 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; 2018: Joint UNESCO / Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Rise of the underground water table level and ensuing damage to the structures
- Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment (works completed)
- Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.)
- Need for a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.
- Encroachments within the property and inappropriate recent constructions
- Lack of engagement with local communities and other stakeholders
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Failure to implement corrective measures

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report and an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>. Progress in a number of areas addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions and by the 2018 joint UNESCO/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Advisory mission is presented in the report, as follows:

- The Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites has agreed upon tasks for each institutional stakeholder for the property's improvement and maintenance;
- Community representatives have been involved in some management initiatives, and community groups, such as students, have participated in visits to the property;
- The Groundwater Level Reduction Project (GLRP) was due to be completed by the end of 2020, and the following actions have been implemented:
 - Purchase of pumps for draining water from the property,
 - Preparation of the site in advance of pump installation, which has included removing old pumps, improving generators, maintaining pipes, clearing banks to ensure water flow, cleaning out and examining existing wells, and commissioning new wells to be dug,
 - Surveys have been carried out to understand groundwater movement. In addition, soil and water samples have been taken for analysis, water levels measured, and soil permeability measured to study leachate tracks,
 - A study is being carried out regarding the potential use of solar energy to power the pumping system,
 - The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing a study to consider changing to a drip irrigation system in the surrounding area to reduce groundwater flow;
- A Restoration and Conservation Plan was finalized and will be implemented following the completion of the GLRP. In the meantime, some interim restoration work on the Great Basilica and the Aramid Walls is taking place;
- A team from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has been formed to prepare the Management Plan, which would be integrated into the Sustainable Development Plan. The latter is a recently launched process that has involved a series of institutional meetings and site visits to prepare the plan. A progress report on its development was submitted as an annex to the State Party's report;
- New property boundaries have been clarified and, once a ministerial decree has been issued to this effect, a request for a minor boundary modification will be submitted;
- The roads leading to the property have been upgraded, particularly the route from the airport, and street lighting around the Monastery has been improved;
- Informal constructions in and around the property have been removed to control land encroachment;
- The State Party would welcome a mission to the property to evaluate the possibility of removing Abu Mena from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Progress is being made in response to previous Committee Decisions and the recommendations of the 2018 mission. The establishment of the Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites in Egypt has brought together all relevant institutions in a cross-sectoral approach to tackling issues at the property. The outcomes of this are seen in the ongoing implementation of the GLRP and the preparation of a Sustainable Development Plan.

However, it is of concern that current restoration work (on the Great Basilica and the Aramid Walls) is mentioned only very briefly in the Sustainable Development Plan progress report. It is therefore not clear what urgent or interim conservation measures are being carried out to accompany the changes in water levels that are occurring under the GLRP and if these measures are adequate, noting that a sustainable and long-term solution is needed. In particular, there are no reassurances that specific measures are being taken to protect the Mar Mena Tomb. This is concerning, given the difficulty in ensuring the

property's conservation under fluctuating environmental conditions, and previous delays in addressing critical conservation issues. An update on the State Party's actions in that regard, and the Restoration and Conservation Plan that has been recently prepared, should be communicated to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

Similar concerns arise over the fact that, while a team has been created to prepare the Management Plan, there is still no specific progress reported on this aspect, although it is noted that it will form part of the broader Sustainable Development Plan under development. This latter plan aims to 'revive and maximise the benefit of the Abu Mena area to the local community, Egypt and the world' and addresses issues related to ensuring the property's conservation and increased visitor numbers. Emphasis on attracting tourism will inevitably lead to changes at the property and in use patterns, which need to be managed in advance so that visitation is consonant with conservation and the property's role as a place of pilgrimage. The involvement of the religious community and local communities in the elaboration of the Management Plan and sustainable tourism strategy would be highly recommended.

Some recommendations of the 2018 mission have been acted on, while others, such as the completion of a boundary fence and a planting campaign to support water removal, remain unaddressed. In addition, some basic tools for the property's management are still not in place, including the submission of revised boundaries for the property and its buffer zone, and the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

It should be noted that in 2007, the Committee adopted a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) with the following indicators: a) consolidated structures; b) water table lowered and monitoring system established in and around the property; and c) Management Plan implemented. Of these, only point b) has been partially addressed at this stage, with some of the corrective measures carried out. Therefore, the future conservation of the property is not yet guaranteed. For this reason, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Finally, regarding the fact that the State Party indicates that it would welcome a World Heritage Centre monitoring mission with a view to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that it may be premature for such Reactive Monitoring mission at this stage, but the modalities for an Advisory mission to assist the State Party in identifying a sustainable and long-term solution to lowering the water table and establishing a monitoring system in and around the property could indeed be discussed with the State Party.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the State Party to improve the conservation conditions of the property, in particular through the Groundwater Level Reduction Project and the new Sustainable Development Plan, and requests the State Party to submit the Restoration and Conservation Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Expresses concern that the State Party has not reported on recent conditions of the archaeological remains or current conservation work, and urges the State Party to closely monitor conditions while changes are being made to the water levels, with prompt intervention, where necessary, in particular ensuring protection of the Mar Mena Tomb;*
5. *Also urges the State Party to complete all necessary corrective measures to protect and conserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in order to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in*

Danger (DSOCR) adopted in 2007, also in light of the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2018 Advisory mission;

6. *Also requests the State Party to elaborate as soon as possible the Management Plan, as well as the Sustainable Development Plan, including consideration of an appropriate visitor strategy which supports the property's OUV and its role as a place of pilgrimage, while also tying into sustainable development objectives and including community participation;*
7. *Reminds the State Party of its obligations to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details of all on-going or planned projects, including restoration and rehabilitation of the property, as well as any new envisaged construction, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation;*
8. *Notes the information provided on the clarification of property's new boundaries and further requests the State Party to finalize this process and to submit a minor boundary modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to finalize the draft Retrospective Statement of OUV, which is needed to inform all the plans and strategies being developed for the property;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
11. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of Iraq need to be read in conjunction with Item 9 below.

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

7. 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 identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 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
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- War
- Illegal activities
- 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 3 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an updated version of which was submitted on 28 January 2021. These reports, which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/>, provide the following information on the property:

- The State Party advises that it is fully aware of the plans and facilities needed at its World Heritage properties, and that it intends to complete those plans to protect and sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties;
- A brief historical background of the property and its related archaeological scientific research;
- During its occupation between 2015 and 2017, the property incurred substantial damage;
- Following the documentation of damage, carried out by a team of experts in February 2020, it was agreed that conservation work will commence in 2021, through the support of the International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH).

The State Party requests that a mission be dispatched to assess damage at the property. On 3 September 2020 the State Party submitted an additional 'Damage Assessment Report Status Study' for the property. This report includes general information on the importance of the rationale and process for recovery from damage, a narrative about the occupation of the property between 2015 and 2017, a small selection of photographs of damage being inflicted, brief descriptions and photographs of damage to individual components, and high-level recommendations, including reiteration of the request for a mission.

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

The State Party has proceeded with addressing the lack of complete and detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, including through the support of ALIPH and international experts. The already submitted damage assessment report together with a set of recommendations is a welcome step. The overall approach suggested in this report might contribute to the identification of the Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, more detailed assessment of the damage remains necessary in order to facilitate the protection, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the important monuments. Tables, drawings and systematic photo surveys of damaged monuments, and graphics showing the extent of damage are needed to scope the required repair and reconstruction works and to inform a comprehensive conservation plan.

As has been previously recommended, protection measures need to be taken to prevent any further damage to the property, or looting. It is recommended that the Committee again encourage the State Party to address priority actions, noting 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 recommended that the Committee remind the State Party of its previous request that remedial and repair works should be guided by a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The State Party has indicated that the weathering of building materials has had a major impact at the property. Therefore, a comprehensive and long-term conservation plan is crucial.

Notwithstanding current challenges, it is desirable that the process should commence for the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It would be appropriate for preliminary work on the DSOCR to be initiated remotely, through exchanges between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the State Party. Towards this end, a first online meeting with the State Party took place in January 2021. However, it is essential that the state of conservation of the property be clearly documented and verified. The approach and techniques adopted for this property may become a model for other Iraqi properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It is again recommended that, when security conditions permit, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place to further assess the damage and to discuss with the State Party the short-, medium- and long-term goals and actions required to protect the property. This would be particularly relevant in order to facilitate implementation of proposed corrective measures and achievement of the DSOCR.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.19** and **43 COM 7A.21** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Taking into account Decision **44 COM 7A.9**, on the World Heritage properties of Iraq,*
4. *Notes the State Party's efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground, welcomes the submitted 'Damage Assessment Report Status Study', takes note of the documentation carried out, and urges the State Party to compile comprehensive information on the state of conservation of the property, particularly detailed assessment of the damage needed to facilitate the protection, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the important monuments;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit all assessments it has undertaken, and to carry out a more detailed damage assessment, including systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics and quantitative data, as well as identification of potential risks to the*

property, prior to taking any action on the ground, and to submit this assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. *Reiterates its request that interventions be addressed within the framework of the overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Encourages the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the State Party to collaborate and to draw upon the Damage Assessment Report Status Study in order to progress the elaboration of a set of correctives measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as well as identification of means by which the state of conservation of the property can be verified;*
8. *Also 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 damage at the property, and discuss with the State Party authorities the short-, medium- and long-term goals and actions required to protect the property, in order to implement corrective measures and achieve the DSOCR;*
9. *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;*
10. *Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
11. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022;*
12. **Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

8. 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 identified

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 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)

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 3 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an updated version of which was submitted on 28 January 2021. These reports, which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/>, provide the following information on the property:

- The State Party advises that it is fully aware of the plans and facilities needed at its World Heritage properties, and that it intends to complete those plans to protect and sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties;
- A brief overview of the history of the property and scientific research;
- There have been incorrect conservation interventions in the past, prior to the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, including inappropriate reconstruction works and the use of cement;
- The property has suffered as a result of conflicts between 2003 and 2014, when the city was at the frontlines of military operations, with significant impact to city landmarks;
- Planning is underway for conducting protection and management measures, and budgets will be allocated for conservation work and for establishing infrastructure facilities;
- During 2020, the State Party addressed violations at Abu Dulaf mosque, Bayt al-Zakharif, and the archaeological site of Asabian in al-Jubairiya;
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the property was partially closed and the work has been limited to monitoring;
- The State Party requests that a mission is dispatched to assess damage at the property.

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

The State Party's report indicates in general terms the key issues of concern at the property. However, there has been limited progress in implementing the World Heritage Committee's recommendations. Following the first survey conducted in 2016 of several monuments of the property by the UNESCO Office in Iraq, in collaboration with the Samarra Antiquities Office, a full and comprehensive assessment of the property has not been carried out. This is a crucial step in view of identifying urgent conservation priorities, with a view of longer-term management and conservation actions. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request again the State Party to submit, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, any additional documentation that was mentioned in the State Party's 2017 state of conservation report.

Moreover, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate again its request that a full and updated comprehensive assessment be carried out as soon as security conditions permit and before any remedial actions are undertaken. It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party of its previous request that remedial and repair works should be guided by a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. 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.

It is also recommended that the Committee remind the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on future works before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In view of the need for the development of a comprehensive conservation plan, the identification of corrective measures and the development of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, once security conditions permit.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions 43 COM 7A.20 and 44 COM 7A.21, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Taking into account Decision 44 COM 7A.9, on the World Heritage properties of Iraq,
4. Expresses again its concern about the condition of the property and the lack comprehensive information on its state of conservation, and 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;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party that a full and comprehensive assessment be carried out 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;
6. Further reiterates its previous request that interventions be addressed within the framework of the overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. *Reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information of any future works that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, once security conditions permit, to assist in assessing damage at the property, preparatory to the development of a comprehensive conservation plan, the identification of corrective measures, and the development of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
9. *Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties 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;*
10. *Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
11. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
12. ***Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

9. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of Iraq

Current conservation issues

The conflict in Iraq between 2014 and 2017 led to a massive humanitarian crisis and resulted in significant damage to Iraq's cultural heritage through deliberate destruction, illegal excavation and looting, as well as collateral damage. Three of Iraq's World Heritage properties have suffered as a result of this conflict, namely Samarra Archaeological City, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) and Hatra. In addition, the archaeological sites of Nimrud and the Ancient City of Nineveh, which are on Iraq's Tentative List, have also been greatly damaged through acts of deliberate destruction. In the Old City of Mosul, included in the Tentative List since August 2018, significant sites, monuments and buildings were systematically targeted, including historical and religious heritage sites such as al-Nouri Mosque and its iconic al-Hadba Minaret.

On 3 February 2020 and 28 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44com/documents/#state_of_conservation_reports. The reports provide an overview of the state of conservation of Samarra Archaeological City, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) and Hatra, and the damage inflicted as a result of the conflict, but no detailed assessment. The reports express the need for financial support to improve the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, and the wish of the State Party to work closely with the international community in this regard. The 2021 report mentions that the spread of COVID-19 has contributed to limiting conservation and management activities. The proposed construction of the Makhool Dam in Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) has been re-activated and the State Party has requested support in preserving the property and the archaeological sites located in the dam's basin.

The State Party reiterates its request for missions to be undertaken in order to conduct damage assessments and conservation works, and requests the support of the World Heritage Centre in the

development of corrective measures for the eventual removal of the three properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Activities undertaken by UNESCO

- Since the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, 2019), UNESCO has pursued its actions towards the recovery of Iraq's cultural heritage, notably in Mosul;
- Within the framework of the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project (USD 35,782), the World Heritage Centre has initiated the implementation of activities for strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and in the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
- Following the launch of the Initiative "**Revive the Spirit of Mosul**" in February 2018, UNESCO has pursued its actions towards the rehabilitation and recovery of the Old City of Mosul:
 - Safeguarding cultural heritage in the Old City of Mosul has been carried out through two major projects, "Reviving the Spirit of Mosul by rebuilding its historic landmarks namely the Al-Nouri Mosque and its Al-Hadba Minaret, as well as the Al-Tahera Church and Al-Saa'a Church" funded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (USD 50.4 million for the 2018-2023 period), as well as a major project funded by the European Union (EU) (USD 38 million in two phases from 2019-2022) for "Reviving Mosul and Basra Old Cities" which aims to rehabilitate the historic urban centres of these two major cities while creating jobs and developing skills of the young people in the rehabilitation and urban infrastructure,
 - At the Al-Nouri Mosque Complex and the Al-Hadba Minaret, the first phase of the restoration project consisted of documentation, assessment, securing the site, removing the surrounding debris, collecting historical fragments and stabilizing the remaining structures, was completed in the spring of 2020,
 - In April 2020, the third Joint Steering Committee of the UAE funded project decided that Al-Hadba Minaret shall be rebuilt in the same location and with the same features. The decision concerning the inclination of the Minaret, whether to be built leaning or straight, will be made after the local community is consulted. The Steering Committee of the project also approved that geotechnical investigations on the foundation of the Minaret should be undertaken before any reconstruction proposals are put forward,
 - With regards to Al-Nouri Mosque Complex, it was decided that the reconstruction shall be done through an international architectural design competition, and in November 2020, UNESCO launched an international architectural competition, endorsed by the International Union of Architects (UIA). The jury met from 6 to 10 April and the winning design was announced on 15 April 2021,
 - With regards to the rehabilitation of the two churches, the rubble removal as well as securing the site is completed for Al-Tahera Church as well as Al-Saa'a Church; damage assessment and technical documentation for restoration and rehabilitation of these two churches are ongoing and planned to be finalised by the end of the summer 2021,
 - As for the EU-funded project "Reviving Mosul and Basra Old Cities", following engagement with all levels of concerned national and local government entities and relevant stakeholders, 43 historical houses were de-mined and selected for rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of these houses and the surrounding infrastructure started in December 2020 and is expected to be completed by October 2021,
 - Heritage-sensitive removal of rubble and clearance of explosive hazards at the sites has also been completed for another 75 houses. The rehabilitation of these additional 75 houses will start in early June 2021. As part of a Heritage Trail between the Al-Nouri Mosque site and the Tigris Riverbank, an additional 118 houses are assessed and earmarked for rubble removal and de-mining. These houses will be rehabilitated if new funding becomes available,
 - Technical documentation for the two palatial houses (Ziada and Suleyman and Qara Saray) has been prepared,

- As for Al-Aghawat Mosque in Mosul, the temporary stabilisation is finalised and the preparation of technical documentation is ongoing,
- These projects related to the reconstruction of Mosul's built heritage have been, and will be creating immediate employment in Mosul as a relief measure in response to the unemployment caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. By the end of these two major rehabilitation projects in Mosul over 2,800 jobs will have been created, with 800 jobs created to date. By the end of these projects 1,630 professionals will be trained in craftsmanship and areas related to the rehabilitation of cultural heritage, both through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and on-the-job training;
- Under the same project, damage assessment of seven heritage houses in Basra is ongoing, in addition to the preparation of technical documentation for the rehabilitation of public infrastructure and beautification of Al-Ashar Canal;
- Also, with support from the Government of Flanders, in 2019, a publication was prepared on damage assessment of cultural and religious heritage affected by violent extremism during 2014 (Governorates of Ninawa, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Anbar);
- With regard to the support for the restoration and documentation of the thousands of manuscripts dating from the 14th to the 19th centuries, in 2018, UNESCO provided technical and financial assistance for the preservation of some of the most historically significant manuscripts and materials. The digitization and conservation equipment was subsequently delivered and installed at the Digital Centre of Eastern Manuscripts in Erbil;

Activities undertaken by the Advisory Bodies

- UNESCO has recently signed an agreement with ICCROM to build capacity of local Iraqi professionals and craftspeople through the UAE and EU funded projects.
- ICOMOS continues to support World Heritage in Iraq through the collection and dissemination of material and assisting the exchange of information.

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

The conflict situation in Iraq has directly affected its three properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and some of its Tentative List sites to varying degrees. The deliberate destruction of cultural heritage during the conflict period between 2014 and 2017 is of particular concern. Owing to the security situation in several parts of the country and the very limited resources, Iraq's other World Heritage properties and Tentative List sites have been indirectly affected. In addition, the illegal excavation and looting of archeological sites have caused extensive loss and irreversible damage – although there have been several incidents of restitution of cultural property in recent years.

Since the liberation of substantial parts of the country in 2017, Iraq has been facing the challenges of recovery while addressing the unprecedented humanitarian crisis. This is particularly evident at the Old City of Mosul, where UNESCO is currently engaged within the framework of its flagship initiative “Revive the Spirit of Mosul”.

The lack of detailed damage assessments for the three World Heritage properties that are on the List of World Heritage in Danger remains a concern, despite the more recent reported documentation work for Hatra carried out by a team of experts in February 2020, through the support of the International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), as well as the submission of an additional ‘Damage Assessment Report Status Study’, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/>. This report includes general information on the intended process for recovery and brief descriptions and photographs of damage to individual components, as well as high-level recommendations, including reiteration of the request for a mission. Detailed damage assessments are necessary to evaluate the situation and to plan for stabilization and conservation works, including repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of important monuments, before interventions can take place. It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party of its previous request in Decision **43 COM 7A.21**, that remedial and repair works should be guided by a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. It is also necessary to evaluate potential risks other than those specifically related to conflict, such as those concerning natural deterioration and potential flooding, and, to plan for the properties' longer-term recovery and management. In this regard the re-activation of the proposed construction of the Makhool

Dam is a major concern, giving rise to an additional potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat).

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit detailed documentation on all damage incurred at World Heritage properties, and to undertake protection and urgent stabilization work only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention. The required information includes systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics and quantitative data and identification of potential risks. Elements found at the property, and resulting from conflict-related damage, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location. Boundaries of properties should be protected from illegal excavations and looting.

Moreover, it is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party to advise, through the World Heritage Centre, about any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of World Heritage properties, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

The Committee should also reiterate its appeal to States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Iraq and to contribute towards the safeguarding of its cultural heritage.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Takes note of the reports provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and continues to express its concern about the lack of comprehensive and detailed assessment of the properties affected by the conflict and about the limited resources available for the safeguarding of affected cultural heritage;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General of UNESCO for the progress made towards safeguarding cultural heritage in the Old City of Mosul, and for the expertise and resources mobilized so far within UNESCO's "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" flagship initiative, and also expresses its appreciation to the donors for their generous contributions towards this end;
5. Requests the State Party to submit updated documentation of damage incurred at World Heritage properties, including systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics, quantitative data and identification of potential risks, to safeguard damaged properties according to the principle of minimal intervention, and to refrain from undertaking conservation and restoration work until comprehensive conservation plans have been developed, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reminds the State Party about the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, information on any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
7. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties 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, and encourages the State Party to ratify the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;

8. Calls again on all States Parties to provide technical and financial support to safeguarding efforts for Iraq's World Heritage and other cultural heritage sites, including through the "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" initiative, in order to implement short-, medium- and long-term measures;
9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present at its 45th session in 2022 a report on the activities related to cultural heritage undertaken within the framework of the "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" initiative;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the properties and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022.

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/190/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions

June 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 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 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 6 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an updated version of which was submitted on 14 February 2021. The executive summaries of both reports are 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, as follows:

- In 2019, a committee was established, as per Governmental Decision 155/2019, for the Management and Implementation of the Strategy for Preservation and Conservation of World Heritage properties in Libya;
- Violations by local populations were reported in 2019 within the property boundaries and the buffer zone, including illegal construction, digging, shovelling and scribbling;
- In the framework of the “Training for Action” programme, training activities were carried out enabling the study and documentation of urban encroachment affecting the property, including risk mapping and the documentation of thousands of artifacts from the museum and storerooms;
- Urgent assistance and financial means are needed to control the pollution caused by the sewage disposal of Shahat City into the Wadi Belghade, which continues to affect the archaeological monuments;
- No forest fires have been reported;
- Several activities have been carried out for implementing the Conservation Strategy for the property, the finalization of the restoration works in the Temple Cemetery, awareness-raising activities targeting youth and the local population, seasonal archaeological excavations and training, acquisition of equipment for documentation purposes, and continued work with local communities for the conservation of the property;
- Information on the Cyrene Grand Hotel project near the Temple of Zeus was provided;
- Measures have been taken to address the illicit trafficking of cultural property and its recovery, thanks to international agreements. The Libyan Foreign Ministry is working on the ratification of

the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995). However, due to the current circumstances, the ratification may be delayed;

- An updated Minor Boundary Modification for the property was sent to the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party considered the March 2020 technical meeting with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre successful as it enabled direct discussion and consultation. It has indicated its will to start drafting the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

The State Party confirms its intention to call on the international community to provide further financial and technical support for the conservation of cultural heritage, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO. It also reiterates its invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and to provide technical advice.

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 difficulties. Efforts in addressing urban encroachment are welcome and need to continue given that it is one of the major threats to the property.

The pollution caused by the sewage disposal of Shahat City into the Wadi Belghade needs to be addressed to avoid more damage to the archaeological site.

More detailed and technical information on the proposed Cyrene Grand Hotel near the Temple of Zeus 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 States Parties 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.

The improvement of the security situation may provide the State Party with more means to undertake the necessary actions for the conservation and protection of the property. It is recommended that the State Party continues its important efforts in line with the Action Plan that was developed during the International Expert Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage, held in Tunis in May 2016 (report available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>). It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information on progress made in the implementation of this Action Plan and to start developing corrective measures and the DSOCR, on the basis of the aforementioned Action Plan, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies. Further detailed information and documentation on the planned Cyrene Grand Hotel, including the rationale for its proposed location, is necessary to better understand the project and its potential impact on the property before any decision about its implementation is taken. It is recommended that the State Party submit an International Assistance request for a guided Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the project.

It is essential that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission invited by the State Party and requested by the Committee at its previous sessions is undertaken as soon as security conditions permit, in order to evaluate the state of conservation of the property. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party pursues 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.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to address conservation threats at the property and in fundraising activities that have led to projects aimed at the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; and requests it to continue its efforts in this regard to the extent possible;
4. Also requests the State Party to provide further detailed information and documentation on the proposed Cyrene Grand Hotel near the Temple of Zeus, to evaluate the submission of an International Assistance request to carry out a guided Heritage Impact Assessment study and to keep the Committee regularly informed on the evolution of the situation at the property, and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any other on-going and 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;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide updated information about the damage caused by pollution sewage disposal of Shahat city into Wadi Belghade;
6. Requests furthermore the State Party to report on any progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
7. Requests moreover the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Encourages the State Party to pursue the development of the Management Plan for the property, and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support;
9. Welcomes the work in progress for the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and requests in addition the State Party to continue the close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. 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;
11. 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);
12. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties 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 acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to ratify the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;

13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
14. ***Decides to retain the Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

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

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 24,543 for the European Project "Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace".
June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions
1988: UNESCO mission; June 2000: World Heritage Centre 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

- Illegal Activities
- Desertification
- 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 (issue resolved)

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

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report and an updated version on 11 February 2021. The executive summaries of both reports are 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, as follows:

- Despite the difficulties faced since 2011, the Department of Antiquities (DoA) continues to undertake conservation measures in collaboration with the local community and the Tourism Police, in addition to awareness raising in coordination with municipal authorities. No cases of damage or serious violations have been reported;
- In 2019, a committee was established, as per Government Decision 155/2019, for the Management and Implementation of the Strategy for Preservation and Conservation of World Heritage properties in Libya;
- The DoA has carried out regular monitoring visits to evaluate the property's state of conservation and considers that the situation has improved in the last three years. Funding is still a main constraint, preventing the property's regular maintenance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the site and its museum have been closed since March 2020, operating with a reduced number of staff;
- Vandalism and animal grazing have been reduced. The unauthorized discharge of domestic wastewater was addressed through coordinated work with the local authority by clearing the path for discharge away from the property, managing to prevent any possible flooding in the future. Regular cleaning of vegetation has taken place, and a study on damage caused by vegetation and other threats has helped to establish control mechanisms that started to be implemented in 2020. A fire erupted in August 2020 due to dry vegetation, but was successfully controlled;
- The DoA is considering building sand barriers to protect the property from sand encroachment, especially the most vulnerable buildings. Discussions on the use of nanotechnology as a possibility to reduce the effects of weathering and sand drift are being considered;
- Periodic cleaning of the Wadi Lebda path was conducted to avoid flooding. Restoration and cleaning works were undertaken at the Punic Market, the Severan Basilica, the Barko cemetery and the colonnaded street. The project for the installation of a security fence, including the rehabilitation of the entrance of the site is in the contracting phase. Other protective measures such as a tree barrier and earthen embankments also being used;
- Efforts have been sought to establish laboratory facilities and to undertake conservation training, resulting in an improved state of conservation of the property in the past three years. The process for the definition of a buffer zone for the property has continued and a minor boundary modification proposal has been submitted, while the preparation of a management plan has been initiated;
- Several partnerships have contributed to technical and financial support for undertaking the above-mentioned activities, such as the Training in Action programme and the Libyan Cultural Heritage Management Project (MaliCH) aiming at building capacities and supporting the conservation of the property. The State Party intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support, and considers the March 2020 technical meeting with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre as successful in initiating direct discussion and consultation.

The State Party reiterates that the property is not facing any specific ascertained danger and requests its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. To this end, it 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 efforts undertaken by the State Party demonstrate its commitment to the conservation of the property, despite the prevailing situation. The constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of funding do not allow for 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 provided concerning the deterioration of stone masonry, as mentioned in previous reports. The initiation of the process to draft a Management Plan and the measures undertaken regarding sand control, flood and fire prevention, and resolving the issue of domestic wastewater discharge are welcome.

Several projects have been implemented at the property, including cleaning and condition assessment in the framework of the Training in Action project, as well as works undertaken at the Punic Market, the Severan Basilica, Barko cemetery and the colonnaded street. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request that technical specifications and materials for conservation/restoration works are discussed with ICOMOS before implementation. The initiation of the procedure for the installation of a fence and the ongoing discussions regarding other protection measures are welcome. All of these initiatives are important; however, they are not enough to guarantee the appropriate state of conservation of the property.

The World Heritage Centre organized a meeting in Paris in March 2020 to address the elaboration of a proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, boundary modifications and Tentative Lists. Participants comprised the State Party, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Rabat Office, and the World Heritage Centre. Discussions and technical recommendations focused on the minor boundary modification proposal submitted by the State Party and planned projects. The boundary modification submitted with the State Party report is currently under review.

The first meeting for the elaboration of the DSOCR for the property took place on 1 April 2021. This process is being elaborated through the support of the World Heritage Fund and the Netherlands Funds in Trust project "Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties". It is recommended that the State Party continues this dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on the elaboration of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the DSOCR, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 and 183 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Important efforts have been made to secure new projects, such as the MaliCH project funded by the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH). It is recommended that the Committee welcome these efforts and requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on progress of their implementation.

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 Expert 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-, medium- and long-term measures identified during that meeting. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information on progress made in the implementation of this Action Plan.

The effects of the conflict situation in the country raise much concern about the sustainability of efforts made, as the prevailing constraints prevent the undertaking of essential actions to protect and conserve the property. Nevertheless, the recent improvement in the situation may have a positive impact on the conservation of the property. It remains crucial that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as the security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party continues to keep the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, updated on the situation on the ground and the implementation of intervention measures,

It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the important efforts made by the State Party to raise funds and undertake activities for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), despite the difficult situation and working conditions on the ground, due to the effects of the conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, and urges it to continue its efforts in this regard to the extent possible;
4. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre 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, and also requests that technical specifications and materials to be used in conservation interventions are discussed with ICOMOS before they are applied;
5. Further requests the State Party to report on any progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan developed during the International Expert Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
6. Welcomes the progress made in the finalization of the Minor Boundary Modification proposal and requests furthermore the State Party to continue the process in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Encourages the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites it to seek for the necessary technical and financial support and to allocate the necessary resources for its implementation;
8. Acknowledges the invitation by 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;
9. Also Welcomes the initiation of the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
10. Reiterates its call 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 2016 Tunis Meeting;
11. Expresses its appreciation to the Netherlands Funds in Trust and other donors and institutions, for the support provided to the State Party towards the conservation and management of the property;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)

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

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

Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions

June 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Land conversion
- Conflict situation prevailing in the country
- Excessive vegetation growth
- Natural degradation
- Urban encroachment
- Local conditions affecting the physical fabric: Impact of humidity and seawater salt on stone masonry

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

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an updated version of which was submitted on 11 February 2021. Executive summaries of both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/184/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session is presented, as follows:

- The Department of Antiquities (DoA) has continued working with the civil society and no violations were registered;
- In 2019, a committee was established, as per Government Decision 155/2019, for the Management and Implementation of the Strategy for Preservation and Conservation of World Heritage properties in Libya;
- The main threats to the property are environmental factors that lead to the degradation of the monuments due to the nature of the building materials;
- Substantial funding and technical support are required, and the DoA is in the process of securing both;
- Efforts are being made to control vegetation growth and limit damage to the floor mosaics and monuments. Studies to identify the types of plants to determine the extent of damage were elaborated. A plan is underway for direct control mechanisms. Other conservation, stabilization, and maintenance works were undertaken;
- Nanotechnology is being considered as a possibility to reduce the effects of weathering and sand drift, other modern technologies are being used to assess the condition of the property;
- A damage assessment report was prepared for the Roman Theatre, indicating damage at several locations due to armed conflict (minor damage from small arms), the most prominent of which is the visual scarring of some parts. A more detailed and specialized study to plan and implement the restoration is currently being undertaken;
- In coordination with the Municipality of Sabratha and the United Nations Development Program in Libya (UNDP), a project for restoration and maintenance works has been initiated. It mainly focuses on the modern facilities at the site, and includes restoration works at the Roman Theatre, which will be carried out by specialized staff of the DoA in coordination with the UNDP;
- A contract has been established to implement the first phase of the 660-metre protection fence, once funding has been secured by the Government of National Accord of Libya;
- In the framework of the “Training for Action” programme, training activities were carried out for archaeologists, focusing on recording and management, and for the Tourism Police and the Antiquities Protection Authority, on awareness-raising and cultural heritage protection;
- A minor boundary modification proposal has been submitted and an agreement between DoA and local authorities was signed to protect the buffer zone of the property and regulate urban development in the area;
- The identification of priorities for the elaboration of the management plan has started;
- The COVID-19 Pandemic, lack of resources and frequent electricity cuts have had a negative impact on the works in the property.

The State Party confirms its intention to call on the international community to provide further financial and technical support for the conservation of cultural heritage, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO. The State Party considered the March 2020 technical meeting with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre successful as it enabled direct discussion and consultation. It has indicated its willingness to start the drafting of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

The State Party considers that the property is not facing any specific ascertained danger and is considered to be stable in both security and administrative terms. Therefore, it requests the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and has extended an invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the property’s state of conservation.

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

A comprehensive strategy for managing and conserving the property is necessary to address not only the impact of armed conflict, but also vegetation growth and environmental factors. The ongoing steps for the elaboration of a Management Plan are crucial, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee call on the international community to ensure technical and financial support.

The State Party has made important efforts to secure funding from different donors despite the difficulties and the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the International Alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) and the UNDP, for the conservation of Libyan World Heritage properties. It is recommended that the Committee welcome these efforts and projects undertaken for capacity building, maintenance, vegetation control and protection. However, the reported use of white cement in the conservation intervention at the Roman Theatre is an inappropriate material for restoration of ancient buildings, and it is recommended that the Committee request that technical specifications and materials for conservation/restoration works at the Roman Theatre and archaeological vestiges are discussed in detail with ICOMOS before being applied.

The World Heritage Centre organized a meeting in Paris in March 2020 to address the elaboration of a DSOCR and related corrective measures, boundary modifications and the Tentative List. Participants comprised the State Party, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Rabat Office, and the World Heritage Centre. Discussions also focused on restoration works at the Roman Theatre, and technical advice was provided on the continuation of activities and damage assessment.

Given the current prevailing situation and funding needs, the DoA has decided to focus on urgent preventive actions at the Roman Theatre with the aim of securing the building and limiting damage, as well as ensuring the safety of visitors.

The improvement of the security situation may provide the State Party with more means to undertake the necessary actions for the conservation and protection of the property. It is recommended that the State Party continue its important efforts in line with the Action Plan that was developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguarding of Libyan Cultural Heritage, held in Tunis in May 2016 (report available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496>). It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information on progress made in the implementation of this Action Plan.

The submitted draft minor boundary modification proposal is recognized as an indispensable step towards the effective protection and management of the property. The ongoing close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS concerning the definition of an appropriate buffer zone is appreciated. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue this cooperation, and to submit the proposal in line with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is essential that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission invited by the State Party and requested by the Committee at its previous sessions is undertaken as soon as security conditions permit, in order to evaluate the state of conservation of the property. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party develops the DSOCR and a set of corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is recommended that the State Party keeps the Committee updated on the situation at the property and on its activities, including the restoration of the Roman Theatre and any plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.25, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),

3. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to address conservation threats at the property and in fundraising activities that have led to projects aimed at the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard to the extent possible and to discuss with ICOMOS the restoration techniques and materials planned to be used at the Roman Theatre and the other archaeological vestiges before their application;
5. Also requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any on-going and 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;
6. Further requests the State Party to report on any progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguarding of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
8. Encourages the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support and allocate the necessary resources for its implementation;
9. Continues to call for an increased mobilization by 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 2016 Tunis Meeting;
10. Also welcomes the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and requests moreover the State Party to continue the close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines
11. Acknowledges the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate its State of Conservation, to take place as soon as the security conditions permit;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
13. **Decides to retain the Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (v)

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified
Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

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

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions
January 1998: UNESCO mission; March 2003: World Heritage Centre mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Conflict situation prevailing in the country
- Torrential rains
- Fires

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

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an updated version of which was submitted on 31 January 2021. Executive summaries of both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/362/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- Despite the difficult situation that the country has faced since 2011 and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Antiquities (DoA) continues to undertake conservation measures in collaboration with the Ghadames City Promotion and Development Authority (GCPDA) and the local community;
- Training for the tourist police on the protection of World Heritage properties was undertaken;
- 63% of the planned conservation and restoration works for 16 houses affected by the heavy rains of 2017 have been achieved. On the other hand, 6 houses have reportedly collapsed due to heavy rains in 2019. A request was sent to the Government of National Accord for additional funding to address the remaining works, and to conduct surveys and inventory works for the maintenance and restoration of houses affected by rainfall in 2019;

- Measures were undertaken in response to the fire that occurred in July 2019 within the vicinity of the property, and resources have been requested for the cleaning and removal of fire waste and the preparation of a proposal for a fire fighting system;
- A draft Management Plan, including a risk preparedness and conservation plan for the property, was submitted for technical review;
- Additional activities have been carried out, including detailed documentation and its integration in a GIS, the designation of a tourist information centre, the development and adoption of land use regulations for the property and the buffer zone, and the elaboration of technical general specifications for maintenance, repair and rehabilitation work, as well as contractual obligations for contractors.

Several partnerships have contributed to technical and financial support for undertaking the above-mentioned activities. The State Party is seeking additional resources and intends to call on the international community to provide further financial and technical support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF).

The State Party considered the March 2020 technical meeting with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre as successful in initiating direct discussion and consultation, and as the starting point for a series of meetings aiming to support the State Party in the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). As a result of the technical guidance provided, the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was finalized, and a boundary modification was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

The State Party reiterates that the property is not facing any specific ascertained danger and requests its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. To this end, it has formally reiterated its invitation for 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 important efforts undertaken by the State Party demonstrate its strong commitment to the conservation of the property, despite the prevailing situation and the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Party has made significant progress to secure funding from the Government of National Accord and various donors, such as the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for the Libyan Cultural Heritage Management Project (MaliCH), led by King's College London. It is recommended that the Committee welcome these efforts and call upon the international community to continue to support the State Party in its conservation initiatives.

The engagement of the authorities with the local communities is commendable. Several projects have been implemented at the property, including training activities, documentation, awareness-raising, conservation and rehabilitation using traditional techniques, development of regulations, and the elaboration of a Management Plan.

Heavy rains and fires continue to pose a threat to the property. It is evident that there is a need to finalize the risk management plan and the establishment of a firefighting system for the property. Efforts to finalize the works on the 16 houses affected by rain in 2017 and to conduct the surveys and inventory works for the maintenance and restoration of those affected in 2019, as well as the cleaning and removal of fire waste, need to be pursued.

Following Decision **43 COM 7A.26**, the World Heritage Centre organized a meeting in Paris in March 2020 to address the elaboration of a proposed DSOCR and related corrective measures, boundary modifications and Tentative Lists. Participants comprised the State Party, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Rabat Office, and the World Heritage Centre. The State Party presented high quality documentation on the current state of conservation of the property and the conservation activities undertaken. Technical recommendations and discussions focused on the drafting the Retrospective Statement of OUV, the current state of conservation of the property, the Minor Boundary Modification proposal submitted by the State Party, and ongoing and planned projects.

The State Party has continued close communication with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for the elaboration of the Management Plan of the property, on which ICOMOS submitted a technical review in June 2020, the Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and the Retrospective Statement of OUV. The latter was submitted by the State Party for approval by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session, which will be a significant step towards the conservation of the property.

Through the support of the project for “Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties” financed by the Netherlands Fund in Trust (NFIT), and the World Heritage Fund, the State Party continued this dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for the elaboration of the DSOCR which has been finalized, with the necessary corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 26 April 2021. The detailed information can be found with the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party. The commitment and work undertaken by the State Party through its national and local authorities and partners is commendable.

While important steps have been undertaken by the State Party to address threats, it remains crucial that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as the security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party continues to keep the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, updated on the situation on the ground and the implementation of corrective measures. It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It is also recommended that the Committee adopt the following DSOCR, corrective measures, and timeframe for implementation, which have been established and submitted by State Party, as follows:

Impacts or threats (direct / indirect damages)	Relationship to the OUV	Corrective measures*	Expected outcomes [DSOCR]	Verification of indicators (by WHC)	Current status	Time frame	Annex No.
A. Damage to the built fabric of the property due to constraints with the capital budgets.	Negative effects on the management, integrity and authenticity of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.	1. Ensure long-term structural return of budgets to levels equal to those before the armed conflict for (a) emergency maintenance and (b) capital projects.	1. Long-term fully-resourced conservation and management system.	1. Commitment by the State Party to restore capital budgets to their equivalent level before the budget reductions.	1. a) Emergency maintenance work started in 2017 and is still ongoing regularly. b) This year the capital budget is delayed but approval is expected in July 2021.	1. Work will continue (a, b) as capital budget returns to pre-existing levels by December 2023 latest.	1, 2, 3, 4
		2. Provide additional interim budgets to repair the damage due to the budget constraints between 2014–2018.	2. Sufficient financial capacity to repair damage due to capital budget reductions.	2. Availability and use of additional capital budgets to complete restoration activities due to previous capital reduction (see also 3).	2. First set of additional funds were made available in December 2020 so the work is now ongoing.	2. Additional funds are expected yearly with work completed by end of March 2022.	1, 2
		3. Resume preservation, restoration and maintenance activities to recover the attributes of the property OUV.	3. Complete the conservation of degraded built fabric to the level before beginning of the armed conflict. Including: a. Maintenance of 80% of the roofs and upper corridors of the old town houses b. Rebuilding / Renovation some of the houses in danger of collapse,	3. Guidelines, budgets, and implementation and work plan.	3. The works started in January 2020 (80% estimated complete).	3. Completion date in July 2022.	2, 3, 4

Impacts or threats (direct / indirect damages)	Relationship to the OUV	Corrective measures*	Expected outcomes [DSOCR]	Verification of indicators (by WHC)	Current status	Time frame	Annex No.
			c. Maintenance of the squares and main streets of the old town, d. Repair of the 21 houses damaged by heavy rains.				
		4.. Determine a long-term strategy including protection from any repetition of similar threats to the property's attributes.	4. Permanent risk preparedness and reinforced capacities.	4. Specific inclusion in Guidelines, Work Plan, Management Plan, supported by training and coordinated with fire department and civil security.	4. This was started in May 2020, and is in an ongoing process of review.	4. Expected completion in June 2023.	1, 4
B. Damage to the significance setting of the property due to irrigation constraints.	Negative effects on the setting of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.	1. Establish a stable mechanism to ensure continued water supply to the palm groves of the oasis,	1. Long-term fully financially resourced conservation and management system.	1. Commitment by the State Party to provide sufficient capital budgets to fully maintain the oasis.	1. Budgetary commitments expected in July 2021.	1. Expected resourcing completed by December 2022.	1, 3, 4
		2. Repair the damage due to the electricity shortage crisis and due to fires, 2014–2018.	2. Provide additional interim budgets to repair provoked damages.	2. Availability of additional capital budgets to complete rehabilitation .	2. Additional budget received in July 2020 with work ongoing (30% completed).	2. Work completed in March 2023.	1, 2, 3
		3. Ensure continued operation of irrigation system in the future.	3. Confirmation that planned activities support the contribution of the setting to the authenticity and the attributes of the property OUV including:	3. Approved specific work plan, guidelines and practical evidence. Implementation of the work plan. Restoration and maintenance of the built fabric of the property.	3. Current phase of work started in 2018 and is currently ongoing (based on previous annual work).	3. Phase completed in December 2022 (annual continuity and regular review).	1, 3, 4

Impacts or threats (direct / indirect damages)	Relationship to the OUV	Corrective measures*	Expected outcomes [DSOCR]	Verification of indicators (by WHC)	Current status	Time frame	Annex No.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continued maintenance of Ain Al-Faras Basin, b. Continued operation of the 5 productive agricultural wells, c. Continued maintenance of 18 km of traditional irrigation channels, d. Continued maintenance of 36 linear km of fences for the main farm lanes, e. Replanting of lost palm trees and repair of other important features. 				
		4. Determine a long-term strategy to protect, conserve and maintain the irrigation system along with an emergency back-up plan.	4. Permanent risk preparedness and reinforced capacities in relation to the irrigation and its importance for the property's setting.	4. Inclusion of risk preparedness in the Property Management Plan with provision of back-up mechanisms and successful and regular testing exercises.	4. Work started in May 2020 and currently ongoing.	4. Expected completion date in June 2023.	1, 3, 4

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the important efforts made by the State Party to raise funds and undertake activities for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), despite the difficult situation and working conditions on the ground, and urges it to continue its efforts in this regard to the extent possible;
4. Also commends the State Party for the submission of the Retrospective Statement of OUV for the Old Town of Ghadamès;
5. Welcomes the progress made in the elaboration of the Minor Boundary Modification proposal and requests the State Party to continue the process in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Adopts the set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), elaborated in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to regularly inform the World Heritage Centre on the evolution of the situation at the property and any new measures undertaken to implement the corrective measures and 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.
8. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the State Party in the development of a Management Plan for the property, including a risk preparedness and conservation plan, and invites it to continue its efforts in that regard, taking into account the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical review;
9. Acknowledges the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to take place as soon as the conditions permit;
10. Reiterates its call 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 corrective measures that have been identified;
11. Expresses its appreciation to the Netherlands Funds in Trust and other donors and institutions, for the support provided to the State Party towards the conservation and management of the property;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;

13. **Decides to retain the Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)

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

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

Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: June 2020: Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report; an updated version of which was submitted on 11 February 2021. Executive summaries of both reports are 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, as follows:

- In 2019, a committee was established, as per Governmental Decision 155/2019, for the Management and Implementation of the Strategy for Preservation and Conservation of World Heritage properties in Libya;

- There are no reported acts of sabotage or vandalism. This coincides with the inspection patrols that have been established by the Tourist Police, the regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Department of Antiquities (DoA), with the support of the local community. In addition, the Department of Foreign Affairs has increased its awareness-raising activities in the towns and cities surrounding the property, including Jerma, Ghat, and Alawenat;
- The DoA is following up with the archaeological mission in Acacus concerning a database for the property, and is in contact with other missions that have undertaken studies at the property;
- Consultations to designate the property as a National Park are still ongoing, and surveys have been carried out for the rehabilitation of the old fort of Alawenat as a cultural and visitor centre. It will also function as the headquarters for the management of the property;
- The preparation of the Management Plan has been initiated, and the identification of priorities for technical and financial support is underway;
- The Libyan Foreign Ministry is working on completing the procedures to ratify the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, however the ratification may be delayed due to the current situation in the country;
- Local festivals such as that in Ghat have served to improve public engagement and awareness raising for the protection of the property. Materials with information on the property and its protection have been disseminated.

The State Party confirms its intention to call on the international community to provide further financial and technical support for the conservation of its cultural heritage, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO. The State Party considered the March 2020 technical meeting with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre successful as it enabled direct discussion and consultation. It has indicated its will to start drafting the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

In addition, the State Party considers that the property should be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger and has reiterated its invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess its state of conservation.

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

The State Party's report demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the property, despite the difficulties. Efforts have been made to reduce vandalism, and hence no acts were reported in the past year. Yet, security conditions and the large size of the property remain a challenge in ensuring the prevention of vandalism in the long-term.

Documentation, awareness-raising, and communication campaigns, in close coordination with local communities and various stakeholders, are all actions contributing to the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Nevertheless, there is still a lack of effective management of the property and a Management Plan that establishes clear management mechanisms will be crucial for ensuring its protection and conservation. The Committee may wish to invite the State Party to continue to pursue this task, and as necessary seek technical and financial support.

Progress made to nominate the property as a National Park and to rehabilitate the fort of Alawenat, as a cultural/visitor centre and as the headquarters for the management of the property, are welcomed. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee invites the State Party to keep it informed, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future major restoration or new construction projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, including more detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The important efforts carried out by the State Party to counter the illicit trafficking of cultural property are also welcomed. The Committee may wish to reiterate its call upon all States Parties to support these efforts, by providing funds and specialized assistance to continue urgent conservation activities, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of Libyan cultural property.

It is further recommended that these efforts be coherent 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 build on the short-, medium- and long-term measures identified during that meeting. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information on progress made in the implementation of this Action Plan and to

start developing the definition of corrective measures for the property and the DSOCR on the basis of the aforementioned Action Plan, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies

The improvement of the security situation may provide the State Party with more means for the conservation of the property, however, this may require additional efforts. The joint Reactive Monitoring mission will be crucial as soon as security conditions permit. In the meantime, it is important that the State Party pursues its efforts to keep the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, updated on the situation on the ground and its activities, 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: 44 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
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 difficult situation and difficult working conditions on the ground, and urges it to continue its efforts in this regard, if possible;*
4. *Welcomes the efforts made for the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites the State Party to continue to pursue its elaboration, seek the necessary technical and financial support for its completion, and allocate the necessary resources for its implementation;*
5. *Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre 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 provision of detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to report on any progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan developed during the International Meeting on the Safeguarding of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);*
7. *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 and other conditions permit;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Continues to call 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- and long-term measures identified during the 2016 Tunis Meeting;*

10. *Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties 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 acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to ratify the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
12. ***Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 24 below.

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

19. 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; For built, 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

Before the conflict:

- Illegal Activities
- Housing

Since March 2011:

- War (Damage of historic buildings due to the conflict)
- Illegal activities (illegal constructions following the start of the conflict and illegal excavations)

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 January 2020 and 7 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The ancient city has severely been damaged by constant illegal excavations, including many unauthorised excavations by local people, risking irrevocable damage to the archaeological remains of the ancient city;

- In the framework of the project funded through Emergency International Assistance in December 2018, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) has undertaken detailed damage assessment of the property, on the ground and with the support of drone technology. Buildings were categorized according to four levels of damage, ranging from completely destroyed (5%), to almost destroyed (18%), heavily damaged (25%), and lightly damaged (33%). Based on the assessment, only 19% of the built area remains in good condition. 343 illegal excavation pits are reported, mostly located inside historic buildings, as well as 217 small pitch holes in building walls;
- The DGAM carried out a three-dimensional documentation of the architectural elements of the Kalybe monument (Cradle of the King's Daughter), which had been previously reported as collapsed;
- Building on a comprehensive study of the urban fabric, the DGAM and the City Council are updating the building code established in 2003, in order to adapt the regulations to post-crisis recovery and the buffer zone established in 2017. The report highlights that the new code expands building modification options and promotes cost-effective sustainable design and construction;
- The DGAM has given priority to emergency interventions at the damaged parts of the Amphitheatre, managing debris, documenting and monitoring deflection by using new technologies, in view of conducting structural studies and designing adequate scaffolding;
- In October 2020, as part of the emergency humanitarian response, UN-Habitat in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Administration, organized a workshop to identify the city's priority interventions, including infrastructure work and restoration of residential houses.

The DGAM has undertaken high quality works within the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request approved on 21 December 2018. The full report provided by the State Party as a result of the International Assistance request is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/assistance>.

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

See General decision **44 COM 24** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The high number of illegal excavations at the site, highlighted by the damage assessment report, are of concern. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee express its serious concern and call upon the international community to cooperate for the return of looted objects.

The detailed studies at the Kalybe monument (Cradle of the King's Daughter) indicate that most of the collapsed stones are in good shape. It is recommended that the Committee recall that further studies and discussions with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and the international scientific community, are necessary to define optimal restoration approaches for the recovery of the property. It would be appropriate for the Committee remind the State Party of its obligation to transmit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on future projects, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is also recommended that the Committee welcome works undertaken through the Emergency International Assistance request approved on 21 December 2018.

The report provided by DGAM on the update of the 2003 building code, and the draft building code, which was shared with the World Heritage Centre on 16 March 2020, highlight that the excavation policy in place before the conflict has caused a shift in housing as most families have moved to new houses outside the limits of the property. A study on land-use and land-ownership in the property and its buffer zone shows that the recent conflict has impacted the residential area that surrounds al-Omari Mosque, the suq area and the eastern side of the Ancient City. The proposed update of the building code has been subject to technical review by ICOMOS, which is generally supportive but has offered comments regarding preservation of the architectural morphology, and avoiding intrusive tourist infrastructure, such as car parking. The ICOMOS technical review also supports emergency consolidation works, the preparation of a site management plan and master plan and further consideration of the views in the buffer zone.

Within the framework of the Italian funded project on "Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Protection in Syria, and in the Ancient City of Bosra in particular as a follow up to the World Heritage Committee Decisions", a Technical Assistance workshop was initially organized in Beirut in October 2019, to address the conservation and management of several World Heritage properties in Syria, including the Ancient City

of Bosra. Notably, it was planned to assess ongoing emergency interventions undertaken by DGAM to provide advice on recovery interventions, and initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, because of the prevailing security situation in Lebanon at the time, the workshop could not take place as planned. The workshop was rescheduled for March 2020 in Amman (Jordan), but again could not take due to the sanitary conditions prevailing. Nevertheless, it is expected that following successful 'pilot projects' at other Syrian World Heritage properties, it will be possible for preliminary work on the DSOCR to be initiated remotely, through exchanges between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the DGAM. The international conference for the recovery of the property, planned within the framework of the project remains a priority and will be organized as soon as possible.

Given the progress achieved in planning the recovery of the property and in implementing emergency interventions at the site, it is now crucial that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as the situation allows.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.32** and **43 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Taking into account Decision **44 COM 7A.24**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,*
4. *Welcomes the high quality works undertaken by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request approved in December 2018,*
5. *Expresses its concern that extensive illegal excavations were carried out at the site and calls upon the international community to collaborate for the sharing of inventories and documentation that could facilitate the return of looted objects;*
6. *Requests the State Party to limit restoration works, including at the Kalybe monument (Cradle of the King's Daughter), to first aid interventions until discussions on defining optimal restoration approaches are carried out, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, information on any proposed reconstruction or restoration projects within the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
7. *Taking note of the submission of the updated building code proposal, also requests the State Party to review the code in response to the technical review by ICOMOS, and also welcomes the efforts made towards the recovery of the property, the revitalization of the urban fabric, and encouraging the return of inhabitants, while providing regulations to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
8. *Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
9. *Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;*

10. Takes note with satisfaction of the intention by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to pursue elaboration of a set of correctives measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and encourages them to prepare these documents for examination by the Committee at its 45th session in 2022;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
12. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

20. 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

Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Corrective measures identified

Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 186,050

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:

- Society valuing of heritage (Poor state of conservation)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Inappropriate restoration techniques)
- Legal framework (Lack of a buffer zone) (issue resolved)
- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of a management plan)
- Housing (Development projects threatening the emblematic historic fabric)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Development projects threatening the emblematic historic fabric) (issue resolved)

Since March 2011:

- War (Damage due to the armed conflict)
- Other factors (Fire due to an electrical incident at al-Asrooniya and elsewhere in the property)
- Management activities (Lack of maintenance of the sewage system due to the conflict)

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 January 2020 and 7 January 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- On 2 February 2019, a 10x5m portion of the outer ancient city wall in the area between Bab al-Salam and Bab Touma collapsed, owing to the lack of proper maintenance and water leakage from a damaged sewerage network. In October 2020, Emergency Assistance was provided under the World Heritage Fund for ‘Safeguarding the Damascus Ancient City Wall and the Adjacent Urban Fabric’. The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) has been documenting the area of Bab al-Salam and Bab Touma, assessing damage and threats, including through exploration trenches and using 3D documentation. The team has also sorted, analysed and stored the stones of the collapsed section of the wall for use in its restoration;
- The DGAM continued to implement the 2013 Emergency Response Plan and reported a substantial reduction of fire incidents. Nevertheless, several fires broke out in 2019 within the buffer zone of the property, showing that the threat remains;
- The use of inadequate building materials, arising from the lack and high cost of traditional building materials and lack of specialized professional labour, remains a major issue;
- Despite numerous difficulties, the security situation in the city has enabled progress with the management plan. Consultation with local communities is being carried out and a temporary restriction of car circulation in the property is being trialled. Cooperation with the relevant stakeholders on the documentation and preservation of historical buildings is ongoing;
- Concerning the “Ottoman Bank”, a progress report was submitted in the framework of the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) initiated with the World Heritage Centre with the Advisory Bodies. Although restoration of the Ottoman Bank has been initiated, the DGAM continues to face difficulties in controlling the work, owing to the lack of funding and divergences among stakeholders. A number of other documents were provided as well, notably the stakeholders’ common database of available documentation for historic buildings;
- On a general note, conservation works have resumed at the property according to the availability of resources. The State Party considers that the threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are no longer applicable and has invited a Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the implementation of the necessary corrective measures for the removal of the property from this List.

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

See General Decision **44 COM 24** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The efforts of the State Party to implement the 2013 Emergency Response Plan have reduced the number of fire incidents within the property, which is a positive development that should be maintained. Nevertheless, analysing and addressing reasons behind fires, as previously requested by the Committee, remains necessary.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to scale-up efforts to ensure that traditional restoration techniques and materials are used, in order to address cumulative potential threats to the authenticity of the property. This could be achieved by strengthening actions for the establishment of the Centre for the traditional production of building materials, as reported in 2019, as well as through the training of specialized labour and the enforcement of licensing regulations.

Despite the difficult financial situation, the State Party has resumed documentation, conservation and management activities. The Emergency Assistance support has facilitated documentation work for the ancient city wall and surrounding urban fabric, aiming at identifying the reasons behind the collapse of the wall in order to minimize risks and plan for restoration. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to also seek international support for continuing the work towards the elaboration of the management plan for the property. The Management Plan remains crucial to inform restoration decisions and ensure coordination among stakeholders.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue implementing all of the recommendations of the 2016 UNESCO First Aid Support Meeting and the 2016 UNESCO Technical Assistance Workshop, including in the rehabilitation of the "Ottoman Bank". In particular, interior partitions in the central courtyard of the upper floor are to be avoided, as recommended by the UNESCO experts.

Within the framework of the Italian funded project on "Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Protection in Syria and in the Ancient City of Bosra in particular as a follow up to the World Heritage Committee Decisions", a Technical Assistance workshop was initially organized in Beirut in October 2019 to address the conservation and management of several World Heritage properties in Syria, including the Ancient City of Damascus. It was planned to assess on-going emergency interventions undertaken by DGAM, to provide advice on the development of the management plan and the conservation of the collapsed city wall, and to initiate elaboration of the DSOCR. However, because of the prevailing security situation in Lebanon at the time, the workshop could not take place as planned. The workshop was rescheduled for March 2020 in Amman (Jordan), but could not take place due to the prevailing sanitary conditions restricting travel and meetings. Nevertheless, work on the DSOCR has been initiated remotely through the close collaboration of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the DGAM. Three online meetings, organized on 19 November 2020, 15 February and 3 May 2021, as well as substantial follow up, allowed the work to progress in this regard. The proposed DSOCR, corrective measures, and a timeframe for implementation have been established, and are recommended for adoption.

Given the progress achieved in resuming regular conservation and management work at the property, including the restoration of the "Ottoman Bank" historical building, it remains crucial that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission take place as soon as the situation allows, to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.33** and **43 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Taking into account Decision **44 COM 7A.24** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,*
4. *Expresses its concern about the collapse of a portion of the outer ancient city wall of the Ancient City of Damascus, in the area between Bab al-Salam and Bab Touma, and takes note of the documentation and emergency work undertaken in the framework of the*

Emergency Assistance approved in October 2020, to identify and address the reasons behind the collapse in order to minimize risks;

5. *Welcomes the positive results achieved by the State Party in reducing the number of fire incidents within the property through the effective implementation of the 2013 Emergency Response Plan and encourages the State Party to further pursue these efforts and to analyse the reasons behind the fires;*
6. *Also encourages the State Party to scale-up efforts towards the use of traditional construction techniques and materials for restoration works, by strengthening the actions for the establishment of the Centre for the traditional production of building materials reported to have been established in 2019, as well as through the training of specialized labour and the enforcement of licensing regulations, in order to address cumulative potential threats to the authenticity of the property;*
7. *Further encourages the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2016 UNESCO First Aid Support Meeting and the 2016 UNESCO Technical Assistance Workshop, and to pursue its efforts towards the development of a Management Plan for the property and to consider applying for an International Assistance request to this end;*
8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party 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 before any irreversible decisions are made;*
9. *Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;*
10. *Takes note with satisfaction of the works undertaken by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a set of correctives measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
11. *Adopts the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), corrective measures- and timeframe, as follows:*
 - a) *Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:*
 - (i) *Removal of substantive threats arising from the conflict that started in 2011,*
 - (ii) *Restoration of the deteriorated/compromised attributes, or at least evidence that the State Party has planned appropriate restoration works and has initiated the process for each specified damaged building,*
 - (iii) *Removal or commitment to removal of illegal or unauthorised development,*
 - (iv) *Reinstatement of the property's protection and management system with, where necessary, enhanced capacity to ensure it can manage the risks of the conflict situation and mitigate other indirect risks such as fires, sewage leaks and illegal constructions in priority areas,*
 - (v) *Enhancement of the capacity of the property's protection and management system through the development of a Master Plan, to manage additional*

factors that threaten the integrity and authenticity of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

b) *Corrective measures:*

- *Implemented since 2013:*

- (i) *Restoration of specified damaged buildings based on existing documentation, including with the involvement of NGOs, the University of Damascus, the local communities and youth,*
- (ii) *Building control system in place and a technical code for restoration under development,*
- (iii) *A strategy is developed to mitigate risks linked to electricity and sewage infrastructure (resulting in fires and water infiltrations), and risks linked to the deterioration of residences and commercial places, and its implementation is initiated through studies and partnerships with the local communities, the University of Damascus, NGOs and craftspeople associations, and by addressing the issue of traditional material availability,*
- (iv) *The update of the Master plan for the Ancient City of Damascus is initiated,*

- *Not yet implemented:*

- (v) *Establishment and activation of a legal mechanism for micro-finance loans and restoration licenses for private properties,*
- (vi) *Organisation of training workshops for craftspeople and support the provision of traditional material,*
- (vii) *Continuation of the implementation of the risk mitigation strategy aiming at mitigating risks linked to electricity and sewage infrastructure in priority areas,*
- (viii) *Approval and initiation of the implementation of the Master Plan,*
- (ix) *Strengthening fundraising efforts and enhance cooperation with local communities, NGOs and Damascus University, for risk mitigation and the implementation of the Master Plan,*

c) *Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:*

The implementation of corrective measures should be completed within a period of three years,

12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the State Party in the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;
13. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
14. **Decides** to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

21. 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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://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 <https://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 built, 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:

- Legal framework (Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes)
- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Housing (Development or infrastructure projects)
- Management System/Management Plan (Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan)

Since March 2011:

- War (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Illegal activities (Use of ancient stones as building material,
- illegal constructions and excavations, use of the sites by internally displaced people)
- Military training (Use of the sites by armed groups)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Quarrying
- Land conversion
-

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 January 2020 and 7 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>, but which include very limited information about the property and its state of conservation, as follows:

- The site is still mostly inaccessible owing to the ongoing presence of armed groups, which explains the lack of available information;
- Local communities report violations such as illegal excavations and constructions, which have affected the eight archaeological parks of the property;
- The State Party is monitoring damage at the archaeological parks through photos, maps, reports and field visits (when possible).

No further information is provided in its reports.

The damage previously reported at the property, such as the use of stones from the archaeological sites as building material, new roads, illegal constructions and quarrying, illegal excavation, clearing of lands for agricultural purposes, and the use of the sites for military purposes, is confirmed by the UNITAR/UNOSAT comparison analysis of satellite images captured between 2017 and 2020. This analysis has been undertaken for the elaboration of the UNESCO-UNITAR joint publication “Ten Years of Conflict: The State of Cultural Heritage in Syria”. The satellite images show that reported threats have been realised and that damage has increased in most of the archaeological parks. In particular, the analysis highlights the complete destruction of the village of Batouta in Jebel Sem’an, likely to increase agricultural lands, and the destruction of the remaining part of the column of Saint Simeon in Qal’at Sem’an and the hermit tower in Sheikh Sulaiman. Several other archaeological buildings were destroyed in Jebel Barisha, in particular at the sites of Dar Qita, Deirouneh, Baqirha, and Kherbet al-Khatib; in Jebel Wastani, in particular in Kafr Aqareb; and in Jebel Zawayeh, in particular at the sites of Shinshara and al-Bara where the major Church of al-Hosn was completely destroyed, and the site cleared for agriculture purposes.

Other sources present on the ground have also assessed damage in Jebel Zawayeh and Jebel al-A’la, providing ground images of damages reported by UNITAR/UNOSAT. In addition, they have provided information about Jebel al-A’la, and the impact of the conversion of the church of Qalb Lozeh into a school and the use of Qirqbizeh as a camp to accommodate displaced populations. In both cases, the efforts of the local community to protect and conserve the component of the property have been highlighted.

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

See General Decision **44 COM 24** all concerned parties to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the property, including through its use for military or other purposes.

It is essential to conduct a full detailed on-site assessment of the damage and the overall state of conservation of the property in detail as soon as the security situation allows, and to identify measures needed for ensuring the conservation and protection of the property, and, in due course, for the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and identification of an associated set of corrective measures.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.34** and **43 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),

3. Taking into account Decision **44 COM 7A.24**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its great concern about the situation at the property, in particular the presence of armed groups, illegal excavation and looting activities in and around the property, and the lack of detailed information on damage incurred;
5. Calls again on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the property, including through its use for military or other purposes;
6. Also calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
7. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to 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;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
9. Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

22. 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

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/1229/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1998-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 95,000 (USD 65,000 under International Assistance and USD 30,000 under the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger).

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: 200,000 Euros by the Italian Government; for built, 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: Management System/Management Plan (Lack of conservation and/or management plans)
- Management activities (Inappropriate restoration works)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)
- Quarrying (Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties)

Since 2011:

- War (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Cable car project at Qal'at Salah El-Din) (issue resolved)

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 January 2020 and 7 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges with conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- In the framework of the International Assistance provided under the World Heritage Fund (February 2019) to undertake documentation works for the elaboration of a Master Plan for the Crac des Chevaliers component of the property, the joint Syrian-Hungarian mission undertook the following activities:
 - Initiation of structural, historical and archaeological studies, including at the Chapel, where many excavations have been undertaken,
 - Elaboration of a topographical network of points, and an architectural coding system for drawing, resulting in the updating of available plans,
 - Studies for the diagnosis of structural and building material decay, including assessment of stone deterioration, using a non-destructive technique. Short term interventions are being prioritised, but long-term planning is required;
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activities planned to be carried out with the Hungarian experts have been postponed. Restoration work at Crac des Chevaliers includes the restoration of the southern arch and vault of the hall of the Knights, the main staircase in the inner courtyard, and the northeastern corner of the stable. Areas considered important for visitors but of critical stability, were also restored as a priority. The installation of visitor facilities, such as signboards and a cafeteria, are funded by the Ministry of Tourism;
- Al-Hawash University provided the support of 400 volunteers to weed the site of Crac des Chevaliers and prevent its deterioration due to vegetation growth;
- In the framework of the International Assistance support provided under the World Heritage Fund (March 2020), for Documentation and Emergency Structural Interventions at Qala't Salah El-Din component of the property, the following activities have been carried out:
 - A topographic survey,
 - Assessment of damage, particularly at Qal'at Salah El-Din's south-eastern side, where part of the Byzantine wall collapsed in 2019, and at the Byzantine tower, where the cross vault

of the second floor of the tower collapsed in 2017. Severe cracks were identified in several structures, including the Royal Tower, the stables, the water tank, and other towers and walls. Damage mainly results from uncontrolled vegetation growth, weathering, insufficient maintenance and topographical constraints,

- Identification of priority interventions for stabilisation and restoration works,
- Emergency interventions in several areas. The Byzantine wall, the stone steps and the damaged tower have been stabilized and reconstructed,
- Development of a project for the restoration of Burj al-Tibn;
- A visitor plan, which addresses sustainable tourism, is being elaborated for Qal'at Salah El-Din, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism. A visitor route and the tourism centre have been rehabilitated;
- In October 2020, a fire broke out in the forest surrounding Qal'at Sal'ah El-Din, reaching its buffer zone. Emergency breaking lines set by the Ministry of Agriculture prevented the spread of the fire to this component of the property.

The State Party advises that the reasons for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger are no longer relevant.

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

See General Decision **43 COM 24** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is recommended that the Committee welcome progress with works undertaken in the framework of the International Assistance provided for the Crac des Chevaliers and for Qal'at Salah El-Din, including the restoration works that are improving the castles' structural stability.

The International Assistance request for Qal'at Salah El-Din, approved on 3 March 2020, supports the systematic documentation of damage incurred at the property and implementation of risk mitigation measures as requested by the Committee (Decision **43 COM 7A.35**), as well as the elaboration of a Management Plan and a Master Plan for the site and its surroundings. The State Party should be encouraged to develop risk mitigation measures in the buffer zone as well, and to address in particular the risk arising from forest fires.

With regard to the cable car project at Qal'at Salah El-Din, the World Heritage Centre has been informed that this has been cancelled, and that the Ministry of Tourism received funds for the creation of tourism trails around the castle. The State Party should be reminded of the obligations to submit information on this project, and other major projects proposed at the property, to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In the framework of the Italian-funded project on "Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Protection in Syria and in the Ancient City of Bosra in particular as a follow-up to the World Heritage Committee Decisions", a Technical Assistance workshop was initially organized in Beirut in October 2019, to address the conservation and management of several World Heritage properties in Syria, including Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din. It was planned to assess on-going emergency and recovery interventions undertaken by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) at the property, provide advice on tourism management at the property and on the project proposed by the Ministry of Tourism, and initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, owing to the prevailing security situation in Lebanon at the time, the workshop could not take place. Subsequently, it was rescheduled for March 2020 in Amman (Jordan), but could not take place due to the prevailing sanitary conditions restricting travel and meetings. Nevertheless, initial work on the DSOCR has been initiated remotely, through exchanges between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the DGAM. Following the cancellation of the meeting in Beirut, the World Heritage Centre provided a technical report proposing alternative eco-tourism measures for sustainable tourism development at the property.

Given the progress achieved in resuming regular conservation and management works, including in implementing emergency measures, it is crucial that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission take place as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.35** and **43 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Taking into account Decision **44 COM 7A.24** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Welcomes the cancellation of the Cable Car project at Qal'at Salah El-Din by the State Party, and notes the intention to create tourism trails around the site;
5. Also welcomes the works carried out by the State Party, through its Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM), in the framework of the International Assistance requests approved in February 2019 for the Crac des Chevaliers and in March 2020 for Qal'at Salah El-Din, which will contribute to the development of a conservation Management Plan and Master Plan for the property and its surroundings; and encourages the State Party to include a Risk Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone;
6. Reminds the State Party of its obligations to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, information on the proposed creation of tourism trails around the castle at Qal'at Salah El-Din and any proposed reconstruction or restoration project within the property and its buffer zone, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
8. Takes note with satisfaction of the initiation by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies of a process for the elaboration of a set of corrective measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
9. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
11. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. 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: 38 543 USD by the Flemish Government, 18 560 USD from the UNESCO Emergency Fund, 21 000 USD by the Government of the Netherlands

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, 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:

- Temperature change (Serious weathering of many stone blocks due to capillary rising and variations in humidity and temperature)
- Housing (Urban growth of the neighbouring agglomeration)
- Ground transport infrastructure (International tarmac road crosses the site, heavy automobile and truck traffic inducing vibrations, pollution, and risk of accidents)
- Major linear utility (Pipeline crossing the southern necropolis)
- Localized utility (Brightly-coloured antenna on hill)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Construction of a hotel close to the thermal springs)
- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of a management plan)

Since March 2011:

- War (Destruction due to the armed conflict since March 2011)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Perilous condition of the portico of the Temple of Bel and the Triumphal Arch)
- Illegal activities (illegal excavations)
- Financial resources (Lack of adequate funding for urgent conservation initiatives)

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

Current conservation issues

On 15 January 2020 and 7 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges relating to some of the conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The State Party reports that despite the efforts of the government in recovering the city's infrastructure and schools, Palmyra is still mostly uninhabited;
- Architectural remains are in danger of collapse and face serious deterioration and risk of critical failure. The Citadel, Temple of Bel and the Triumphal Arch require urgent intervention and consolidation;
- Major challenges include the lack of funding, which prevents emergency interventions to take place at damaged structures in risk of further collapse, and the lack of relevant documentation regarding the damaged monuments;
- Despite this situation, efforts are being made by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM): in October 2019, a damage assessment survey was undertaken, documenting 461 illegal excavations and pits. Some of the pits are reported to threaten the foundations of historic structures;
- The DGAM's vision for the recovery phase in Palmyra was presented during the "Technical Meeting on the Recovery of the World Heritage Site of Palmyra" on 18 December 2019 at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. The vision presents the key objectives for the recovery of the site, which includes engaging local communities in the recovery, undertaking conservation and restoration works according to international standards, reviving the memory of the site and developing short and long-term integrated planning;
- A Ministerial Decree N° 258/A was issued in September 2019 to enhance the protection of the buffer zone, as recommended by the World Heritage Committee in 2017 (Decision **41 COM 8B.51**);
- In November 2020, the DGAM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Stone Industry of Russia for the restoration of the Triumphal Arch. In this framework, the DGAM requested the support of UNESCO for the creation of a scientific committee to review and provide inputs on project proposals and implementation;
- In December 2020, the World Heritage Centre participated in a conference on the recovery of Palmyra, organized by the State Hermitage Museum in Saint-Petersburg.

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

See General Decision **44 COM 24** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is recommended that the Committee express its concerns about the high number of illegal excavations at the site highlighted by the damage assessment and about the risk of further damage to monuments which is exacerbated by the lack of funding available for emergency intervention and consolidation works.

The Technical Meeting on the Recovery of the World Heritage Site of Palmyra, organized by the World Heritage Centre in December 2019, was attended by over 30 international experts. This meeting focused on issues of reconstruction and recovery at the property. A number of recommendations were agreed, including the need for emergency interventions at specific monuments, carrying out a detailed assessment of damaged structures as well as of the site as a whole, enhancing international coordination including for the return of looted objects, and making utmost use of modern technologies and digitized inventories for the benefit of scientific studies and documentation. An integrated conservation Management Plan should be prepared using a comprehensive participatory value-based approach, to include policies, strategies and actions to ensure the sustainable conservation of the property, taking into consideration the oasis setting. It was also agreed that the reconstruction works for monuments should not be undertaken in the immediate future, but that rehabilitation of the site museum is a priority and should be planned with a holistic interpretation approach to include all values associated

with the site. The return of local communities and their re-connection with the property were also considered essential for the site's recovery. Further detail of the results of the meeting and proposed future activities at the property are available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2133>. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to seek the support of the international community in implementing the recommendations of the technical meeting, which is aligned with its vision for the property. The World Heritage Centre has initiated exchanges with DGAM for the creation of an International Scientific Task Force for Palmyra that would review and provide inputs on project proposals and implementation, follow-up on the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions and ensure that technical requirements meet international standards. It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party of its obligation to transmit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on future projects, including the proposed restoration of the Triumphal Arch, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Given the challenges facing the property and the interest of the international community, it is highly desirable that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission take place as soon as the situation allows, to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property. It would be appropriate to initiate a process for the identification of a set of corrective measures and the development of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for consideration by the Committee, preferably in conjunction with this mission.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.36** and **43 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Taking into account Decision **44 COM 7A.24**, on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,*
4. *Expresses its concern that extensive illegal excavation took place at the site and calls upon the international community to collaborate for the sharing of inventories and documentation that could facilitate the return of looted objects;*
5. *Also expresses its concern that monuments at the property remain at serious risk of further collapse owing to lack of funding for emergency interventions including consolidation works;*
6. *Takes notes of the technical meeting, organized by the World Heritage Centre in December 2019, which elaborated a set of recommendations on optimal approaches for the recovery of the site with the international community of experts, and in particular highlighting the necessity to:*
 - a) *Urgently undertake emergency interventions at damaged monuments,*
 - b) *Carry out detailed assessment of damaged structures as well as of the property as a whole,*
 - c) *Make utmost use of modern technologies and digitized inventories for the benefit of scientific studies and documentation,*
 - d) *Refrain from reconstructing any monument in the immediate future, with the exception of the rehabilitation of the Site Museum that should be planned within a*

holistic approach that takes into consideration the interpretation of all values associated with the site,

- e) *Instigate the preparation of an integrated conservation management plan through a comprehensive participatory value-based approach, to include policies, strategies and actions to ensure the sustainable conservation of the property, also taking into consideration the oasis setting,*
 - f) *Continue to encourage, by all means, the return of local communities,*
 - g) *Support the creation of an International Scientific Task Force for the recovery of the property;*
7. *Expresses its appreciation to the Russian Federation for organizing the conference on the recovery of Palmyra at the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg;*
 8. *Requests the State Party to implement the above-mentioned recommendations of the UNESCO technical meeting, and the recommendations of the 2016 UNESCO Technical Assistance Workshop, in particular concerning the emergency consolidation measures, and to seek funding to support these activities;*
 9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, information on any proposed reconstruction or restoration projects within the property, including the proposed restoration of the Triumphal Arch, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
 10. *Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
 11. *Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and the elaboration of a set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 45th session in 2022;*
 12. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
 13. ***Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

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

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

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (2002 and 2021)

Total amount approved: USD 40,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 7,324,120 (2003-2018) from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 159,000 (2011-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 6,845,121 (2013-2021) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 7,336,166 (2013-2019) from UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in Trust; USD 1,500,000 (2017-2026) from the Government of Afghanistan; USD 3.8 million from the Japanese Government for the project 'Sustainable Management of the Property - Preparing the Removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger' (2020-2022)

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Housing
- Others (Risk of collapse of the Giant Buddha niches; Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings)

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents/> and provides updated information on the implementation of the Committee's previous decisions, as follows:

- Consultations on the Bamiyan Cultural Master Plan (CMP) were organized with local stakeholders in 2019 through the ongoing UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project and by the State Party. The CMP was previously approved by the Afghan Ministry of Urban Development in 2006. The meetings raised awareness of heritage management among local community members and allowed to assess the level of integration between the Cultural Master Plan and the City Master Plan;
- Monitoring and coordination efforts have been deployed by the central and local authorities to prevent development, and especially housing development, at historical sites;
- The Ministry of Interior Affairs employed specialised police officers for the protection of the property components within the Bamiyan Valley, with the aim of controlling illegal or unauthorized access to the sites;
- As part of its report, the State Party submitted a 'Draft Action Plan concerning the Future Treatment of the Buddha Niches and the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley'. In this draft Action Plan, the Technical Working Committee (TWC) considers that all four proposals concerning the reconstruction of eastern Buddha niche discussed at the Tokyo meeting in 2017 need to be studied further by considering similar cases at World Heritage properties around the world, while also expressing its intention to invite further proposals. The TWC recommends further investigation into the potential impacts of any proposed reconstruction at the World Heritage property and strongly suggests that priority be given to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- Further to the consolidation of parts of Shahr-i-Gholghola, a joint mission by a UNESCO expert and a national expert from Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) was organized in 2019. The MoIC hopes to continue consolidation works from 2020 onwards, with support from UNESCO and the international community;
- The State Party indicates that it does not have sufficient financial resources to implement conservation activities at each of the eight component sites spread out along the valley and requires continued assistance from UNESCO and the international community to do so.

The State Party also submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as per the Committee's previous request, the Strategic Master Plan (SMP) for Bamiyan, finalized in 2018 with the support of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and Florence University (Italy) and endorsed by the President of Afghanistan, for review by the Advisory Bodies. Details on the traffic plan and bypass road project, requested at earlier sessions, were provided in November 2019.

The World Heritage Centre received third-party information in June 2020, reporting the completion of the road construction at Tepe Almas, in the vicinity of Shahr-i-Gholghola. Information was provided to the World Heritage Centre in July 2020 and the ICOMOS Technical Review on the road construction and the SMP were transmitted to the State Party on 27 July 2020.

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

The steps taken by the State Party to ensure due consultations with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, are welcome. It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge this fact and strongly encourage the State Party to continue such outreach activities and inscribe consultation mechanisms as a permanent component of the management system.

The July 2020 ICOMOS Technical Review of the SMP advises that several aspects should be discussed and integrated into a further revised version of the document, such as the concept of cultural landscape, community engagement, or the revision of the buffer zones. In its July 2020 Technical Review of the road from Dasht-e Isa Khan to Gholghola Bazaar, ICOMOS indicates that the project would have an adverse impact on the setting of the component site of Shahr-i-Gholghola and advises that aspects such as archaeology be further investigated and a detailed traffic and road hierarchy plan created. The Committee may wish to remind the State Party of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* regarding

the submission of complete technical documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The suggestion by the TWC in the Action Plan to prioritize the removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger over reconstruction efforts should be noted with satisfaction. To this end, the ICOMOS Technical Review of the Action Plan suggests revisions to the Action Plan in order to clarify the required actions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to ensure that the technical assignments foreseen through the operational projects are aligned with the requirements of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), approved by the Committee in Decision **31 COM 7A.21**. Overall, it is recommended that the Committee welcome the steps taken towards the establishment of the Action Plan to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and recommend close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to agree on all the necessary work to finalize the Action Plan along with a timeline to achieve its full implementation.

It is recommended that the Committee express its appreciation of the substantial new funding provided by Japan (USD 3.8 million), aiming at supporting the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee may also encourage all stakeholders to make full use of the support provided via this project to develop a costed Action Plan. Details of the technical assignments and work plan foreseen by the project funded by Japan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and the project should be implemented so as to strengthen the active involvement of the Afghan authorities and foster a sense of ownership towards the various ongoing processes at the property.

Security measures and the coherence of management frameworks are dependent on the State Party's perennial commitment to planning and its demonstrated capability to ensure these conditions. It should be noted that the permanent deployment of on-site guards for all components of the property remains vital for site security, and the State Party's actions to ensure this important element of the DSOCR should be welcomed.

As was pointed out in earlier reports to the Committee, the successful management of the property is dependent on self-sufficient funding for all heritage-related activities. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee encourage again the State Party to prepare a long-term strategy to ensure that the necessary resources for the most important operations are continuously available.

As 2021 marks the tragic 20th anniversary of the destruction of Buddha statues in Bamiyan (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2253>), the Committee may wish to reaffirm its support to the Afghan people and reinforce its commitment to stand together in protecting and safeguarding our shared cultural heritage. The Committee may also wish to call upon the international community to provide further technical and financial support in order to assist the State Party in achieving the DSOCR for the property.

Finally, it should be noted that, despite earlier requests, no information was provided on the progress and planned use of the Bamiyan Cultural Centre. The Committee may therefore wish to strongly encourage the State Party to use this on-site facility to enhance the interpretation of the World Heritage property, providing information on its tangible as well as associative heritage values.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 42 COM 7A.1 and 43 COM 7A.41 adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and the 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the steps taken by the State Party to ensure due consultations with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, and strongly encourages it to continue such outreach activities and inscribe consultation mechanisms as a permanent component of the management system;*

4. Acknowledges the submission of the Strategic Master Plan (SMP) for Bamiyan, developed in 2018 with the support of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and Florence University (Italy), and requests that the State Party further develop the SMP, taking into account the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review;
5. Noting that details on the traffic plan and bypass road project were provided, as requested at earlier sessions, takes note with great concern of the reported completion of the construction of the road in Tepe Almas near Shahr-i-Gholghola, and also requests the State Party to take the advice of the ICOMOS Technical Review into consideration, to fully comply with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and not to take any decision that would be difficult to reverse before obtaining the approval of the Committee;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with information about any restoration and proposed projects and their potential impact on the OUV of the property, including detailed information on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), prepared in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, and in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also welcomes the submission of the draft Action Plan for Bamiyan, prepared by the Technical Working Committee (TWC) in conjunction with new funding from the Government of Japan, notes with satisfaction the TWC's suggestion to prioritize the removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger over reconstruction efforts, and urges the Afghan authorities to revise the Action Plan and the timeline for its implementation in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as soon as possible, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to work towards its full implementation;
8. Thanks the Government of Japan for supporting activities towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger by providing funding through UNESCO, encourages all stakeholders to make full use of the support provided by this project to strengthen the involvement of the Afghan authorities and the fostering of a sense of ownership of all processes at the property, and to develop a cost projection for the implementation of the agreed Action Plan to achieve the DSOCR, and further requests that the technical assignments and work plan for the project funded by Japan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible;
9. Also notes with satisfaction the State Party's efforts to increase site security, reiterates that the successful management of the property is dependent on sustainable financial and human resources, and also encourages the State Party to prepare a long-term strategy to ensure that the necessary resources for the most important operations towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and its sustainable management are continuously available;
10. Reaffirms its support to the Afghan people on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the destruction of the Buddha statues, expresses again its strong commitment to stand together in protecting and safeguarding our shared cultural heritage, and reiterates its call to the international community to provide further technical and financial support in order to assist the State Party in achieving the DSOCR for the property;
11. Regrets that, despite earlier requests, no information was provided on progress with the Bamiyan Cultural Centre and its planned use, and also strongly encourages the State

Party to use this on-site facility to enhance the interpretation of the World Heritage property, providing information on its tangible as well as associative heritage values;

12. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022;*
13. ***Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

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

- Lack of legal protection
- Lack of an effective monuments protection agency
- Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel
- Lack of a comprehensive Management Plan

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2002 to 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 93,750

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 844,901 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 124,300 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 16,800 (2017) from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund; USD 1,921,888 from the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for a UNESCO project on the safeguarding of Jam.

Previous monitoring missions

Several annual UNESCO expert missions took place between 2002 and 2006 in order to implement the operational projects for the property. After a period of three years of inactivity from 2007 to 2009 due to the security situation, UNESCO dispatched two missions in cooperation with an Afghan local NGO in 2010 and 2014 to resume on-site operations; September 2017: mission within the framework of the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Political instability)

- River erosion (Inclination of the Minaret)
- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of management plan)
- Illegal activities (Illicit excavations and looting)
- Erosion and siltation/deposition

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/document/171732> and provides information on the implementation of the corrective measures and other elements as follows:

- At the end of May 2019, after heavy flooding in the area around the minaret, a mission was carried out by a joint group of national experts with the purpose of assessing the status of the property and its surroundings. The mission reported that parts of the retaining wall on the bank of Jam Rud river had been washed away and the riverbeds of the Jam Rud and Hari Rud rivers were filled with sediment. The mission noted the need for emergency cleaning and reconstruction of the damaged parts of the retaining wall;
- Following the flooding, the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) took emergency action and allocated USD 109,000 dollars to the cleaning of sediment from the riverbeds and reconstruction of damaged parts of the retaining walls. This work was to be implemented before April/May 2020;
- Due to the floods of May 2019, the on-site guest house and office was severely damaged. The MoIC has allocated some of its budget to the reconstruction of the site office for 2020;
- An overall action plan for the emergency conservation of the Jam Minaret is foreseen to be elaborated by MoIC in 2020, and several meetings were organized with relevant government stakeholders and the UNESCO Office in Kabul. This includes the extension of gabion walls on the south bank of the Hari Rud river, tree planting upstream of the minaret in order to mitigate the impact of possible future flooding, and the implementation of a system to monitor the height and flow of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers. A joint mission of the UNESCO Office and the MoIC to the property is also planned in the course of the year;
- The footbridge over the Hari Rud remains to be realized. The State Party indicates that its construction currently depends on the 2020 budget allocation, in addition to the safety and security situation on site;
- The MoIC and the Ministry of Interior Affairs deployed a team of police officers to monitor and safeguard the property to address the illicit trafficking of any movable cultural property.

In July 2019, the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) has approved the UNESCO project “Safeguarding the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam, Afghanistan” for USD 1.92 million. The project aims to reinforce capacities for the protection and management of Jam, with a contribution to the implementation of corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee. In particular, the project will help to establish a detailed conservation plan for the property.

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

The May 2019 flooding damaged a retaining wall built in 2014 on the bank of the Jam Rud river and filled the riverbeds of the Jam Rud and Hari Rud rivers with sediment. The Committee may note with satisfaction the emergency action undertaken by the MoIC, including a financial allocation for sediment removal and the reconstruction of the damaged parts of the retaining wall.

While the State Party’s quick reaction to the natural disaster is a positive development, it is regrettable that no further conservation work or corrective measures, as specified by the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and previous Committee decisions have been carried out to date. The CAP should serve as the basis for the revision of the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee in Decision **31 COM 7A.20** (Christchurch, 2007). Central elements of the CAP, including the installation of a monitoring device at the minaret, the emergency stabilization of the wooden staircases, the construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud, and the rehabilitation of the guesthouse, are still pending and risk becoming increasingly challenging to implement.

Although it is of concern that an action plan for emergency conservation work, established on the basis of the documentation work carried out in September 2017, was delayed to 2020, the efforts of the State Party to establish the overall action plan, in cooperation with relevant government organizations and the UNESCO Office in Kabul, should be acknowledged.

Regarding the State Party's progress on the corrective measures, it is recommended that the Committee note the continued deployment by the State Party of security personnel on site in order to prevent illicit trafficking of movable heritage.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to clearly delineate the boundaries of the minaret, the other three components of the property, and the encompassing buffer zone, as a critical step towards developing an effective conservation strategy. The delineation should take into consideration the topographic map produced in 2012, which was designed to facilitate the submission of a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with the CAP and in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The efforts of the MoIC to elaborate an overall action plan for the emergency conservation work of Jam Minaret, including a joint mission by a group of Afghan officials and UNESCO experts, should be acknowledged.

While the financial assistance from ALIPH is welcomed, the effective implementation of the operational projects may encounter difficulties due to the continued concerns relating to security and natural disaster risks. Nevertheless, the State Party may be advised to seek additional resources from the international community, including International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund and/or other extra-budgetary resources, in order to finalize the overall action plan, delineate boundaries, and carry out capacity-building activities, pending the improvement of the local situation. Therefore, existing and new international partners are invited to provide funding and technical support to the State Party in progressing towards the fulfilment of the corrective measures and further capacity building at the property.

It would therefore be appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.42 adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to address the critical situation caused by the floods of May 2019, the deployment of security forces and the planning of future actions;*
4. *Notes with serious concern however the continued lack of sustainable financial resources and the alarming security situation, which, combined with natural disasters, brought another layer of difficulties in implementing conservation work based upon the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and the corrective measures adopted by the Committee;*
5. *Urges the State Party to seek the necessary means to implement the following:*
 - a) *Installation of a monitoring instrument on the Minaret of Jam to measure its inclination,*
 - b) *Emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases, in order to prevent further destabilization of the minaret's structure,*
 - c) *Construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud and the reconstruction of the site office at the property, in order to improve access to the property and site security;*

- d) *Ensure the completion of the emergency cleaning of sediment from the riverbeds and the reconstruction of the damaged retaining wall, as well as the implementation of preventive measures such as the extension of gabion walls, tree planting, and monitoring of the height and flow of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers;*
6. *Also notes with concern that action for emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases of the property, established on the basis of the documentation work of September 2017, was delayed to 2020, but acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to establish the overall action plan, in cooperation with relevant government organizations and the UNESCO Office in Kabul;*
7. *Regrets that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone still remain to be precisely defined, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, taking into consideration the topographical map produced in 2012 to facilitate the delineation of these boundaries, in conformity with the CAP and in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Notes with satisfaction that the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) has made available USD 1.92 million to support the implementation of the CAP, which is part of the strategy to implement the corrective measures adopted in Decision **31 COM 7A.20** (Christchurch, 2007) for the property;*
9. *Requests the State Party to sustainably allocate the necessary financial and human resources for the safeguarding of the property through its national budget and, to this end, strongly encourages the State Party to seek external funding, such as International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund and other extra-budgetary resources, to address conservation issues at the property, including the boundary modification, the establishment of the overall action plan of CAP as well as capacity building;*
10. *Reiterates its call to the international community to provide technical and financial support for the safeguarding of the property, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
12. ***Decides to retain the “Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam” (Afghanistan) on the list of World Heritage in Danger.***

30. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia, Federated States of) (C 1503)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)(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

- Management system/Management Plan

- Management activities (Overgrowth of vegetation, Stonework collapse)
- Storms (Effects of storm surge)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition

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/1503/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 1 (from 2017 to 2019)
Total amount approved: USD 30,000
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount provided: USD 120,000 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the preparation of a nomination file and the management plan for Nan Madol; USD 26,232 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for technical support to Nan Madol.

Previous monitoring missions
January 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (Legislation LB392 not yet passed and implemented)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Management system not extended enough; Lack of a risk preparedness strategy as well as of a comprehensive tourism strategy into the management plan)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition (Need to remove silt from the waterways without jeopardizing possible cultural layers on the sea floor)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/> and provides information on actions undertaken to implement Committee's previous decisions, as follows:

- Following the draft Conservation Plan, the State Party and its partners are elaborating a 'Sustainable Conservation Plan', to encompass vegetation management as well as interpretation. This plan is due to be finalized by September 2020;
- The State Party and the NGO Cultural Site Research and Management (CSR) Foundation are seeking funds from the US Department of State through its Ambassadors Fund for a 2-year implementation project, to commence in October 2020;
- The plan for vegetation management has been developed with the support of the US Forest Service, and a 2-week vegetation management training programme will be held on Pohnpei in March 2020;
- Priorities for vegetation management have been established. It is expected that urgent vegetation threats will be removed from the highest priority islets (Nan Dowas, Peinkitel, Pahn Kedira, Peikapw and Idehd) by April 2020. Medium and long-term actions for vegetation management will then be implemented;
- The legal framework (legislation LB392) is expected to be introduced by the end of March 2020. It will establish the Nan Madol Trust, and the framework for the management structure for the property (including a long-term Property Manager).

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being developed with the College of Micronesia-FSM to establish a framework for capacity building for the conservation and management of the property, in collaboration with the proposed Nan Madol Trust and the US Department of the Interior;
- The State Party considers that substantial re-building of masonry structures is undesirable, and is rendered virtually impossible due to the costs, technical challenges and the cultural context of the property, and that stones should only be re-positioned if no other options for stabilizing them are available;
- A visitor centre is planned and ICOMOS has provided a technical review of the project;
- A tourism resort is planned for development on Nahnningi Island, within the buffer zone of the property. ICOMOS has provided a technical review and has requested that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be prepared.
- The Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) will be drafted by the State Party by September 2020.

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

The updated information provided by the State Party should be welcomed, as many actions requested in Decision **43 COM 7A.43** are in progress and expected to reach important milestones during 2020. The collaboration with the CSR Foundation is noted, along with financial and technical support from the US Forest Service, US Department of State, and the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

It is noted with satisfaction that urgent threats associated with vegetation growth on islets and other structures have already been identified and will be addressed as part of short-term actions during 2020, following a training programme in Pohnpei.

However, little information is provided on the stability of stonework on the property, which is the key attribute of its OUV. Although it is indicated that any programme to reinstate fallen masonry is likely to be impossible given the size of the columns and boulders, it is also suggested that their cultural context might proscribe interventions, and that disturbing stonework should only be undertaken if no other option exists. A non-intervention policy cannot be supported if, over time, this will lead to the attrition of attributes. It is important to determine which parts of the stonework can be safely monitored and which parts need interventions to ensure their safety and stability. This conservation aspect needs to be urgently addressed and related to vegetation management.

A recent report from the company Arbor Global confirms that Nan Madol is deteriorating at an alarming rate, despite the progress made to address some urgent pressures. This reinforces the importance of planned vegetation management measures, as advancing vegetation is the main driver of masonry collapse, and of clearing canals to improve hydrology, including by removing footpaths and bridges.

The development of a Sustainable Conservation Plan that will allow the property to work towards sustainability in terms of vegetation, site management and interpretation is to be welcomed, but this must address the complex interaction between deterioration of stonework and vegetation and canal management and must also encompass tourism.

The Tourism Strategy requested by the Committee is yet to be developed. In addition to a wide range of tourism planning issues, this is urgent to identify which parts of the property can be accessible to visitors, so that conservation implications can be prioritized. The recent CSR Foundation report recommends that tourism activities be developed in the wider area in order to manage pressures on the property itself and has proposed the acquisition of LiDAR data for the whole of Pohnpei to assist longer-term planning.

Furthermore, in advance of the tourism strategy work, it is noted with concern that work has started on building a tourist resort on Nahnningi Island, in full view from the property. The recommendations of ICOMOS' technical review to halt construction until full details have been provided and properly assessed should be followed. It is noted that the State Party is preparing to conduct an HIA for the project, but it has not provided confirmation that work has been halted. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that the Committee request the State Party to halt this development so that the recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review can be fully addressed.

The circumstances of this project demonstrate the urgent need for adequate legal protection for the property and its buffer zone, and the need for HIA to be incorporated as a component of the property's

management system for all projects before any approval is given. Carrying out HIAs retrospectively is not a satisfactory way to proceed.

It is noted with concern that the key components of the legal protection and management system are not yet finalized or implemented, with draft legislation still pending. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to finalize this process, along with the Sustainable Conservation Plan, Site Management Plan, Interpretation Plan and Tourism Plan as matters of high priority. It is also noted that the 'Property Manager' continues as an interim arrangement only.

Finally, existing and new international partners are invited to provide funding and technical support to the State Party in progressing towards further capacity building and the development of the DSOCR.

In view of the above, it would be therefore appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.43** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the updated information provided by the State Party concerning the efforts to establish an effective management and protection system for the property, and to address the urgent pressures and threats affecting its state of conservation;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that funds for a two-year implementation programme are being sought from the US Department of State through its "Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Large Grants Program";*
5. *Notes that the State Party provides very few details on the stonework, which is the key attribute of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and that reinstating fallen masonry is likely to be impossible given the size of the columns and boulders and might be proscribed by their cultural context;*
6. *Considers that a non-intervention policy cannot be supported if, over time, this will lead to the attrition of attributes, and requests the State Party as a matter of urgency to determine which parts of the stonework can be safely monitored and which parts need interventions to ensure their safety and stability;*
7. *Also welcomes the development of a Sustainable Conservation Plan that aims to allow the property to achieve sustainability in relation to vegetation management, site management and interpretation through short-, medium- and longer-term actions over five years, but urges the State Party to ensure that this addresses the complex interaction between deterioration of stonework, vegetation and canal management, and requests the State Party to provide feedback on this issue in its future state of conservation report, as masonry stability and resilience is closely related to access issues;*
8. *Notes with concern that the recent report from the Cultural Site Research and Management (CSRM) Foundation confirms that the property is deteriorating at an alarming rate, despite the progress made to address some of the most urgent pressures, and highlights the fact that vegetation encroachment is the main cause of masonry deterioration, all of which underscores the need for the Sustainable Conservation Plan;*

9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a Sustainable Tourism Strategy as soon as possible and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
10. *Regrets that work on the development of a tourist resort on Nahnningo Island (in the buffer zone) has commenced in advance of this strategy and without a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) being developed, also requests the State Party to halt the development of this proposed tourism resort until the HIA has been developed and the issues raised in the ICOMOS technical review have been addressed, and further requests the State Party to submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before work resumes;*
11. *Strongly encourages the State Party to regularly provide updated information to the World Heritage Centre, and to continue these efforts as a matter of high priority, including:*
 - a) *Establishing a long-term commitment to the post of 'Property Manager',*
 - b) *Finalizing and approving legislation LB392 to provide legal protection to the property and establish the Nan Madol Trust,*
 - c) *Completing and finalizing the Sustainable Conservation Plan, Site Management Plan and Interpretation Plan for the property, and submitting them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - d) *Developing the Tourism Plan and implementing a sustainable tourism programme that includes activities and destinations beyond the property, and submitting this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - e) *Establishing processes for HIAs as part of the management system,*
 - f) *Implementing the short-term actions identified for vegetation management in the highest priority areas of the property,*
 - g) *Developing measures to clear the canals and improve their hydrology,*
 - h) *Developing and implementing, as part of the management plan, a system to monitor the health of the mangroves;*
12. *Notes furthermore the need for continuing international cooperation and partnerships to develop the long-term capacity of the State Party, Pohnpei State and local communities to conserve and manage the property, and encourages the State Party to continue to develop collaborations that will enable the creation of a dedicated capacity-building programme, as recommended by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission and the draft Conservation Plan;*
13. *Requests furthermore the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on any project that may have an impact on the OUV of the property and on any HIAs carried out according to the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse and/or any project is implemented;*
14. *Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support for the safeguarding of the property, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
15. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;

16. **Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

32. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

33. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

34. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1150)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

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

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6969>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6969>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6969>

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1988-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 83,777

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

May 1995 and November 2009: World Heritage Centre technical missions; November 2005 and February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical missions; December 2013 and January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May 2017: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission; October 2017 and May 2018: Technical missions facilitated by the World Heritage Centre

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (inefficient enforcement of protective legislation)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Mining (potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain)
- Surface water pollution
- Instability and risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage

- Environmental impacts on the hydraulic complex which in turn affects historic fabric and local population

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

Current conservation issues

On 14 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The final validation of the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) by the relevant authorities was initially scheduled for March 2020 and later rescheduled for 1 April 2020;
- The clarification of boundaries has been completed; however, the articulation of the property and proposed buffer zone with existing land use regulations remains to be finalized and formalized through legal protection instruments;
- Documentation outlining the advances in the definition of the property's buffer zone through a future Minor Boundary Modification proposal was submitted as an annex of the report;
- The draft Supreme Decree developed by the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) for the management and conservation of the Cerro Rico was set to be analysed by the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy in March 2020 before being sent for official approval;
- The implementation of several of the corrective measures related to mining productive heritage will require resources and mechanisms to be created through the approval of the Supreme Decree;
- The COMIBOL confirms that there is no authorized mining activity occurring above the 4,400m limit, but that illegal activity continues, which needs to be addressed through additional control measures and alternative employment options for these miners;
- Stabilization works for the Cerro Rico ended in 2017 due to lack of resources and safety concerns;
- With regard to the restoration works in the historic centre, difficulties in the enforcement of municipal and national laws and regulations related to the authorization and implementation of works in the area are reported. An inspection by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in February 2020 in the historic centre, related to heritage concerns over a restoration and conservation project of the crypts and catacombs, is highlighted in this regard;
- The corrective measures related to environmental heritage and the conservation of the Kari Kari Lagoons, as well as several of those related to archaeological, architectural and urban heritage, are expected to be implemented through the IPMP;
- The establishment of a management unit, as well as the consolidation of the legal framework for the property, remain pending;
- An extension of two years to the timeline for the full implementation of the corrective measures is needed. As an explanation for this request, the State Party cites the social and political conflicts that the country is currently undergoing.

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

The clear information provided by the State Party on the advances in the implementation of the Committee's previous decisions, and on the state of each of the corrective measures, is appreciated. Given that many of 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) will be implemented as part of the actions outlined in the IPMP, it is of utmost importance that this plan be formally approved by the relevant authorities and communicated to the local stakeholders, and that its implementation commence as soon as possible, with adequate resources in place.

While the clarification of the property's boundaries was approved by the Committee at its 43rd session (Decision 43 COM 8D), the Minor Boundary Modification proposal remains pending, and the State Party will need to finalise and officially submit the proposal.

It remains of serious concern that the status of the Supreme Decree for the management and conservation of the Cerro Rico has not progressed in recent years. The approval of this instrument, or

a suitable alternative, should be pursued with utmost urgency, in order to ensure the resources and management mechanisms needed to address several of the corrective measures related to the property's mining productive heritage. Further, it is noted that the relocation programme for miners working illegally above the 4,400m limit is a complex issue that could take several years to fully implement.

The information provided on the enforcement challenges of municipal and national laws and regulations in the historic centre of Potosí, as illustrated by the example provided on the crypts and catacombs project, is worrisome. Finally, the State Party's report that the property's legal framework as a whole, including land use regulations, requires further consolidation suggests that significant work is needed on this aspect.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note with appreciation of the efforts made by the State Party to implement the previous Committee decisions and the set of corrective measures for achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and encourages the State Party to provide further documentation in annex that informs of the progress underway in greater detail;*
4. *Takes note of the information submitted regarding the development of a Minor Boundary Modification for the establishment of the property's buffer zone, and requests the State Party to submit the final proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as it is available, and to ensure that the buffer zone is adequately reflected in the relevant legal framework and planning instruments for the property;*
5. *Urges the State Party to officially approve the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) for the property and ensure its full implementation with adequate resources in place;*
6. *Also urges the State Party to approve the Supreme Decree, or a suitable alternative instrument, for the management and conservation of the Cerro Rico, in order to ensure the appropriate resources and mechanisms needed to address long-standing and serious concerns related to the property's productive mining heritage;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to continue its work related to the delivery, consolidation and enforcement of the legal framework and regulations related to the entire property, in order to ensure that heritage requirements are adequately considered and respected in the management of the property and implementation of future projects, such as that mentioned at the crypts and catacombs in the historic centre;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*

9. ***Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

36. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

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

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Erosion
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zone
- Absence of a conservation and management plan
- Encroachments and urban pressure
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

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/4763>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Revised in 2019, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7558>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-1993)

Total amount approved: USD 76,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993: technical mission; November 2001, March 2009, March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Housing (encroachments and urban pressure)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (tourism pressure -particularly at Portobelo)
- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan (absence of a conservation and management plan)
- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Legal framework

- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zones

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents> and provides information on the implementation of the corrective measures and progress achieved in 2019. Subsequently, the State Party submitted on 23 February 2021 a state of conservation report, providing updated information on the advances of the implementation of the corrective measures, as follows:

- Within the framework of the project financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) the Terms of Reference of the integral Management Plan was under revision by the newly created Ministry of Culture;
- The General Law on Culture of the Republic of Panama (Law No. 175) was approved and enacted on November 2020;
- The proposed integral Management Plan would include other planning tools: Public Use Plan, Carrying Capacity Study, Economic Sustainability Plan, Tourism Promotion Plan, and an Interpretation Plan of Portobelo fortresses. The development of the new Management Plan is scheduled to be tendered in 2021;
- In the framework of the IDB project, consolidation works of the Fortifications have been outlined for San Lorenzo Castle and its Upper Battery, San Jeronimo Fortifications and San Fernando Fortifications. Conservation projects for San Jeronimo, San Fernando and Santiago Fortifications, and Old Santiago Fortress are scheduled to begin in 2022;
- Progress was reported regarding the Minor Boundary Modification proposal. The complete proposal is expected to be finalized by the end of 2021;
- Progress is reported on the project of construction of the San Lorenzo Visitor Center. The first stage of the project execution was completed in 2019; the project is expected to continue in 2021. New visitor facilities were inaugurated in June 2019;
- Other actions undertaken outside the scope of the IDB project are reported, such as the preparation of the Territorial Planning document for Portobelo with the aim of reducing existing urban pressure on the fortifications, the elaboration of a Participatory Community Development Plan, the update of the Tourism Development Plan for Portobelo and the creation of the Integral Development Office of Portobelo (ODEIPO);
- Other initiatives are also reported, such as the creation of natural interpretive trails in the Protective Forest of San Lorenzo, the opening of a new bridge over the Panama Canal and road rehabilitation works to access the Castle of San Lorenzo.

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

The important contribution provided by the IDB through the project “Support for the conservation and management of cultural heritage” foreseen to be implemented over a four-year period (2019-2023) is noted as an important support to the property.

It is important to note that since August 2019, the newly elected Government elevated the National Institute of Culture (*Instituto Nacional de Cultura* - INAC) to the rank of Ministry of Culture. The State Party expressed its hope that the new status, with permanent representation in the Cabinet Council, will provide greater strength and economic support to cultural management. Furthermore, the approval of the new General Law of Culture of the Republic of Panama has been achieved on 3 November 2020, which includes the new regulation for the management of historical sites.

The State Party has expressed its commitment to the implementation of the corrective measures to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, according to the established timeframe 2019-2023. However, some of the planned activities have been delayed, due to the pandemic sanitary restrictions declared in the country in March 2020. The following activities have been scheduled for the year 2021: the consolidation works of the San Lorenzo Castle which started in September 2020, and the tendering of the Management Plan of the property. For 2022 it is planned to initiate the works of containment of the slopes of Portobelo, the development of intervention plans for the Santiago Battery

in Portobelo, the consolidation works at Fort San Jeronimo and Fort San Fernando and the development of intervention plans for the Santiago de la Gloria Castle in Portobelo.

Within the framework of the IDB project, the development of the new integral Management Plan has been delayed. In this regard, it is regrettable that the integral Management Plan, with its different component plans, is not yet in place, and it is considered of utmost importance to finalize it and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Regarding the preliminary information submitted for a future Minor Boundary Modification (MBM), the progress is noted regarding the proposed boundaries for each fortification, as well as individual buffer zones. An Agreement of Use and Administration between the Municipality of Portobelo and the Ministry of Culture was signed in February 2020, and also pending tasks regarding management arrangements were addressed. While the State Party informs that the complete MBM proposal is expected to be finalized by the end of 2021, it is important that the State Party take into account the technical comments to be provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the finalization of the proposal. The 2014 ICOMOS Advisory mission advised to unify the buffer zone for Portobelo so as to include the Bay and the town of Portobelo. For San Lorenzo, for obvious defensive-related reasons, the buffer zone should include the fort's visual area of coverage of the mouth of the Chagres River.

The creation of the inter-agency Office for Integral Development of Portobelo (ODEIPO), to be in charge of coordinating the actions undertaken in the IDB loan, is welcomed, as is the development of planning tools for the buffer zone and its territorial context, such as the Territorial Planning document with the aim of reducing existing urban pressure, the Modernization Plan for Heritage Management and the finalization of the Community Development Plan. All these tools could benefit the management of the property, including its wider context. It is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to finalize and implement these tools and ensure their articulation in an efficient manner.

Regarding the conservation projects included in the Emergency Plan for San Lorenzo Castle, San Jeronimo Fortification, San Fernando Fortification, Santiago Fortification and Old Santiago Fortress, the elaboration of the roadmap of these interventions originally scheduled for the second half of 2020 was an important step forward. In this regard, it is noted that the conservation project in San Lorenzo Castle and its Upper Battery was initiated in 2020, while it is also noted that the other projects have been scheduled for 2022. On this issue, it is important that the State Party provide further information regarding the concrete implementation of these projects.

The improvement of infrastructure and tourist facilities is noted, regarding the opening to transit of the new bridge over the Panama Canal, the San Lorenzo Visitor Center and the new visitor facilities inaugurated in 2019. Recalling that tourism pressure was one of the factors that led to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, it is important to address the potential impact of the proposed infrastructure projects and to make sure these improvements are in full coherence with the conservation needs, carrying capacity and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.50, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Acknowledging the important contribution of the project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the conservation and management of the property, takes note of the commitment by the State Party to implement the corrective measures within the established 2019-2023 timeframe;*
4. *Welcomes the approval of the General Law on Culture, and the elaboration of the roadmap for the conservation projects foreseen in the IDB project for the different components of the property, and requests the State Party to provide further detailed information regarding the concrete implementation of these activities;*

5. Taking note of the progress made towards preparing a proposal of a Minor Boundary Modification, also requests the State Party to submit a formal request, as per Paragraphs 162 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, taking into consideration the advice that is provided by ICOMOS in this regard;
6. Also taking note of the creation of the inter-agency Office for Integral Development of Portobelo (ODEIPO), also welcomes the development of planning tools for the property and invites the State Party to finalize these tools and present a strategy on their articulation within the overall management system for the property;
7. Regrets that the integral Management Plan to include all components and buffer zones of the property is not yet in place, and further requests the State Party to submit the Plan to the World Heritage Centre together with the Community Development Plan as soon as it is available for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further takes note of the improvements to tourism infrastructure and facilities, but requests furthermore the State Party to consider potential impacts of the proposed visitor center of San Lorenzo and to ensure that these improvements are in full coherence with the conservation needs, carrying capacity and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
10. **Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

37. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1986-present

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

- Fragile state of conservation of earthen structures and decorated surfaces due to extreme climatic conditions (El Niño phenomenon) and other environmental factors
- Inadequate management system in place
- Insufficient capacity and resources for the implementation of conservation measures
- Increase in the levels of the phreatic water table

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/4647>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1987-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 118,700

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: ICOMOS mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS and ICCROM mission; November 2010 and December 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities (illegal occupation of the property)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Water (rising water table levels, rain/water table)
- Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices
- Unregulated farming activities
- Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National Authorities)
- Development pressures

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>, and responds to previous Decisions of the Committee and the adopted corrective measures, as follows:

- The updated version of the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex (2015-2025) is still pending approval by the Ministry of Culture. A Bill is being drafted to endorse the approval; however, it is linked to the successful implementation of Law No. 28261, which would give the Master Plan the status of law and which has been pending since 2004;
- The Ministry of Culture continues to coordinate with the competent authorities of the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo (MPT) regarding the incorporation of the buffer zone and its regulations into the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan of Trujillo. A working meeting was held in January 2020, in which the MPT confirmed its agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation to prepare the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan and the Territorial Conditioning Plan, and a workshop with representatives of the municipalities located in the buffer zone on the cultural values of the property was scheduled for February 2020. Contact and coordination will be maintained between the MPT and the Ministry of Culture in the process of preparing the Urban Development Plan, which will be the responsibility of this local government body;
- Following the advice of a ministerial working group, an amendment to Law No. 28261 has been proposed to allow for the expropriation of illegally-occupied archaeological areas. The Ministry of Culture is still in the process of reviewing the data on the property's polygon of intangibility. This activity represents the stage prior to the verification and georeferencing of the illegally-occupied areas;
- In 2019, Public Investment Projects (PIP), totalling an amount of 1.6 million Peruvian soles (USD 456,000), were executed with regard to archaeological research, architectural conservation and public use. This represents a significant decrease compared to the previous year;
- Several improvements to the site museum were undertaken regarding maintenance, security, and improving the visitor experience;

- The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Transport and Communications are continuing their work on finding a solution for improving the existing infrastructure or rerouting the Trujillo ring road without negatively affecting the property. The road currently passes through the property and its buffer zone.

Following a consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on 16 December 2020, the State Party submitted, on 8 February and 19 May 2021, a supplementary report and additional information, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/> and addresses the following matters:

- The updated Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex (2021-2031) approved by the Ministry of Culture by Ministerial Resolution Number 000130-2021/DM/MC on 10 May 2021;
- Following a joint workshop held from 20 - to 22 January 2021 between representatives of the municipalities concerned (Trujillo, Huanchaco and Victor Larco Herrera), the Plan of Territorial Development of Trujillo (PLANDET), the Directorate of Culture of the province of La Libertad and the National Directorate of World Heritage Properties, a work plan was established for the “Diagnosis of the Planning of the Buffer Zone of Chan Chan in the City of Trujillo”. This process should be concluded in October 2021 with an agreed regulation proposal for the buffer zone;
- A broad consultation took place on 6 January 2021 on the issue of illegal occupation in the buffer zone and the required modification of Law No. 28261. It was concluded that a first step would involve the precise identification of the occupied areas, the type of occupants and their temporality. This first step should be concluded in the first half of 2021;
- The management of the property is financed by a yearly allocation of funds. The execution of projects depends mainly on external financing. In 2020, four projects were executed amounting to 2.6 million Peruvian soles. For 2021, an amount of 0.6 million has been confirmed so far;
- Regarding the road project “Autopista del Sol”, alternatives are being identified and it is agreed that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be undertaken. The Ministry of Culture has communicated to the relevant state authority that in the meantime no land should be transferred in favour of the road project. The HIA and chosen alternative will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

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

The State Party should be commended for its continued commitment to the conservation of the property and for its sustained efforts to implement the current Master Plan and the corrective measures identified by the Committee with the view to achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including public use, risk management and museum development activities, as well as control of illegal occupation, encroachment, and urban pressure.

It should be recognized that numerous activities, related to cleaning, awareness raising and communication, were implemented in 2019, all in collaboration with local communities, even though the Public Use Plan has not yet been approved. The Special Project of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex (PECACH), through the Pan American Conservation Centre for Earthen Heritage Sites (PCCEHS), continued its activities related to scientific research of materials and construction techniques, the monitoring of environmental and state of conservation conditions using, for example, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and laser scanners.

While it is laudable that the State Party has maintained such a high level of activities (e.g. the involvement of 4,235 persons in awareness raising activities) and that it has reiterated its commitment to guarantee the sustainable budgetary allocation for the execution of the Master Plan, it is worrying that the budgetary allocations for Public Investment Projects fluctuate from year to year. The amount allocated in 2018 was 8.6 million soles, in 2019 1.6 million, in 2020 2.6 million and for 2021 an amount of 0.6 million is foreseen.

It is reiterated that extreme caution should be taken in the improvement of the so-called “Autopista del Sol”. The assurance by the State Party that a HIA will be undertaken is welcomed.

The December 2020 consultation between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS was highly constructive. Following this meeting, the State Party submitted a Supplementary Report that for the first time in years sets out the strategy and timeframes for the resolution of some of the most pressing key issues that the Committee identified in its Decision **41 COM 7A.26**, namely:

- Adoption of the updated Master Plan;
- Delimitation and regulation of the buffer zone, in coordination with the management office of the Trujillo Provincial Municipality's Urban Development Plan;
- Approval of regulations for Law No. 28261 regarding illegal occupations.

These are essential components of the programme of corrective measures that have been awaiting implementation for many years. Without them, the DSOCR cannot be achieved. All three items are linked and together have impeded the development of a seamless management structure.

The final adoption and approval of the Master Plan for a ten-year period (2021-2031) in May 2021 should be welcomed by the Committee as this is an essential aspect of the DSOCR, as well as a proposal for the regulations of the buffer zone which is expected to be agreed upon in October 2021. It is understood that the matter of illegal occupation requires legal processes including the modification or repeal of Law No. 28261. Nevertheless, this matter cannot be separated from the other issues and it is hoped that the State Party will set out a strategy and timeframe once the precise identification of illegally occupied areas is concluded.

Without the resolution of these two pending issues, the Committee will not be able to assess to what extent the DSOCR, as defined in its Decision **36 COM 7A.34**, has been reached. It is therefore recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.51**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the research and monitoring activities of the Pan-American Conservation Centre for Earthen Heritage Sites (PCCEHS), and the implementation of a number of important conservation projects, public awareness and outreach activities with educational institutions and communities in the vicinity of the property;
4. Also welcomes the adoption of the updated Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex (2021-2031) by the Ministry of Culture in response to the previous Committee Decisions;
5. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to the implementation of the Committee's decisions and programme of corrective measures, as adopted in Decision **36 COM 7A.34**, with the aim of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), notes however with regret that two essential components of the programme of corrective measures have remained pending for several years, welcomes the strategies and timeframes set out by the State Party, and urges once again the State Party to take the necessary measures for:
 - a) the delimitation and regulation of the proposed buffer zone,
 - b) the implementation of the amended Law No. 28261 that would address the matter of illegal occupation;
6. Considers that the proposal to widen the existing Trujillo ring road that passes through the property and the buffer zone endangers the property's integrity and Outstanding Universal Value, and strongly urges the State Party to continue its work to either improve the existing road or alternatively identify a new trajectory outside of the World Heritage

property and its buffer zone and to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. *Takes note of an apparent and considerable budget fluctuation for the activities at the property, and also urges the State Party to assure sufficient funding for the property in the future;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
9. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

38. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (C 658)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2005-present

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

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

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/5965>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>;

Updated in 2015, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6263>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage) for the planning, implementation and subsequent publications of participatory workshops and meetings with artisans and civil society in Coro and La Vela

Previous monitoring missions

December 2003 and September 2006: World Heritage Centre missions to assessment of the state of conservation; July 2002, April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre /

ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; July 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Flooding (and water damage)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Water (rain/water table)
- Serious deterioration of materials and structures
- Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property
- Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms
- Absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Several restoration and conservation works have been implemented, under the guidance and supervision of the management authorities, and with the participation of Community Councils and the traditional mud artisans;
- In mid-2019, the traditional mud artisan school was reactivated and currently has a total of 40 workers. These artisans form part of the management unit of the property and remain central to many conservation works undertaken;
- Important preliminary measures have been undertaken to improve the functionality of existing drainage infrastructure. However, the main project for an improved drainage system still does not have secured financial resources as requested from the national government necessary to begin its implementation;
- Updated maps and descriptions for the buffer zones of Coro and La Vela were developed taking into account the heritage value of these areas;
- A timeline is included for the development of the Management Plan, indicating that it should be finalized and approved by all concerned stakeholders by 2021;
- A large and multi-sectoral working group will be set up to discuss the development and approval, by 2021, of the disaster risk preparedness plan (“Plan de Riesgos”);
- In order to address the persistent issue of building abandonment, authorities aim to work towards determining legal certainty regarding land ownership and look at options to expropriate certain abandoned properties of social or public interest, with the objective of ensuring adequate conservation and use of these structures;
- The timeline (2019-2021) for completing all corrective measures indicated in the previous state of conservation report is reaffirmed as adequate.

On 11 and 17 March 2021, the State Party submitted updated information on the continuing advances made in drainage maintenance measures and in restoration and conservation projects, including a selection of technical documents on building interventions in the World Heritage property, details of the curriculum design for the *Productive Training and Self-Training project (PFAP): Traditional Construction Techniques of Earth Structures*, and the general and sectoral plans of Bolivar Street in La Vela in regard to the planned intervention to the façades.

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

It should be reiterated once again that future state of conservation reports prepared by the State Party must provide clear and comprehensive information about the implementation of each of the corrective measures adopted by Decision **38 COM 7A.23** to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It is also important to note that the majority of the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission were not addressed in the State Party’s report.

The progress made by the State Party in the restoration and conservation projects underway is commendable, with a number of buildings located in Coro and La Vela having been worked on, as well as the reactivation of the traditional mud artisan school, which is an important aspect of preserving traditional know-how. In this regard, it is important to highlight the importance of using traditional materials in the conservation projects when necessary.

Regarding the property's vulnerability to flooding and water damage, it is clear that the State Party considers this issue of critical importance and has undertaken several interim mitigation measures. Drainage maintenance measures were carried out around the Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro and the Casa del Tesoro and preventative maintenance works implemented in the creeks that receive the surface drainage in order to avoid overflows and floods in the historic centre of Coro that could affect the World Heritage property. In addition, the cleaning of sewers located in the Federation Boulevard in La Vela and the weeding of some drainage channels took place. However, the financial resources necessary to undertake the comprehensive drainage system project have not yet been secured. In the meantime, and given the resources currently available, it will be necessary for the State Party to continue with the interim measures and react promptly in situations of flooding to protect areas of high heritage value. The implementation of the larger drainage system project should, nevertheless, begin as soon as possible, in order to address structural risks posed to heritage buildings and spaces in the property. While some planning has occurred regarding rainwater management ("Plan de Lluvia Parroquia La Vela"), it will be important to advance in the development of the disaster risk preparedness plan for the property, as part of the overall management planning underway.

It remains of great concern that no outline or draft of the property's Management Plan has been presented since 2018. As such, the overarching concept and the progress to date on this important corrective measure remains unclear. The 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission provided important recommendations regarding the Management Plan that should be taken into account in its preparation.

The cartography submitted to define buffer zones for Coro and La Vela is based on proposals in the 2018 mission report and will serve to inform the development of the Management Plan. On the basis of these maps, the State Party will need to submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification request for La Vela, justifying the reduction in its buffer zone, with the accompanying documentation as per Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to be considered by the World Heritage Committee. For the very small modifications proposed for the Coro buffer zone, a boundary clarification is sufficient.

Although there have been remarkable efforts and commitments on the part of the authorities and community organizations to protect and promote the heritage value of the property, there has been no significant improvement to the state of the property over the past five years. While it is appreciated that the State Party affirms its commitment made in 2019 to complete all corrective measures by 2021, it is considered that significant investment in financial and human resources will be needed over the coming year to successfully meet this deadline, given the conclusions of the 2018 mission, and the information provided in the present report and its update. The report and recommendations provided by the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission outline the status and pending steps necessary to achieve each of the corrective measures, which should serve as a useful guide for the State Party in its future actions and reporting. Pending issues mentioned in the 2018 mission report include the strengthening of the Mixed Commission, which is coordinated by the Institute of Cultural Heritage, and clarification of the role of *Con Patrimonio* in relation to property, ensuring that its responsibilities do not overlap with those of the Mixed Commission, as well incorporation of professionals that are trained and experienced in the management, conservation and restoration of heritage within the Institute of Cultural Heritage in order to strengthen its role as manager of the property. Finally, taking into consideration the necessity to finalize crucial issues for the adequate conservation and management of the property, it is recommended that the Committee retain Coro and its Port on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.52, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),

3. Takes note with appreciation of the ongoing restoration and conservation works undertaken in the property, and the reactivation of the traditional mud artisan school that participates in these works;
4. Appreciates the interim measures undertaken to address ongoing drainage issues in the property, given the limited resources available, and requests the State Party to begin the implementation of the larger drainage system project as soon as possible;
5. Takes note of the cartography submitted regarding modifications to the buffer zones of the two components sites of Coro and La Vela, and also requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, a Minor Boundary Modification for La Vela, and a boundary clarification for Coro;
6. Takes note with concern that insufficient information was provided by the State Party regarding its progress towards addressing each of the 11 corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and reiterates its request to the State Party that its future state of conservation reports on this property provide clear and complete information on all corrective measures and follow the mandatory report format contained in Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, which provide important guidance on the actions needed to respond to the complete set of corrective measures;
8. Expresses its concern that no updated outline or draft of the property's Management Plan has been submitted since the 2018 state of conservation report, and that the status of the document's development remains unclear, and therefore urges the State Party to submit the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it is available;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
10. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

39. 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>

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

Total amount provided: USD 1,250,000 from the Government of Norway in 2021-2023

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 3 April 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>, which reports the following

- The security situation in the region remains variable. Clashes occurred between different rebel groups, self-defence groups and other non-identified armed groups. Armed groups based in Chad and Sudan still operate in the region;
- Following the signature of the Khartoum peace agreement in February 2019, a Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR) process is being put in place and mixed brigades composed of the national army (Central African armed forces – FACA) and elements of the different armed groups have been established to control the international border and transboundary transhumance FACA and police are again present in the region and the authority of the central government has been restored in certain areas;
- The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has established good working relations with local and traditional authorities, armed groups operating in the area, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and other non-government organizations, allowing it to operate in spite of the prevailing security situation;
- Preparatory work to identify a priority zone for conservation in the property based on the presence of residual wildlife is on-going. A revision of the anti-poaching system (LAB) is underway. Biodiversity monitoring was initiated in 2019 and will be continued in 2020;
- In the framework of the tripartite agreement between Cameroun, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) to curb transborder poaching and better manage transhumance, the creation of a transborder protected area complex between Chad and CAR, comprising the protected areas of north-eastern CAR (including the property) and of southern Chad, is under discussion. Discussions have also started with Chad to manage transhumance by restoring previous cattle corridors;
- Funding has been provided through the ECOFAC VI programme of the European Commission (EC) and discussions are on-going with UNESCO for further financial support.

The report does not provide any information on the status of the petroleum blocks attributed in the area which may overlap with the property, or on the progress in implementing the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the rehabilitation project of the National Road 8 Ndélé–Birao, which crosses the property. On 21 October 2019, a meeting was held between the World Heritage Centre, the State Party, the company implementing the ESIA (Sylvatrop Consulting), the World Bank, the French Development Bank (AFD) and IUCN.

The World Heritage Centre is implementing an initial two-year project since 15 February 2021 with WCS, which assumed management of the property through a Public-Private Partnership Agreement (PPP) signed in December 2018, to support restarting conservation activities in the property with support from Norwegian government funding. Additional information provided by WCS on 26 August 2020 is considered in the analysis below.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The reported progress on the implementation of corrective measures is noted, including the active engagement between the World Heritage Centre and WCS to implement an emergency security plan and establish a robust bio-monitoring mechanism. These activities should be welcomed and the full implementation of the revised corrective measures be encouraged further.

It is concerning that the security situation in the region deteriorated again in early 2020, however the confirmation by WCS that a new bilateral agreement signed in June 2020 between the Government and the main armed group operating in the area, has allowed greater security stability, the start of the DDRR process and a return of the national army and police to the area after a seven year absence, is encouraging. It is appreciated that WCS was able to maintain its presence in the area during the period of unrest. It is hoped that the new agreement will help to further stabilize the region and allow conservation activities to restart.

While the 2019 mission concluded that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property was very questionable, it is encouraging that new aerial surveys conducted by WCS in early 2020 documented

several herds of derby eland, hartebeest, roan, kob and waterbuck as well as isolated groups of hippopotamus, buffalo and giraffe. Furthermore, ground surveys confirmed the presence of elephant, bongo, giant forest hog, lion, wild dog and hyena. This provides hope that populations could re-bound over time if poaching can be brought under control. Regarding the establishment of a priority zone for conservation as per the 2019 monitoring mission, WCS reports that a conservation zone has been mapped in the property based on the survey results and it will be crucial to rapidly start surveillance operations in this area. The World Heritage Centre and WCS signed a partnership agreement in February 2021 to provide initial funding for two years to facilitate this, however it will be crucial that more funding is mobilized.

However, it is noted that the biodiversity surveys also confirmed again the significant presence of pastoralists and cattle, as well as a tendency towards more sedentary breeding of livestock and poaching in some areas of the property. It is noted that WCS is designing a transhumance management strategy which foresees establishing permitted zones and transhumance corridors outside the property. As most of the transhumance originates from Chad and Sudan, a transboundary approach is required. The proposal to increase transboundary cooperation between Chad and CAR through the establishment of a transborder protected area complex in north-eastern CAR and southern Chad is therefore welcomed.

It is regrettable that the State Party did not provide information regarding progress on implementing the ESIA for the rehabilitation of National Road 8 Ndélé–Birao, noting that consultations with the company implementing the ESIA show that several alternative routes are being considered, including a route going south of the property. It is recommended that the Committee recall its request to 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*.

It is regrettable that the State Party did not provide information on petroleum exploration activities in the vicinity of the property. It is recommended the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide clarification, including a precise map, regarding the attributed petroleum block, and any other exploration in the vicinity of the property, and to ensure that no license overlaps with the boundaries of the property, in conformity with national legislation and the Committee's policy that extractives are not compatible with World Heritage status.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.5, adopted at its 43nd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes with concern that the security situation in the region deteriorated again in early 2020 but expresses its hope that the bilateral agreement signed in June 2020 between the Government and the main armed group operating in the area will help to further stabilize the region and facilitate re-starting conservation activities in the property;*
4. *Recalling its deepest concern regarding the conclusions of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring 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. Welcomes the preliminary results of the 2020 biodiversity surveys which documented herds of derby eland, hartebeest, roan, kob and waterbuck as well as isolated groups of hippopotamus, buffalo and giraffe and confirmed the presence of elephant, bongo, giant forest hog, lion, wild dog and hyena in the property, and requests the State Party to report on the final survey results when available and to ensure that conditions are implemented to enable the recovery of these wildlife populations over time including to bring poaching under control;
6. Notes with concern the significant presence of pastoralists and cattle, as well as a tendency towards more sedentary breeding of livestock and poaching in some areas of the property and also requests the State Party to fully implement without delay the transhumance management strategy which foresees to establish permitted zones and transhumance corridors outside the property and to continue its efforts to increase the transboundary cooperation with the State Party of Chad to address transhumance including through the establishment of a transborder protected area complex;
7. Takes note of the proposed priority zone for conservation, and urges the State Party to initiate without delay surveillance operations in this area;
8. Also welcomes the significant funding provided by the Government of Norway, which allows the World Heritage Centre to support the implementation of the corrective measures and the continued support of the European Commission for the conservation of the natural resources in the North-Eastern Protected Areas Complex and calls again on the States Parties to 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;
9. Reiterates its concern regarding the petroleum exploration activities in the petroleum block A and reiterates its requests to 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 ESIA 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, 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 finalize the ESIA for the rehabilitation project of the National Road 8 Ndélé-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. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;

13. **Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;**
14. **Also decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo need to be read in conjunction with Item 46 below.

41. 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

In progress

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; USD 200,000 from the Government of Norway in 2020

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
- Inappropriate management capabilities to address the poaching crisis (resolved)

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

Current conservation issues

On 26 March 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, and additional information on 12 March 2021, all available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The agreements between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) are renewed every three months. In 2019, 90 sections of the FARDC were under the command of the Park authority for strategic and operational exercises;
- The technical capacities of the guards have been strengthened and the site has a canine unit available to improve surveillance in the Park. The number of guards has increased from 243 to 286 (238 guards and 48 security agents). The number of patrols has increased from 447 (2018) to 630 (2019) and to 744 (2020), leading to arrests and seizures of illegal products. Surveillance coverage represents 68% of the property and 32% of the hunting grounds, and 100% for aerial patrols;
- A first meeting on transboundary cooperation was organized with the State Service responsible for South Sudan Wildlife (SSWLS) and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding is foreseen;
- The preparation of a Land-use Plan for the hunting grounds continues. A ministerial decree now prohibits artisanal exploitation in the hunting grounds of Gangala Na Bodio, Azande and Mondo Missa. A six-month moratorium was given to the illegal operators to evacuate the sites;
- The implementation of the sustainable development strategy (2018) is underway, and access to health care and various activities covering educational to environmental services is provided to the staff of the Park and the neighbouring communities;
- The results of the anti-poaching combat (APC) mark a significant reduction in elephant poaching (8 individuals against 50 in 2017), 77 arrests of which the transfer of 17 cases to the competent courts, the confiscation of 18 firearms and no loss of life of guards for the third year running;
- An aerial survey of elephants, a genome study and the surveillance of elephants by means of radio collars provided information on the state of conservation of the species. Thanks to the support of the Government of Norway and UNESCO, several groups of elephants are continuously monitored using satellite collars placed on 38 individuals. No indication of the presence of white rhinoceros has been recorded since 2008. The giraffe population has increased by seven individuals since 2018 and the species has not suffered from poaching.

The results of the implementation of International Assistance reveal that the elephant population has stabilized at around 700 individuals, and that the Kordofan giraffe population has already exceeded the target of 60 individuals for 2022. Finally, the management of invasive species remains a major challenge for the site.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts undertaken by the State Party and its partners to strengthen the APC measures are warmly welcomed. The increase in the number of guards in the Park and the strengthening of their operational capacity has enabled an increase in the level of surveillance coverage of the site by regular ground patrols (68%) against 100% for aerial patrols. The maintenance of permanent efficient surveillance of the Park is encouraged.

The significant decrease in the number of poached elephant carcasses, the seizure of wildlife products and the absence of poaching of giraffes is positive, but the continuing poaching inside the Park is a

cause for concern, and the measures to control this threat must continue in the long-term. The estimate of the elephant population within the Garamba complex at around 700 individuals indicates the significant impact of poaching on the species. It should be recalled that the elephant population of the property was estimated at more than 11,000 individuals in 1995, before the start of the conflict (in 1996) and that the last census in 2017 estimated the population at 1191 elephants. Noting also that the African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) is “Endangered” on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2021, it is recommended that the State Party consolidate and strengthen protection efforts of the species.

Recent surveillance data on wildlife indicate a gradual reconstitution of the Kordofan giraffe population with seven new individuals for a total of 62 giraffes recorded. With regard to the conservation status of the species (in critical danger of extinction), it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to continue strengthening the protection of the species in the framework of a priority Action Plan.

Noting that a scientific project for assisted reproduction from genetic material taken from the most recent specimens in captivity is ongoing, the lack of any indication of the presence of white rhinoceros in the Park since 2008 would confirm that the sub-species is probably extinct in the wild state. Given that the white rhinoceros is a flagship species, a reflection on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is indispensable.

The relaunch of transboundary cooperation with the State Party of South Sudan is positive, and it is important that the State Party finalize the Memorandum of Understanding to concretize and render operational collaboration on the ground.

The lack of a Management Plan for the site remains of concern and it is regrettable that no information has been provided concerning the preparation process for this strategic document in accordance with Decision **43 COM 7A.7**. The ongoing preparation of the Land-Use Plan and the ministerial decree prohibiting artisanal exploitation in the hunting grounds are welcomed and it is important to finalize the Land-Use Plan as well as the reconversion process for the gold miners and the transfer of the gold mining activity outside the hunting grounds to provide the property with a functional buffer zone.

The implementation of the sustainable development strategy to reinforce the resilience of the local communities is welcomed. However, these efforts must be strengthened to increase the autonomy of these communities.

Finally, the absence of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is worrying and it is recommended that, based on the inventory data available, including the International Assistance results, the State Party finalize the DSOCR prepared by the 2016 mission. It is also recommended to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, in view of the progress achieved by the State Party, despite all, it is recommended that the Committee no longer apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7A.7** and **43 COM 7A.7**, adopted respectively at its 41st (Cracow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions,*
3. *Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party aimed at improving the anti-poaching measures, with the deployment of an additional 183 guards, to strengthen its operational capacities, intensify its surveillance efforts and implement initiatives to support the communities, and encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts with support from its partners;*
4. *Notes the significant decrease in the number of elephant carcasses poached, the estimate of the current numbers of the species at around 700 individuals, and the seizure*

of wildlife products, but notes with great concern that the population has declined by more than 90% since the onset of the security crisis in 1996 and has continued to decline since the last census in 2017, and that elephant poaching remains a major threat, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to control poaching in order to create conditions for the recovery of wildlife and to provide the World Heritage Centre with more ample information on elephant numbers in the property for examination by IUCN;

5. Also notes with satisfaction the increase to 62 individuals of the Kordofan giraffe population and the absence of poaching in 2019 and 2020, and recalling that the sub-species remains in critical danger of extinction, reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue its monitoring and ecological protection efforts of this species, and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation of giraffes within the property;
6. Thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the European Commission and the Government of Norway through their funding to the World Heritage Fund;
7. Expresses its deep concern with regard to the absence of any indication of the presence of white rhinoceros in the Park since 2008, confirming the probable extinction of the sub-species, and further requests the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to carry out a reflection on the impacts of this probable extinction on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) on the property;
8. Commends the State Party for the dialogue on transboundary cooperation between the Direction of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the State Service responsible for South Sudan Wildlife (SSWLS) and also encourages the State Party to strengthen this cooperation to reduce criminal transboundary activities, such as poaching and transboundary commerce of illegal wildlife products, notably through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for transboundary cooperation;
9. Regrets the absence of a Management Plan for the property and an operative buffer zone and urges the State Party to accelerate the creation of a buffer zone and to finalize the Management Plan of the property including its periphery, while ensuring its coherence with the sustainable development strategy of the Park, the Land Use Plan for the hunting grounds, the 2019 ministerial decree prohibiting artisanal exploitation in the hunting grounds, the relocation strategy for the refugee camps outside the Park initiated in 2018 and any other strategic document;
10. Also regrets once again that the State Party has not yet submitted the final version of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop clear indicators for the recovery of the key wildlife populations based on the proposal prepared by the 2016 mission, data available from aerial survey and the monitoring system, so as to identify an achievable calendar for the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
12. **Decides to no longer apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;**

13. ***Also decides to retain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

42. 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 undertaken in 2018

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

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), USD 300,000 from the Government of Norway (2021-2022).

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 hunting
- Villages in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the park
- Illegal mining and deforestation

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

Current conservation issues

On 26 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, and additional information on 12 March 2021, 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), local chiefs and authorities continues to improve the management of the property;
- Improved security in 2019 allowed for activities across all seven sectors of the property (two opened in 2019), resulting in the neutralization of Mai-Mai, Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and Nyatura warlords. Increased patrols (1,921 patrols) covered 69.2% (16,758 km²) of the property (35.6% in 2017; 37.4% in 2018);
- No significant progress regarding the evacuation of armed groups from the property apart from the declaration of cessation of hostilities signed by 70 armed groups on 17 November 2020 in Bukavu;
- Antipoaching efforts included patrols, establishment of a Centre for the Coordination of Operations (CCOPs) for real-time monitoring and a judicial cell to monitor legal cases. 98 poachers were arrested for trapping, illegal logging and artisanal ore digging, leading to 27 convictions;
- Measures to address illicit trafficking, particularly of great apes, include media campaigns, awareness-raising with local communities, gorilla surveillance patrols, dismantling of poaching networks and installation of road checks. No cases of baby gorilla or chimpanzee trafficking were recorded in 2019;
- All mining sites in the property have been closed. Patrols recorded 19 small-scale artisanal mining excavation holes, of which seven active holes were subsequently dismantled by patrols;
- There has been no change to eco-guard numbers. Capacity building activities included humanitarian law and first aid; scientific monitoring techniques (Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) and infantry tactics. Teams were deployed in all stations of the property;
- The recommendations of the 2015 “National Forum on Governance and Valorization of the Property” are being implemented by strengthening surveillance patrols in the ecological corridor and peaceful resolution of the conflict with neighboring communities/Batwa, as well as raising awareness of state service staff on global heritage values;
- Efforts to address encroachment include awareness-raising, surveillance patrols, law enforcement collaboration, and plans for a provincial high-level dialogue on sustainable protection of the property and coexistence with local communities;
- Sustainable development activities include establishment of a Community Conservation Governance Council (CGCC), promoting animal breeding, microcredits and education;
- The demarcation of boundaries continued with two missions, and the identification of the villages located within the property; however, no information has been provided on the distance covered by the demarcation beyond 2018;
- The property was ranked third in Africa during the 2019 Sustainable Destination Awards and ongoing sustainable tourism is reported as a sustainable financing measure.

The State Party has submitted an International Assistance request for the 2021 cycle with a view to finalizing the identification of the villages within the property in the Nzovu and Mumbili sectors at low altitude. On 27 August 2020, the World Heritage Centre received information regarding the delay in implementing the recommendations from the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue. This information was transmitted to the State Party on 16 September, but no response has been received to date.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The improved security situation in the property in 2019 and the continued collaboration between ICCN, FARDC and local authorities are encouraging, allowing patrol access to all seven sectors of the property.

This has allowed a significant increase in overall surveillance coverage (69.2%), for the first time meeting the 60% corrective measure threshold. Eco-guard capacity building activities are welcomed and should be continued in line with the corrective measures.

The closing down of all remaining artisanal mining activities throughout the property is a major achievement and if this situation can be maintained over a longer period, this would be a major step towards improving the state of conservation of the property.

The various measures to address poaching and trafficking, particularly of great apes, including anti-poaching cells, arrests and the report that no trafficking of baby gorillas or chimpanzees was recorded in 2019, are welcomed. However, it would be important for the State Party to provide, in its future reports, more data on the results of such actions taken to address illegal activities.

Although the report provides little detail on the extent of boundary demarcation achieved, it is encouraging that such efforts have continued and it is recommended that the process be accelerated, taking advantage of the improved security situation. Unfortunately, the State Party does not provide further information on the status of the ecological corridor, following confirmation in 2019 that the corridor had been evacuated and the Committee's request for the State Party to evaluate the human impacts on the ecological corridor and to develop a rehabilitation plan to facilitate the regeneration of natural vegetation and restoration of the integrity of the property. These activities should be implemented, and the State Party should also undertake to identify a long-term solution for the villages, which were included in the National Park at the time of its extension towards the lowland in 1978.

The promotion of a range of community engagement measures is welcomed, including establishment of a CCGC, sustainable development for associated communities through alternative livelihoods, microfinancing and education and the strengthening of measures to address encroachment. However, recent reports on the official Facebook page of the park indicate that encroachment in the highland sector is an increasing issue and this will need to be addressed as a matter of priority. Through support from the Government of Norway, it is also foreseen that UNESCO supports the efforts of the State Party to finalize participatory demarcation and build community resilience.

The efforts for peaceful conflict resolution with communities, in particular the indigenous Batwa, are welcomed. However, the State Party's lack of response to concerns raised by indigenous Batwa regarding delays in the implementation of the recommendations from the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue is regrettable, and these actions and should be further strengthened as a matter of priority, in line with the *Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention*.

With the evacuation of the ecological corridor reported last year and the closure of all mining sites reported this year, significant progress has been made towards restoring the integrity of the property. These achievements are crucial elements contributing towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It is therefore unfortunate that no quantitative wildlife data, particularly on flagship gorilla species, have been provided. Repeated requests for the State Party to provide the data of the inventory of the property that commenced in 2014, and was expected to be finalized in 2018, have not been actioned. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.48** and **43 COM 7A.8**, that these results are crucial for the evaluation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to achieve the DSOCR, the Committee should request the State Party to provide clarification on the status of wildlife inventories and to subsequently prepare indicators based on this information to finalize the DSOCR.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*

3. *Welcomes the improved security situation and continued collaboration between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and local authorities, which has resulted in a significant increase in patrol coverage of the property, meeting for the first time the 60% corrective measure threshold;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the reported closing down of all remaining artisanal mining activities throughout the property and considers that this is a major achievement and, if maintained over a longer period, would be a major step towards restoring the integrity of the property;*
5. *Notes the State Party's continued efforts to address poaching and trafficking in the property, and requests it to provide, in its future reports, more data on the results of anti-poaching activities;*
6. *Also welcomes the efforts for peaceful conflict resolution with the communities, in particular the indigenous Batwa, notes however the concerns raised by the indigenous Batwa about the delays in the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue, and also requests the State Party to address this issue as a priority in full consultation with the Batwa community, in line with the Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention;*
7. *Reiterates its request for the State Party to provide details on the status of the ecological corridor and to develop a rehabilitation plan for the ecological corridor to facilitate the regeneration of natural vegetation and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, all information, including maps, to assess the impact of encroachment on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
8. *Thanks the donors, in particular the Governments of Germany and Norway which continue to provide support for the conservation of the property;*
9. *Expresses concern about the increasing pressure of encroachment in the property and urges the State Party to address this as a matter of priority;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to urgently provide an update on the status of wildlife inventories, and also reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit the results of the wildlife inventory to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and to finalize, 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), once the results of the wildlife inventory are available;*
11. *Also urges the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures, as updated by the 2017 mission;*
12. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
13. ***Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;***
14. ***Also decides to retain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

43. 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

In progress

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), USD 550,000 from the Government of Norway (2020- 2022)

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 26 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and additional information on 12 March 2021, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/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), local chiefs and authorities continues. Some active armed groups have surrendered. The pause in security issues has facilitated conservation activities in the property;
- Illegal mining persists due to continued insecurity in certain areas of the property and due to the complicity of some local authorities. Patrols identified 57 artisanal mining sites of which 30 active sites were closed by patrols. The closure of the illegal Bapela gold mining site resulted in the

eviction of around 5,000 diggers and a rotational post of 15 eco-guards was set up there to prevent the site from reopening. Semi-industrial exploitation persists: 5 dredgers were evacuated but some remain operational in and around the property. The Muchacha mining site is transforming into a permanent settlement;

- To address poaching and trafficking, patrols, public awareness campaigns and road checks were undertaken. Intelligence networks were set up in surrounding villages to denounce illegal activities. A Centre for the Coordination of Operations (CCOPs) was established to improve surveillance coordination. A cell is in place to monitor legal cases. 151 arrests for illegal activities included trapping, logging and artisanal mining, of which 42 were transferred to judicial authorities and 3 convicted;
- Patrols covered 47.54% (19,030 km²) of the property (39.5% in 2017; 47.72% in 2018). Eco-guards were trained in Ebola response, judicial certification, Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and tactical response; technical, administrative and scientific officers were deployed across stations;
- Some infrastructures at the Reserve headquarters were rehabilitated;
- Economic development activities included the supply of agricultural materials to improve the livelihoods of local communities;
- The participatory boundary demarcation process in the north-west and east of the property has been initiated jointly with the local communities and will be continued in 2021;
- A socio-economic study was carried out in the Wamba sector in collaboration with the University of Kisangani, however no details were provided;
- It is planned to revive the Okapi breeding station by capturing some specimens, and to also promote tourism and contribute towards the financing of the property.

The World Heritage Centre received information from the Reserve authorities that a guard post was attacked by illegal miners on 21 April 2020, following an operation by these authorities to evacuate the illegal gold mining site of Bapela. Fortunately, there were no casualties. However, two ICCN guards were killed in another attack on 17 September 2020 at the Adusa post at the entrance to the property. UNESCO has officially condemned this attack. The World Heritage Centre also received a copy of the public-private partnership agreement (PPP) signed by the State Party with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2019 for the management of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The reported improvement of the security situation in the property and the continued collaboration between ICCN, FARDC and authorities are encouraging. However, the incidents following the operation to close the Bapela mining site, reports of the fighting at the Muchacha mining site, as well as the assassination of two guards at the post of Adusa at the entrance to the property show that the security situation remains problematic and continues to impact the management of the property. It is recommended that the Committee extend its sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed.

While the on-going efforts to close down various illegal mining sites are welcome, the persistence of illegal mining activities within and around the property, and the reported involvement of some local authorities, remain issues for serious concern, particularly noting that some mining operations appear to have evolved from small-scale artisanal mining to large-scale semi-industrial operations using equipment like dredgers. The development of a permanent settlement at the Muchacha mining site, the largest illegal mining site in the Reserve, is also extremely worrying. It is clear that illegal mining in the property requires strengthened commitment, including at provincial and national levels in order to restore law and order. Overall limited management capacity remains highly concerning. Patrol coverage remains at less than half the property (47%), well below the 60% corrective measure threshold. This is coupled with a lack of new eco-guard recruitment and concerns over insufficient sustainable financing. Furthermore, no information is provided on the update of the Integrated Management Plan (PAG). It is hoped that with the signature of the PPP with WCS, it will be possible to raise additional financial resources for the property, to strengthen the management capacity and update the PAG.

The intention to rehabilitate the okapi breeding station is noted. However, it is recommended that no okapi should be captured before the security situation is stable, considering also that the revival of tourism will remain problematic whilst insecurity persists. It is also recommended that the State Party, as part of the update of the PAG, develop an integrated *in-situ* and *ex-situ* okapi conservation strategy

and engage best practice expert guidance, such as through the IUCN Species Survival Commission Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group.

The initiation of the participatory boundary demarcation and socio-economic study in the Wamba sector is welcomed. Noting that the unclear western boundary of the Reserve is linked to the numerous illegal mining sites in this area, and given the importance of clarifying this boundary, the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO, with financial support from the Government of Norway, support the demarcation activities (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/974/>).

Although the State Party reports progress with regard to corrective measures, it again does not address various Committee concerns and requests, which are central to objectively assess progress achieved in relation 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). It is proposed that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide the SMART data collected in order to enable an assessment of the illegal activities on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and data concerning progress accomplished with regard to the indicators defined in the DSOCR.

Furthermore, despite requests, no data are provided 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 land-use within the property.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.9, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Presents its sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the performance of their duties, and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN);*
4. *Welcomes the continued collaboration between ICCN, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and authorities, which has enabled activities in all patrol sectors and facilitated the disarmament of various armed groups in the property;*
5. *Reiterates once more its concern regarding the persistent insecurity in the region, which limits surveillance coverage and effective management 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 so as to extend anti-poaching patrol coverage and progressively gain full control of the property;*
6. *While noting the efforts undertaken to close artisanal mines, expresses serious concern that illegal mining in the property appears to be intensifying in reported complicity with certain local authorities, with small-scale artisanal mining operations evolving into large-scale semi-industrial operations, and the development of a permanent settlement at the Muchacha mining site;*
7. *Considering that illegal mining in the property cannot be addressed by the Reserve authorities alone and that illegal mining is fueling the insecurity in the property and the region, strongly urges the State Party to ensure that all necessary measures are taken*

at local, provincial and national levels to address illegal mining as a matter of urgency to restore law and order in the property;

8. *Regrets that no information was provided on the updating of the Integrated Management Plan (PAG) for the property and the formalization of the Central Integral Conservation Zone, and urges again the State Party to expedite these processes, 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;*
9. *Notes the intention to rehabilitate the okapi breeding station but also urges the State Party to postpone any plans to capture okapi from the wild until the security situation is stable and to develop an integrated in-situ/ex-situ conservation strategy as part of the PAG for the long-term sustainability of okapi within the property, consulting best practice expert guidance, such as the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group;*
10. *Also welcomes the initiation of the participatory boundary demarcation process in the north-west and east of the property and the support provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre with funding from Norway, and requests the State Party to finalize the full demarcation of the property boundaries;*
11. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to update the data concerning the number of residents in the property and the villages located inside the property in order to assess the impacts of population increases on land-use in the property;*
12. *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 Outstanding Universal Value (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);*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
14. ***Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;***
15. ***Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

44. 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 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.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4575>
An update is proposed for adoption in the draft decision below.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

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; USD 250,000 from the Government of Norway (2021-2022)

Previous monitoring missions

2007, 2012 and 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission visited the property in January / February 2020 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents>). On 27 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property and additional information on 12 March 2021, all available at the same address and which provide the following information:

- Several activities were carried out favouring the empowerment of communities, in particular the creation and strengthening of farmer-led organisations (171), local development committees (350) and support for the process of creating community forests (172,802 hectares) in the buffer zone of the property;
- The participatory process of creating forest concessions to ensure ecological connectivity between the two blocks of the Park is evaluated at 50%;
- An inclusive process of displacement of the Yaelima communities with their free, informed and prior consent has been initiated as well as the elaboration of an environmental and social safeguarding framework in accordance with international standards;
- The co-management agreement between the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and WWF expired in August 2018. Its evaluation was satisfactory and a new agreement is under negotiation and could be signed by the end of the first quarter of 2021;
- The biological inventories carried out from 2016 to 2018 on the entire property and the corridor made it possible to obtain data on the fauna. An average of 1,562 elephants and 14,988 bonobos indicate that their populations remain stable despite past pressures;

- The non-natural boundaries of the property have been demarcated at 52%, with the priority of limiting conflicts with communities. In 2020, UNESCO provided USD 250,000 to support the finalisation of the demarcation process in 2021;
- Funding from the European Commission is currently supporting the management of the property and new funding is being negotiated;
- Significant progress has been made with regard to indicators for monitoring biological values as well as those for protection and management;
- The overall summary score of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) has increased from 40.9% (2016) to 64.5% (2019); which shows an improvement in the efficiency of the management of the property;
- In total, 198 patrols were carried out, equivalent to 59% within 1km² against 39.7% in 2018. The encounter rate for hunting activities (0.0298) is slightly up and several seizures and arrests have been made;
- Various tools have been developed to guarantee the professionalisation of eco-guards in the face of alleged violations of human rights, and the governance of the property has been strengthened by the establishment of several consultation frameworks;
- There is no oil exploration or exploitation activity in the property but it remains a potential threat. In 2021, the environment minister of the new government will be alerted for the signing of a letter clarifying the final position of the State Party.

In response to alleged human rights violations by eco-guards, an independent study was launched by WWF International and published in November 2020.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party and its partners have made significant efforts in the implementation of corrective measures, especially with regard to improving security of the property, rendering the anti-poaching strategy more effective, ensuring regular ecological monitoring of species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and strengthening collaboration between all those involved in the management of the property. The joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission was also able to note the important progress made in achieving the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, the significant progress observed should not obscure several recurring management weaknesses, requiring that the achievements be strengthened to enable the property to fully recover its original level of ecological integrity. Thanks to assistance from the Government of Norway and UNESCO, the participatory demarcation of the property will be finalised in 2021.

Negotiations between ICCN and WWF for the renewal of the co-management agreement are noted. It is important that this agreement or any other equivalent conventional instrument be finalised as soon as possible to ensure the sustainable continuation of management and protection activities.

The participatory work towards the creation of an ecological continuum between the two blocks of the Park is an important step forward and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to finalise the process by proposing a classification status and a management system for this space.

Improving collaboration between the management team, neighbouring communities and political, administrative and military authorities effectively contributes to the management of conflicts related to the use of natural resources. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts towards the empowerment of communities, the participatory finalisation of the demarcation of the non-natural boundaries of the park and the voluntary displacement of communities dwelling inside the park in accordance with the *Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*.

The human rights violations by the eco-guards revealed by the independent study are of great concern. It is positive that the State Party has taken appropriate measures, and it is recommended to fully implement all measures in accordance with the recommendations of the independent study (see also draft decision **44 COM 7A.46**).

The lack of sustainable funding aimed at ensuring the implementation of the management functions of the property is of concern and it is recommended that the State Party and its partners develop a sustainable funding system to ensure the effective management of the property.

Although there is currently no oil exploration or exploitation in the property, and it was noted during the reactive monitoring mission that no such intervention was undertaken that could affect the OUV of the property or its integrity, the existence of oil concessions allocated by presidential ordinance and straddling the property continues to constitute a potential threat to the OUV, as defined in paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines. It is recommended that the Committee regrets that these concessions have not yet been cancelled in accordance with its **Decision 43 COM 7A.10**, and that it reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel the current oil concessions, while not granting new concessions in the property and its periphery that could have negative and irreversible impacts on its OUV.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger pending the achievement of the elements proposed by the 2020 mission. However, in view of the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, it is recommended that the Committee no longer apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism for this property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.10** adopted at its 43rd session, Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note of the conclusion of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission, in particular the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures and the significant progress made towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) since the establishment of a functional co-management system for the property;*
4. *Notes that although there is currently no oil exploration or exploitation in progress in the property, the legal existence of oil concessions awarded by presidential ordinance and straddling the property continues to be a threat to the property, as defined in paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Regrets that the State Party has not cancelled the concessions straddling the property, in accordance with its Decision **43 COM 7A.10**, and reiterates its request to cancel the current oil concessions, while not authorizing new concessions within the property and its periphery which could have negative and irreversible impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Takes note with deep concern of the reports of alleged human rights violations against local communities during law enforcement operations and calls upon the State Party to take urgent action to strengthen its efforts to resolve this issue in accordance with relevant international standards and the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy, taking into account the results of the Independent Review and Decision **44 COM 7A.46**;*
7. *Also recalling the DSOCR indicators as proposed in the report of the 2012 reactive monitoring mission, also requests the State Party to implement the following elements to allow the property to be removed from the World Heritage List in Danger:*
 - a) *Ensure that all the indicators of the existing DSOCR are met,*
 - b) *Finalize a co-management agreement for the management of the property or any other equivalent conventional instrument operational for a significant period (at least two years after signature, and with the confirmation of a continued commitment to its implementation supported by sustainable funding),*

- c) *Confirm officially to the World Heritage Centre, in writing, (1) that no sharing contract or other legal commitment has been signed authorizing petroleum activities within the property or that (2) in the event that such contracts or commitments exist, the State Party undertakes to cancel and (3) ensure that such activities on the outskirts of the property have no negative effect on its OUV;*
8. Further requests the State Party to implement the corrective measures and recommendations as updated by the 2020 mission, as follows:
- a) *Pursue current efforts and strengthen the human, technical and financial capacities dedicated to the fight against poaching, both in terms of staff and their training,*
- b) *Increase the efforts undertaken with a view to a stronger involvement of communities in decision-making processes and raise their awareness of the fight against environmental crime,*
- c) *Finalize a framework for the peaceful management of conflicts with village communities, based on a successful mechanism for managing complaints and appeals to the co-managers of the property and including the establishment of precise protocols for community intervention,*
- d) *Prioritize finalizing the creation of an operational forestry continuum with a view to ensuring ecological functionalities between the two blocks of the property,*
- e) *Strengthen the fight against poaching linked to local corruption and public services,*
- f) *Improve the collection, management and processing of information and data obtained during surveillance operations, and stabilize the indicators used in this instance,*
- g) *Extend the sampling base for the annual monitoring of species in the corridor separating the two blocks which constitutes a favourable habitat for most of them, in particular the flagship species, the Congolese elephant, bonobo and peacock,*
- h) *Pursue current efforts to minimize the impacts of human activities on the outskirts of the property (e.g. fishing, itinerant slash-and-burn agriculture), on its OUV and on its integrity,*
- i) *Establish, as a priority, a sustainable development model adapted to the expectations of the communities residing in the periphery of the property, compatible with its environmental sensitivity,*
- j) *Pursue and accelerate the current process aimed at best preparing the relocation of families / communities established in the property, in accordance with the principal of prior, freely given and informed consent (PCPLC),*
- k) *Submit the findings of the ongoing study on the relocation of families / communities to the Committee, as soon as they are available, for opinion and comments;*
9. Commends the State Party for improving the collaboration between the management team, the local communities and the political, administrative and military authorities, with a view to effective management of conflicts related to the use of natural resources and encourages it to:
- a) *Pursue its efforts to empower communities,*
- b) *Undertake participatory finalization of the demarcation of the non-natural boundaries of the Park and the process of creating an ecological continuum between the two sectors of the Park by proposing a classification status and a simple management plan for this area,*

- c) *Ensure that the displacement of communities living within the Park is in accordance with the policies of the Convention and relevant international standards;*
10. *Thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the Government of Norway through its funding to the World Heritage Fund, providing financial support for improving the state of conservation of the property;*
 11. *Also takes note of the absence of a financing mechanism aimed at ensuring in a sustainable manner the implementation of the management functions of the property and further requests the State Party to develop a sustainable financing system with a view to the improvement of the efficiency in the management of the property;*
 12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022;*
 13. ***Decides to no longer continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property due to the progress made in the implementation of corrective measures and the improvement of the security situation;***
 14. ***Also decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

45. 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

In progress

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 253,560

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), USD 40,000 from 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 26 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation and a further report on 1 April 2021, both of which are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents>, containing the following information:

- The property reopened to tourism in February 2019 after an eight-month closure;
- Cooperation between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), and local and provincial authorities continues;
- Guard numbers remain constant (748). Anti-poaching patrols increased by over 30% from 2018, covering 42% of the property and 87% for air patrols. 550 security operations allowed the park to regain control over several areas of the property in the northern sector. The number of militia operating in the property declined from 2,500 to 1,000-1,200;
- The Greater Virunga Transboundary Cooperation (GVTC) transboundary cooperation with Uganda and Rwanda allowed five joint patrols and the implementation of a joint wildlife census of large mammals in 2018 (excluding gorillas/chimpanzees) with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). Reduced elephant poaching is reported (three carcasses in 2019; six in 2018); the hippopotamus population remains low but has remained stable over the last decade (1,496 individuals; 1,542 in 2018);
- No gorillas have been poached since 2016. Despite poaching and threats to the habitat, flagship species (gorillas, elephants, hippopotamus, buffaloes) continue to increase gradually or remain stable. A new count of large mammals is planned for June 2020 using camera traps;
- A fishing brigade created on Lake Edward allowed the increased seizure of illegal catch and fishing gear by eco-guards. Fish catch is reported as stable, which the State Party concludes means illegal fishing is relatively controlled. No catch data are provided;
- Illegal encroachment for agriculture and charcoal covers 18.5% of the property (19.4% in 2018); 912 bags of charcoal were seized and 254 kilns destroyed. Boundary demarcation (16km) through electric fence construction to secure the Ishasha ecological corridor continues;
- No further decision has been taken to re-start oil exploration activities since the installations of the oil company SOCO were abandoned;
- The Virunga Alliance continues development programmes, including the supply of power to the city of Goma. A third hydroelectric power station was constructed as an alternative to charcoal use;
- The biological indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) requested by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission

are being harmonized with the 2020-25 Development and Management Plan (PAG) for the property, currently being finalized. The DSOCR and PAG will be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN once validated;

Since submission of the report, the security situation in the region has again degraded with several attacks in the property and its vicinity. On 24 April 2020, 17 people (13 rangers/staff and four civilians) were killed in a militia attack (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2108>). On 24 June 2020, five guards were injured in another attack (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2128>). On 28 July 2020, seven soldiers were killed (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2138/>). On 10 January 2021, six guards were killed and one seriously injured in the line of duty (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2235>). UNESCO has officially condemned all these deadly attacks (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2235/>). In response to this new security crisis, emergency funding was provided through the Rapid Response Facility. Furthermore, gorilla tourism was suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is encouraging that it has been possible to re-establish control over certain areas and achieve a further decrease in the number of militia operating in the property. The continued efforts to increase patrols and aerial surveillance and to strengthen the capacity of anti-poaching units are welcomed.

However, ongoing security issues continue to present challenges for the management of the property and the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), with a continued presence of more than 1,000 armed elements operating in the property and several attacks on guards. It is recommended that the Committee addresses its sincere condolences to the families of the guards and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure full security in the property.

The transboundary cooperation and conservation efforts with Uganda and Rwanda through the GVTC are positive. It is encouraging that no gorilla poaching has occurred since 2016 and that the mountain gorilla population continues to grow in the property and the overall Virunga transboundary landscape. While the reported stabilization of flagship species and the apparent gradual decline in elephant poaching are noted, poaching remains a serious challenge and it will take time for populations to recover. Hippopotamus numbers remain low compared to 1970s levels (approximately 30,000) and the elephant population remains at a critical level. In spite of the significant increase in gorillas, the endangered species remains fragile and extremely vulnerable to new threats, such as the COVID-19 outbreak. The State Party should be commended for its continued conservation efforts in spite of the challenging security situation, urged to continue strengthening measures to ensure the full recovery of all flagship species, and requested to transmit the results of new inventories, the DSOCR and PAG to the World Heritage Centre.

Apart from poaching, issues of encroachment and deforestation for charcoal production continue to severely impact the integrity of the property, in spite of the efforts to address these threats. While some progress has been made to regain control of encroached areas, it is concerning that 18,5% of the property remains impacted by encroachment. It is clear that this problem cannot be solved through law enforcement alone and decisive actions are needed from the local, provincial and national political authorities to effectively address this issue.

Sustainable development efforts under the Virunga Alliance programme, specifically regarding tourism, hydropower, entrepreneurship and power delivery to local communities, are welcomed. Noting the construction of a third small scale hydroelectric power plant in 2019, it is recommended that the State Party provide an overview of all hydropower projects relating to the property, to ensure that the potential cumulative impacts of developments on the OUV of the property are fully considered, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new proposals prior to activities being undertaken.

Recalling previous deep concerns over potential petroleum exploitation and exploration threats to the property, it is encouraging that so far, no oil exploration activities have been undertaken since the removal of SOCO's facilities from the property more than four years ago. However, it is important to note that oil activities remain a potential threat to the property as long as the current licences have not been revoked, and the Committee should reiterate its request to cancel the petroleum concessions granted inside the property.

While efforts to implement the corrective measures are encouraging, the OUV of the property clearly remains under severe threat and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue implementing these with support from its partners.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Deplores the further loss of life of protected area staff killed in the line of duty and local communities, and addresses its most sincere condolences to their families and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN);
4. Expresses its deep concern regarding ongoing insecurity due to the continued presence of more than 1,000 armed elements operating in the property, rendering management operations extremely hazardous and leading to the persistence of illegal activities while endangering the life of the surveillance staff of the Park and local communities, but commends the protected area authority for its continued conservation efforts in spite of the challenging security situation;
5. Welcomes the transboundary conservation efforts with Uganda and Rwanda through the Greater Virunga Transboundary Cooperation (GVTC) and conservation efforts resulting in a significant increase in the population of mountain gorilla population in the property and the Greater Virunga Landscape;
6. Notes with concern that flagship species remain threatened and poaching continues, and requests the State Party to continue its effort to curb poaching and to submit the results of flagship species inventories, as well as the biological indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to be finalized in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Again expresses its utmost concern about the extent of encroachment on the property which, combined with the continued illegal exploitation of its natural resources, severely affects the integrity of the property, and urges the State Party to ensure that local, provincial and national authorities cooperate with the Park management to halt encroachment and take measures to recover the invaded areas;
8. While noting that currently no oil exploration activities are on-going in the property, regrets that the State Party has not confirmed its commitment not to authorize new petroleum exploration and exploitation within the boundaries of the property, as was established at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1979, and reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel the petroleum concessions granted inside the property;
9. 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 not to engage in such activities in World Heritage properties;
10. Also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all corrective measures as updated by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission and to continue the implementation

of the sustainable development activities established in the framework of the Virunga Alliance;

11. *Further requests* the State Party to provide an overview of all existing and planned hydropower projects around the property, to ensure that potential impacts of developments including cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are fully considered, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new developments in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to any activities being undertaken;
12. *Requests furthermore* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
13. ***Decides*** to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;
14. ***Also decides*** to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

46. General decision on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Current conservation issues

On 26 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the implementation of Decision **42 COM 7A.52**, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents> and providing the following information:

- Progress accomplished in the implementation of the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration and the corrective measures for each of the five properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is described (see Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A);
- A special army Corps responsible for security of the National Parks and relevant protected areas (CorPPN), which was created in June 2015, is now operational: a command structure was established in 2018, and in 2019 anti-poaching units were dispatched to six priority sites in the DRC, including all five World Heritage properties. Senior officers, logistics and operations rooms were put in place in the different sites;
- With regard to oil exploitation in Salonga and Virunga National Parks, the report states that oil exploitation, at this stage, does not threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the two properties, as no exploration or exploitation activities are on-going. The report further states that *“la volonté traduite à son temps par le gouvernement n’est plus à l’ordre du jour”* (sic) (*“the will expressed by the government at that time is no longer on the agenda”*);
- A list of funding mobilised for the five properties for the period 2016 to 2023, totalling more than 100 million Euros, is provided. Key donors include the European Commission and the Government of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW). No further information is provided on the status of the Trust Fund “Okapi Fund for Conservation – FOCON” for sustainable funding of the protected areas in the DRC;

The World Heritage Centre also received several letters on alleged human rights abuses by eco-guards in two properties (Salonga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks). These were forwarded to the protected area authority, the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN). An Independent Review was initiated by WWF, and in Salonga National Park, a code of conduct for the eco-guards and a complaint mechanism were established, while guards have received training on human rights issues.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The operationalization of the CorPPN at the level of each of the World Heritage properties, together with the creation of operational rooms and capacity building of the eco-guards, are important steps to further professionalize law enforcement in the properties and address the continuing threats of poaching, including by professional poaching groups. The reported alleged human rights abuses towards indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are highly concerning, and it is crucial that the State Party urgently implement strong measures to ensure that the rights of IPLCs are fully respected in all management decisions. Measures should include the establishment of a code of conduct and provision of training on human rights issues for all patrol units that includes appropriate law enforcement techniques with regard to the use of force and firearms, to ensure law enforcement operations are conducted in a way that fully respects the rights of IPLCs, and avoids excessive use of force and loss of human lives, in full respect of relevant international norms. Furthermore, management processes should follow a rights-based approach and ensure full involvement of all rightsholders and stakeholders, in particular IPLCs, in line with the *Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development*. It is encouraging that the protected area authority and its partners have already taken measures to address these issues and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to further strengthen these efforts including by establishing and implementing a national code of conduct for eco-guards and a grievance mechanism for human rights abuses, and by training all law enforcement staff on human rights issues as part of regular training. It is also recommended that the outcomes of the Independent Review are taken into consideration.

It is noted that the security situation is reported to have improved in most of the properties. It is important that the State Party takes advantage of this situation to address the drivers of fundamental threats impacting the different properties linked to insecurity and lawlessness. These include the closure of illegal mining operations and reclaiming parts of the properties occupied by armed forces since the start of the conflict. Encouraging achievements so far are the evacuation of illegal occupants in the corridor between the highland and lowland sectors in Kahuzi-Biega National Park and the closure of artisanal gold mines in the hunting areas surrounding Garamba National Park. It is crucial that the protected area authority receives the full support of all appropriate ministries and agencies, as well as traditional and political authorities to achieve this, in line with the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration.

It is concerning however, that issues of insecurity persist, noting particularly in Virunga National Park and Okapi Wildlife Reserve, where, since the previous session of the Committee, a further 25 park staff were killed in armed attacks. It is recommended that the Committee again strongly condemn this violence, address its condolences to the families of the victims and ICCN staff, and express its utmost concern regarding the continuing insecurity in and around Virunga National Park.

The confirmation by the State Party that there is currently no oil exploration or exploitation on-going in Virunga and Salonga National Parks and that the government is currently no longer pursuing oil development projects inside the two properties, is noted. However, as long as the concessions that have been attributed by Presidential Decree to companies for oil blocks overlapping with these properties are not revoked, the potential for oil projects to legally proceed in future remains, thereby continuing to impose a potential threat to the OUV of the properties, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This potential for extractive activities to occur has been demonstrated again by the legal action taken by certain companies against the State Party, asserting their legal rights to activate concessions. It is therefore recommended that the Committee express its regret that the State Party has neither cancelled these concessions nor provided the Committee with an unequivocal commitment not to authorize any new oil exploration and exploitation within the boundaries of the DRC properties. The Committee should also reiterate its clear position concerning the incompatibility of oil exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status and urge once again the State Party to cancel all concessions for oil blocks that overlap with World Heritage properties.

The important efforts to mobilize funding for the management of the properties of the DRC and the implementation of corrective measures, as well as the firm commitment of the various donors to provide substantial financial and technical support, are welcomed. However, it is noted that the funding situation remains precarious, in particular for Salonga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks and Okapi Wildlife Reserve. The importance of a sustainable financing mechanism also needs to be stressed, as all properties currently fully depend on outside project funding supported by international donors, which can be unpredictable and is not sustainable in the long term. In this respect, it is regrettable that no further information was provided on the status and capitalisation of the FOCON Trust Fund.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7A.52**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Appreciates the continued efforts of the State Party to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011, in particular the progress made with the operationalization of Corps responsible for the security of the National Parks and relevant protected areas (CorPPN) at the level of each of the five World Heritage properties in order to face the continuing threats of poaching, including by professional poaching groups;
4. Notes with significant concern the reports on alleged human rights abuses towards indigenous peoples and local communities during law enforcement operations and requests the State Party to take urgent measures to further strengthen its efforts to address this issue, including by establishing and implementing a national code of conduct for eco-guards and a grievance mechanism for human rights abuses, and by training all protected area staff on human rights issues as part of regular law enforcement training, as well as ensuring that management processes follow a rights-based approach and ensure full involvement of all stakeholders, in particular local and indigenous communities, in line with relevant international norms, the Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development, and taking into consideration the outcomes of the Independent Review;
5. Welcomes the improvement in the security situation in most properties, and urges the State Party to take advantage of this improved security situation to address the fundamental threats to the different properties, including by closing all remaining illegal mining operations and reclaiming parts of the properties occupied by armed forces since the start of the conflict, ensuring the support of all appropriate ministries and agencies as well as traditional and political authorities to achieve this, in line with the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration;
6. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the continued insecurity in Virunga National Park and Okapi Wildlife Reserve which resulted in further park staff being killed in the line of duty, strongly condemns this violence once again and addresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and all ICCN staff;
7. While noting the statement by the State Party that the government is currently no longer pursuing oil exploration or exploitation activities within Virunga and Salonga National Parks, strongly regrets that the State Party has not cancelled the oil concessions it has attributed which overlap with these properties, and that it has not yet provided the Committee with a firm commitment not to authorize any oil exploration and exploitation within the boundaries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) World Heritage properties, as requested in previous decisions;
8. Reiterates its position according to which oil and gas exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status and also urges once again the State Party to cancel these concessions and to undertake a commitment not to authorize any new oil exploration and exploitation within the boundaries of any World Heritage property;
9. Commends the efforts of the State Party to make operational the “Okapi Fund for Conservation – FOCON” as the Trust Fund for protected areas in the DRC, and also

requests the State Party, and the donor community, to provide it with adequate funding to effectively respond to the management needs of the DRC World Heritage properties;

10. *Also appreciates the important efforts to mobilize funding for the management of the DRC properties and the implementation of the corrective measures, as well as the firm commitment of the various donors to provide substantial financial and technical support, but notes that the funding situation remains precarious, in particular for Salonga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks and Okapi Wildlife Reserve, and stresses the importance of ensuring a sustainable financing mechanism, while regretting that no further information was provided on the status and capitalisation of the FOCON Trust Fund, and further requests the State Party to report on progress in this regard;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the security situation in the properties, and the status of the oil exploration and exploitation concessions that encroach on World Heritage properties, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022.*

47. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2018-present

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

Potential irreversible loss of the property's OUV caused by impacts of various development projects on the Omo River (Kuraz irrigation project, Gibe III dam) on water and nutrient flow into Lake Turkana

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

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/801/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 35,300

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012 and April 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; March 2020: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of the Gibe III dam

- Other planned hydro-electric developments and associated large-scale irrigation projects in the Omo region
- Oil exploration
- Wildlife population decline and pressure from poaching and livestock grazing
- Impacts of the larger development vision for Northern Kenya
- Management capacity of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
- Redesigning the boundaries of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, including the 2018-2028 Management Plan of the property and the 2016 bird monitoring report. A World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place on 6–11 March 2020. Both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>. Progress in addressing previous Committee decisions is provided in the State Party report as follows:

- An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed Lamu-Lokichar Crude Oil Pipeline was carried out in 2019, currently under validation by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA);
- The revision of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPSSET) continues;
- The States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia have not reached an agreement yet on the funding of the SEA to assess the cumulative impacts of the multiple developments in the Lake Turkana Basin on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the affected properties;
- The State Party remains open to UN Environment's support to the development of the SEA for the Lake Turkana Basin and looks forward to a meeting between UN Environment and the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia;
- The State Party awaits the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the Kuraz Sugar Development Project, to be undertaken by the State Party of Ethiopia;
- The implementation of the property's 2018-2028 Management Plan continues and enhanced monitoring of wildlife, including Grevy's Zebra and other herbivores, birds and lions, has been initiated;
- Monitoring of lake water levels is being undertaken using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) satellite observation platform and continuing limnological surveys.

It should be noted that while the Reactive Monitoring mission was planned as a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission, IUCN was unable to participate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mission was furthermore unable to finalize the corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as requested by the Committee, as the State Party of Ethiopia did not respond to the State Party of Kenya's invitation to attend the meeting.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's efforts to manage the property under difficult circumstances due to the prevailing socio-economic situation and remoteness of the property are acknowledged. At the same time, the future of the property depends on the success of intra- and inter-governmental cooperation to manage regional development pressure. The 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission confirms the potential danger to the property's OUV from large-scale development projects in the Lake Turkana Basin, combined with the pressures from poaching, livestock encroachment and illegal fishing. As noted by the mission, it is therefore of great concern that the long overdue SEA repeatedly requested by the Committee since its Decision **36 COM 7B.3** (Saint Petersburg, 2012) has still not been initiated, and that the delay may now limit the future options for mitigating negative impacts on the OUV. It is recommended that the Committee strongly urge the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to immediately conduct the SEA and present the findings at the 45th session of the Committee.

It is regrettable that the State Party of Ethiopia did not submit the EIA for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project as requested by the Committee (Decision **43 COM 7A.12**), as this EIA should include a comprehensive assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property. There has again been a lack of a consolidated response by the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, with no update presented on the status of the hydropower dams in Ethiopia.

Recalling the 2012 mission findings, the 2020 mission confirms the continued threat from poaching and encroachment and the resulting steep decline in wildlife populations that represent the values for which the property was inscribed under Criterion (x). Several flagship species, including Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and lion, are no longer present in the property. This provides a further rationale for inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is therefore recommended that the Committee add this issue to the justification for the continued inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in addition to the potential irreversible loss of the property's OUV due to upstream developments for which the property was initially inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2018. The proposal for corrective measures and a drafted DSOCR prepared by the mission take into account both threats, and build on the 2012, 2015 and 2020 mission recommendations. The State Party should finalise this proposal in consultation with the State Party of Ethiopia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and submit it for the Committee's approval as soon as possible.

While the completion of the 2018-2028 Management Plan is positive, its implementation is a major concern due to financial and human resource constraints. The mission also noted that the Management Plan should present a clear strategy on how to preserve the OUV of the property. The adoption of the DSOCR should be used as an opportunity to better focus the management of the property on the OUV. The mission noted the need to bring the three component parts of the property under one integrated management unit and develop an operational plan and monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the Management Plan.

The mission renewed the recommendation of the 2012 mission that the State Party re-design the property boundary to include a larger portion of the lake. The mission also recommended the creation of a buffer zone to the property in accordance with paragraphs 103-107 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as an added layer of protection with complementary legal restrictions on its use and development. These would enhance the integrity of the property and strengthen protection of the property's values of global importance.

The mission further recommended that the State Party might give consideration, in line with the Decision **CONF 208 VIII.A**, to re-submitting a cultural nomination of important fossil sites for human evolution outside the property that were nominated in 1997 but deferred by the Committee to allow re-vision of boundaries.

Considering that the 2020 mission was unable to fulfil its objectives as explained above, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party of Kenya to convene a workshop as soon as possible with the participation from the State Party of Ethiopia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to discuss the cumulative impacts on the property's OUV, and to finalise the DSOCR.

It is finally recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.3, 39 COM 7B.4, 40 COM 7B.80, 42 COM 7B.92 and 43 COM 7A.12 adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledging the State Party's continued efforts to implement the 2018-2028 Management Plan, requests the State Party to allocate adequate resources to protect*

the property, to bring the three component parts under one integrated management unit and to develop an operational plan and monitoring and evaluation system focused on the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. *Reiterates its deep regrets* about the continued lack of a consolidated response by the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to the Committee's past decisions, and *also requests* the State Party of Ethiopia to provide an urgent update on all planned and current development projects in the Turkana Basin, and submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. *Expresses its concern* about the long-standing threat of poaching and encroachment leading to steep decline and local extinctions of wildlife populations that represent the values for which the property was inscribed under Criterion (x), *considers* that this represents an ascertained danger to the property in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and ***decides to add this issue to the justification for the continued inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
6. *Deeply regrets* that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts of the multiple developments in the Lake Turkana Basin on the OUV of the affected properties continues to be delayed due to lack of an agreement between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia on its funding, and *strongly urges* the two States Parties to immediately conduct the SEA without any further delay for its findings to be examined by the Committee at its 45th session;
7. *Further requests* the State Party to finalise the proposed set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) in consultation with the State Party of Ethiopia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, for examination by the Committee at its 45th session;
8. *Invites* the State Party to consider redesigning the property's boundaries to include a larger portion of the lake; and to give consideration, in line with Decision **CONF 208 VIII.A**, to resubmitting a cultural nomination of important fossil sites for human evolution outside the property that were nominated in 1997 but deferred by the Committee to allow revision of boundaries;
9. *Requests furthermore* the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2020 mission, which build upon earlier mission recommendations, in particular to:
 - a) *Develop a site-specific Biodiversity Action Plan to restore wildlife populations in the property to the time of inscription of the property,*
 - b) *Conduct a comprehensive scientific study to assess the current impacts of grazing and develop a viable grazing pressure reduction strategy based on grazing capacities to address encroachment,*
 - c) *Establish a long-term monitoring system for the collection and analysis of hydrological and limnological data in Lake Turkana to assess the ecological changes to the lake system and the related impact on the OUV of the property,*
 - d) *Develop a national overarching Master Plan for development in and adjacent to Lake Turkana to avoid any negative impacts on the lake system and OUV of the property,*
 - e) *Create buffer zone to the property, possibly covering the whole lake and other critical terrestrial areas with complementary legal and/or customary restrictions on its use and development;*

10. Requests moreover the State Party to complete, as soon as possible, the work on the revision of the SEA for the Lamu Port-Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPSSET), taking into account both individual and cumulative impacts that the project and all of its sub-projects may have on the OUV of the property, as well as on Lamu Old Town World Heritage property, and that no further components of LAPSSET be implemented before the SEA is completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Kenya to submit the ESIA for the Lamu-Lokichar Crude Oil pipeline, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before taking any decision that may be difficult to reverse;
12. Requests in addition the State Party of Kenya to convene as soon as possible, a workshop with participation from the State Party of Ethiopia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to discuss the cumulative impacts of developments in the Lake Turkana Basin on the property's OUV, and to finalise the DSOCR;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
14. **Also decides to retain Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood) and its secondary impacts; poaching of endangered lemurs were identified as threats for the site's integrity

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/4344>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page [e](#)

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 155,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,890,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation; USD 1,039,000 from the Government of Norway (2014-2016)

Previous monitoring missions

May 2011, September-October 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Encroachment
- Fire
- Hunting and poaching of endangered species, including lemurs
- Artisanal mining
- Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood)
- Weak governance and law enforcement to prevent the illegal logging and export of precious wood species
- Need to strengthen the engagement of and benefit-sharing with local communities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>, which provides the following information:

- The strengthening of the application of the law on forest offenses (in particular with the instruction of 16 cases by the Special Court for the fight against the trafficking of rosewood and ebony since 2018) and the pursuit of actions related to the seizure of rosewood in Singapore in 2014, in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- The adoption of decisions 18.94 - 18.99 (<https://cites.org/en/dec/valid17/82156>) at the 18th Conference of the Parties in August 2019 and the publication of a notification 2019/051, <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2019-051.pdf> by CITES;
- No cases of fraudulent cutting of rosewood but cases of palisander (120 cuts recorded in 2019);
- A proposal made to CITES for liquidation was not accepted;
- Intensification of surveillance missions by park officials, in close collaboration with members of local park committees, law enforcement and the Environment Service (coverage rate of 70% of the property in 2019);
- Increase in the rate of deforestation, with 0.008% compared to 0.001% in 2018 (this remains under the indicator 2 of 0.01%). However, the figures reported for the different components of the property appear to be higher. In 2019, there was a slight increase in clearing (39ha) and the number of lemur traps (186);
- Delimitation of 232 km of external boundaries and the operationalisation of five guard posts as well as four control barriers to strengthen surveillance of the property;
- Ecological restoration of 724 ha of degraded land in 2019, mainly by leaving it to lie fallow;
- Empowerment of communities through the promotion of micro-projects for development in the areas, and distribution of 90,000 plants for ecological restoration and awareness actions;
- The evaluation of the management efficiency of the property shows an improvement.

No progress is reported on inventories of timber stocks, nor on their seizure or disposal. In addition, no information is provided on the implementation of the five-year action plan against illegal mining.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party has made efforts to respond to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and to implement the corrective measures, in particular by the continuation of ecological monitoring, the intensification of the surveillance missions, the prosecution of the persons involved in the illicit trade of

precious woods, the fight against illegal activities associated with the application of laws relating to forest and wildlife offenses, the empowerment of local communities and their involvement in the management of the property.

However, it is very worrying that 10 years after the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, no progress is noted with regard to the inventory, securing and the elimination of the stocks of rosewood, which must be regarded for the most part as illegal. It should be recalled that previous monitoring missions considered undocumented stocks to be the main factor behind continued illegal felling and exports. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to find a sustainable solution aimed at eliminating all stocks of precious woods, fully implementing CITES decisions on ebony (*Diospyros spp.*), palisander and rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*).

In accordance with the Committee's request, an analysis of the deforestation from satellite images was carried out. The results obtained between 2010 and 2018 show an annual rate of 0.11 to 0.21% of the different components of the property in 2018, which seems to be in contradiction with the rate provided for the property as a whole (0.001% in 2018). It should be recalled that the objective is to limit the annual rate of clearing to below 0.01% of the area of the property with a view to its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (indicator 2). In addition, the increase in land clearing observed in 2019 (39ha) and the number of cases of illegal logging for palisander (120) remain worrying. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide detailed data on deforestation, explaining the contradictions observed in the report, and on the sites still to be rehabilitated.

The total number of reported traps, associated with the decrease in numbers of five species of lemurs, remains of great concern.

Regarding illegal mining, it is regrettable that the information relating to the modalities of the implementation of the five-year action plan and the necessary ecological restoration activities, and the assessment of the damage caused by the mining activity to the property have not been provided, despite the Committee's request since its 42nd session. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to resubmit its request for International Assistance regarding illegal mining activity in the property, taking into account the recommendations provided by the World Heritage Centre.

In conclusion, threats to the property, including deforestation linked to the illicit trade in precious woods, poaching and artisanal mining, still constitute serious threats to its Outstanding Universal Value. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue and intensify its efforts for the implementation of the corrective measures. It is regrettable that the timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures was not provided despite the Committee's request (Decision **43 COM 7A.13**), and given the State Party's request for financial support for this process. Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party for the implementation of corrective measures, in particular the fight against illegal activities and trafficking, the application of laws relating to forest and wildlife offenses, ecological monitoring, ecological restoration, and the empowerment of neighbouring communities and their involvement in the management of the property;*
4. *Notes with preoccupation the rate of deforestation of the property recorded following the analysis of satellite data for the period from 2010 to 2018 as well as the increase in clearing in 2019, recalls the objective of limiting the annual rate of clearing below 0.01% of the surface of the property with a view to its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (indicator 2) and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the World*

Heritage Centre with detailed data on deforestation, explaining the contradictions observed in the report, and detailed information on the sites to be rehabilitated, for examination by IUCN;

5. *Notes with concern that 10 years after the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, there is no significant progress with regard to the inventory, the securing and elimination of the stocks of rosewood, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to find a lasting solution aimed at eliminating all stocks of precious woods by fully implementing the decisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) concerning ebony (Diospyros spp.), palisander and rosewood (Dalbergia spp.);*
6. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to provide an update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan, as well as an assessment of the impacts of mining activity on the property, and to undertake the necessary ecological restoration activities;*
7. *Urges the State Party to continue the implementation of the CITES action plan and the biodiversity management plan, and strongly encourages it to implement all CITES decisions relating to the ebony, palisander and rosewood;*
8. *Also notes with concern that the deforestation linked to the illegal trade in precious timber, poaching and artisanal mining still constitute serious threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and requests the State Party to continue and intensify its efforts to implement corrective measures;*
9. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to update the timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures by developing a budgeted and time-bound action plan as part of the new integrated management plan, and to submit the draft management plans for each element of the property, as well as the integrated management plan, to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by IUCN before approval;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
11. ***Decides to retain the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

49. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(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

The region having recently suffered from military conflict and civil disturbance, the Government of Niger requested the Director-General of UNESCO to launch an appeal for the protection of the site

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/325>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1999-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 202,316

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 300,000 from the Government of Norway for the period 2021-2022Previous monitoring missions

May 2005 and February 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Political instability and civil strife (Issue resolved)
- Poverty
- Management constraints (lack of human and logistical means)
- Ostrich poaching and other species
- Soil erosion
- Demographic pressure
- Livestock pressure
- Pressure on forestry resources
- Gold panning
- Illegal activities (increase in poaching threats and timber harvesting)
- Proliferation of the invasive exotic species (*Prosopis juliflora*)
- Insecurity

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 April 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/> containing the following information:

- The implementation of corrective measures continued, especially with regard to re-establishing the physical presence of management authorities, the protection and ecological monitoring of species of outstanding universal value (OUV), combating poaching and illegal extraction of natural resources for commercial purposes;
- The strengthening of collaboration with local communities through the support of the valley chiefs has resulted in the organization of a workshop with relevant stakeholders to encourage their involvement in the management of the property;
- The aesthetic values of the property have kept their character almost intact. Regular ecological monitoring missions have confirmed the presence of the dama gazelle, the dorcas gazelle and the Barbary sheep. However, the addax has not been seen on the property for more than 20 years and it is not excluded that this species is locally extinct in the property;
- Patrols have controlled gold mining within the property. On the other hand, evidence of poaching of dorcas gazelle, Barbary sheep and Nubian bustards was recorded as well as illegal logging. No offenders were apprehended;
- The international assistance request (IA 2019-3083) for the elaboration of a Management and Development Plan (MDP), an emergency monitoring plan and a desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) will be implemented in 2020. In addition, a strategy to combat Invasive Alien Species (IAS), in particular *Prosopis juliflora*, will be developed with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC);

- The State Party has not granted any mining exploration or exploitation permits within or in the immediate vicinity of the property. However, uranium, oil and gold exploration and exploitation permits have been granted between 100 and 400 km from the property. These permits are subject to regulatory procedures and regular monitoring of the operations by the competent authorities within the framework of the implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP).

On 6 April 2020, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for the Kafra Block (2017), China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) International (Niger) Limited (2015), and GoviEx Niger Holdings Limited (2015) oil exploration projects.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party continues its important efforts to operationalize the management body for the property and to strengthen collaboration with local authorities through the involvement of valley chiefs with the aim of improving monitoring and raising community awareness of the protection of the property.

However, it is worrying that poaching, gold mining and illegal logging continue to threaten the property. Although regular patrols have been undertaken, no detailed information on patrolling efforts, area covered, extent and location of these pressures has been provided despite the Committee's request.

Furthermore, the proliferation of *Prosopis juliflora* remains a major preoccupation and the development of a strategy for IAS in consultation with IUCN should be urgently initiated to ensure that it is included in the Development and Management Plan (DMP) of the property being elaborated.

The elaboration process by the State Party of the DMP, the emergency monitoring plan and the finalization of the DSOCR are noted and it is recommended that the Committee should request the State Party to urgently finalize the various management documents and the DSOCR in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre, through financing from the Government of Norway, will contribute to the efforts of the State Party with a view to operationalizing the DMP and finalizing the DSOCR.

Re-confirmation of the presence of some iconic antelope species is noted, however their conservation status remains unknown. The lack of sightings of several iconic species that are characteristic of the OUV, in particular the addax which appears to be locally extinct in the property, remains of great concern. Noting that some species remain Critically Endangered, for example the dama gazelle for which the property contains one of the four remaining populations, the State Party should be encouraged to develop a monitoring and recovery plan for the iconic antelope species in consultation with the IUCN/SSC Antelope Specialist Group.

The confirmation that no exploration or mining permits located within or in the immediate vicinity of the property have been granted and that the uranium, oil and gold exploration and exploitation permits are located between 100 and 400 km from the property has been noted. However, although ESIAs have been submitted for three proposed projects, the current status of these projects is unclear and no information has been provided regarding the existing exploration and exploitation permits, in accordance with the Committee's previous requests. It is recommended that the Committee should request the State Party to provide a clear overview of all the exploration and exploitation permits in and around the property, including location maps; to carry out an assessment of the individual and cumulative impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property; and to ensure that the ESIAs of the exploitation projects be carried out in accordance with the IUCN Advice Note and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination, before any approval. Consideration should be given to potential wider indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, e.g. habitat fragmentation due to the ecological link between the property and permit areas, the risk of increased poaching with the influx of personnel and the creation of access roads.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party to implement corrective measures but considers that additional progress is needed in view of the extent of the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with satisfaction the launch of the process to establish a Development and Management Plan (DMP), an emergency monitoring plan, and an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) strategy in consultation with IUCN and requests the State Party to finalize the various management documents and implement them urgently;
5. Reiterates its request that the State Party develop a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and again encourages the State Party to seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in this regard;
6. Thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, notably the Government of Norway through its contribution to the World Heritage Fund;
7. Reiterates its deepest concern that some of the characteristic species of the OUV are reported to be threatened, endangered or locally extinct, in particular the addax, and urges the State Party to develop a monitoring and recovery plan for the iconic antelope species in consultation with the Antelope Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC);
8. Notes the confirmation that no exploration or mining permits are located within or in the immediate vicinity of the property, and that permits granted for uranium, oil and gold are located between 100 and 400 km from the property and are subject to regulatory procedures, however, also recalling its concern about the increase in uranium, oil and gold exploration and mining permits in the vicinity of the property, as well as the continuation of illegal gold mining, also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Provide a clear overview of the concessions around the property (location maps, concessions, permit details),
 - b) Ensure that the impacts of development projects on the OUV of the property are assessed through Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment,
 - c) Submit these ESIAs to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN before any approval of decision,
 - d) Not grant any new oil and mining exploration or exploitation permits in the vicinity of the property without a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the impacts on the OUV of the property, including the cumulative effects of such projects, in accordance with the IUCN Advice Note;
9. Regrets once again that the report submitted by the State Party does not provide detailed information on poaching, gold mining and logging in and around the property, and on actions implemented to counter these threats, and also reiterates its request that the

State Party submit maps showing the location of the main threats identified, together with indications of their severity and extent;

10. ***Further requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;*
11. ***Decides to retain Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

50. 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

Total amount granted: USD 250 000 from the government of Norway (2021-2022)

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
- Potential 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 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.org/en/list/153/documents/>, containing the following information:

- The ecological monitoring carried out from 2016 to 2019 has improved the knowledge of temporal dynamics and spatial distribution of the following species: hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus major*), Derby eland (*Tragelaphus derbianus derbianus*) and Lycaon (*Lycaon pictus*);
- The studies undertaken by the Petowal Mining Company (PMC) indicate the presence of a group of roughly 15 chimpanzees in the concession. Actions have been adopted to mitigate the impact of threats that affect the conservation of the species;
- The monthly control of the groundwater quality downstream of the Mako mine has enabled the evaluation of the level of pollution. Globally, the quality of the groundwater is in conformity with the standards in vigour in 2019, with the exception of Manganese where the increase is not linked to the project. Also, high levels of nitrate, sulphate and iron have been recorded in some samples, and studies are ongoing to identify the origin of these excesses;
- Monitoring of the Gambia River waters reveals that with the exception of aluminium, all the chemical parameters respond to the criteria of the local water quality standards;
- In the absence of funding, the construction work for the Sambangalou Dam has not yet begun even though the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Environmental Management Plan have already been prepared;
- Following the installation of speed bumps, information and signalling panels on the section of the National Road N° 7 that crosses the property, no animal fatality due to vehicles has been recorded since June 2019;
- In cooperation with the administrative authorities of the Kédougou region, operations to combat illicit mining exploitation have permitted the arrest of about twenty people and the closure of several clandestine sites located near or inside the property;
- The Barrick Gold Company is currently carrying out exploratory activities. The ESIA of the Massawa auriferous project has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN;
- The closure of the Mansadala quarry has been postponed until mid-2021 to finalise rehabilitation work on the National Roads Nos. 1 and 7;
- The non-natural boundaries of the property have been approved based on Decree 2002-271 of 7 March 2002;
- An information meeting between the representatives of the State Party, UNESCO, IUCN and the PMC was held in March 2020 to discuss the operational activities of the Gold Mine at Mako.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Continued monitoring of the evolution of certain animal populations (hartebeest, Derby eland and Lycaon), their habitat as well as the main threats that affect the property is warmly welcomed. However, the report provides no indication on the current state of conservation or the tendencies of these species. Further, the present situation of several characteristic species of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), notably the elephant, chimpanzee, lion and leopard is not indicated. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to strengthen its ecological monitoring mechanism so as to provide reliable data on the evolution of the populations of all the characteristic species of the OUV. To this end, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, with funding from the Government of Norway, will contribute to the State Party's efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property.

The estimation of 15 individuals as the number of chimpanzees in the impact zone of the PMC is noted, but the threats that menace this endangered species and its habitat remain very worrying. It is recommended that the Committee request that the measures undertaken to mitigate the impact of the major threats affecting the conservation of the species be reinforced.

The semi-mechanised mining exploitations have contributed towards damage to the aquatic habitat and to a significant increase in the level of suspended sediments in the Gambia River. It is important that the State Party continue efforts, with support from the prefectural authorities, to eliminate illicit extractive activities inside and in the vicinity of the property immediately and undertake urgent measures to restore the damaged habitats and control pollution.

The high concentrations of nitrate, sulphate and iron in the underground waters and aluminium in the waters of the Gambia River remain a cause for concern. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue monitoring the groundwater and surface water quality to detect the causes of these anomalies, carry out microbiological analyses of the waterways likely to be affected by the project and to undertake urgent measures to limit the impact of this pollution.

It is regrettable that the report has not provided information concerning the combat against invasive species and it is recommended that the Committee request the pursuance of the efforts to eliminate this threat.

The absence of animal mortality following the introduction of speed controls of vehicles on the RN7 is positive and the Committee could request assurance that these traffic and safety standards are respected, whilst continuing to raise awareness of the motorists.

The materialization of the entire non-naturel boundaries of the property is warmly welcomed. However, the negative impact of the Mansadala quarry on the OUV of the property is of great concern. Taking account of the confirmation by the State Party regarding the non-closure of the quarry before mid-2021, contrary to the decision of the Committee concerning its closure, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request in this respect.

The suspension of construction work for the Sambangalou Dam due to lack of funding is noted, however, it is important that an ESIA be undertaken, in conformity with the Advice Note of IUCN, and that it be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, before the commencement of the work.

The submission to the World Heritage Centre of the ESIA carried out by the Barrick Gold Company to ensure that the implementation of the mining project does not impact on the OUV is noted. It is recommended that the State Party does not deliver a certificate of environmental conformity to this Company before the ESIA is examined by IUCN.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.55** and **43 COM 7A.15**, adopted respectively at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions,*
3. *Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the State Party to implement some of the corrective measures, especially those concerning the monitoring of certain populations of threatened and key species for the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), improvement in the marking of the boundaries of the property and the speed limit of traffic on the section of National Road N°7 within the property;*
4. *Also takes note of the results of the ecological monitoring, but regrets the absence of data on some characteristic species of the OUV and requests the State Party to strengthen its ecological monitoring mechanism to provide reliable data on the state of conservation and the current population trends of all the characteristic species of the OUV;*

5. Thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, notably the Government of Norway through its contribution to the World Heritage Fund;
6. Expresses its grave concern regarding the continued menace that weighs on the threatened population of 15 chimpanzees present in the impact zone of the Petowal Mining Company (PMC) and also requests the State Party to continue implementation of the actions aimed at mitigating the impact of the major threats hindering the conservation of the species;
7. Warmly welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the control and elimination of illicit mining exploitation, but expresses its grave concern as regards damage to the aquatic habitat and the significant increase in the level of suspended sediments in the Gambia River following illegal mining exploitation, and further requests the State Party to continue its efforts in eliminating this threat in the property, while undertaking urgent measures to restore the damaged habitats and control pollution;
8. Reiterates its grave concern regarding high concentrations of nitrate, sulphate and iron in the groundwater, and aluminium in the waters of the Gambia River, and requests furthermore the State Party to continue monitoring the quality of the groundwater and surface waters to detect the causes of these anomalies, carry out microbiological analyses of the waterways likely to be affected by the project and to take urgent measures to limit the impact of this pollution;
9. Also regrets that the State Party has not provided any information concerning the combat against invasive species and requests moreover that it continues its efforts to eliminate this threat;
10. Further regrets the postponement until mid-2021 of the closure of the Mansadala quarry, reiterates its request to the State Party to proceed immediately to the closure of the quarry given its negative impact on the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party to undertake urgent measures to mitigate the impacts of this activity;
11. Further takes note of the suspension of the construction work for the Sambangalou Dam due to lack of funding and requests in addition the State Party not to undertake work before an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been realized in conformity with the IUCN Advice Note and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
12. Takes note furthermore of the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the ESIA of the Barrick Gold Company mining project, and requests the State Party not to deliver a certificate of environmental conformity to the Company before the examination of the ESIA by IUCN;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022;
14. **Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

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

- Road construction
- Mining
- Illegal logging
- Encroachment

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

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

Revised, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7213>

Corrective measures identified

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

Revised, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7213>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005 to 2012)

Total amount approved: USD 96,600

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) – Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage; USD 35,000 Rapid Response Facility Grant (2007); USD 49,620 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to integrate management and review boundaries for the long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (2020-2021)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2006: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 6 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/> and provides the following updates:

- The increased use of patrols based on a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) has resulted in a consistent decrease in the number of illegal incidents found in the patrolled areas. Data demonstrate the need to target patrols around the property boundaries, where illegal activities are more prevalent;
- Several agreements were signed between the Directorate General of Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem (KSDAE) and the regional governments to strengthen conservation partnerships concerning the three components of the property, committing not to expand encroachment and to undertake ecosystem restoration;
- The 2018-2022 Ecosystem Restoration Plan is being implemented in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) in collaboration with local communities to control the spread of *Merremia peltata*, which covers 22,000 ha (22%) of BBSNP;
- The 2018 forest cover data for the three components of the property are: 2 million ha primary forest; 217,000 ha secondary forest; 9,250 ha secondary swamp forest;
- A national regulation on Strategic Roads in Forest Area was adopted in 2019 and foresees that relevant international institutions must be consulted on strategic roads within natural World Heritage properties;
- An Environmental Evaluation Document has been developed for the Namu-Karo road upgrade in Langkat Regency inside Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP);
- A mitigation strategy has been developed for the Bukit Tapan road upgrade inside Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) based on several studies, including a survey using acoustic technology, proposing the installation of guard posts, road signs and speed bumps along with the use of entry restrictions, increased patrols and canopy bridges;
- The commitment not to grant any permits for geothermal energy exploitation within the property is reiterated;
- In GLNP, the Sumatran tiger population density was 0.59 individuals/100km² in 2018, compared to 0.46 in 2013. The tiger populations in BBSNP and KSNP are also showing an increase, while the latest island-wide occupancy survey is currently ongoing. There is insufficient data to identify population trends for the Sumatran elephant. The estimated Sumatra orangutan population for the whole of Sumatra was 14,470 in 2016. Camera traps are being used to assess the Sumatran rhino population and data are currently being analysed;
- A new KSNP management plan for 2020-2029 is being drafted with the relevant stakeholders;
- Boundary demarcation activities continue. The State Party has started work on the significant boundary modification proposal, which will be coordinated with IUCN.

On 10 September 2019, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to verify third-party information on plans by the local government to clear 1,306 ha of forest within KSNP and 49,000 ha of forest outside KSNP and BBSNP for plantations and mining. On 23 October 2020, the State Party confirmed that the proposal was under consideration, but that no decision had yet been taken. On 25 January 2021, the World Heritage Centre transmitted IUCN's technical review and requested that the necessary impact assessments be undertaken and submitted.

On 10 June 2020, 25 January 2021 and 9 March 2021, the World Heritage Centre requested comments from the State Party regarding reported plans to construct a Trans-Sumatran Highway near GLNP and KSNP. In the same letter of March 2021, the World Heritage Centre also requested comments and further information on proposed developments in the vicinity of the property (four hydropower dams and mining projects) and a proposed Muara Situlen–Gelombang road that would cut 18km through GLNP, including the necessary impact assessments. At the time of writing of the present document, no response has been received from the State Party.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The signed agreements with the relevant regional authorities to ensure the protection of the property contradict the concerning plans under discussion to clear forest areas within the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party take urgent measures to immediately halt encroachment linked to logging, plantation development or mining and to scale up forest restoration activities, with priorities given to ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife corridors and roadsides and refrain from considering any further project leading to further deforestation in and around the property. Such efforts are required to meet the forest cover indicator for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). Taking note of the 2018 data, which will form the baseline for monitoring future forest cover in the property, the State Party should adopt adequate and consistent monitoring mechanisms. Subsequently, it should implement active protection and management measures to meet the indicator, halt encroachment and prevent further proliferation of the invasive species *Merremia peltata*.

The development of roads in and around the property remains of utmost concern, and it is considered that the national regulation on roads contradicts the DSO CR, which requires that no new road development be proposed within the property. Therefore, the proposed construction of Muara Situlen–Gelombang road through GLNP must not proceed. No decision should be made on proposed developments in the vicinity of the property that may affect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted and reviewed by IUCN.

It is regrettable that the Namu-Karo road upgrade (previously Karo-Langkat road), which traverses GLNP, has already been completed. The Committee, in its Decision **43 COM 7A.1**, requested the State Party not to commence construction works until an EIA had been undertaken. SMART data shows that critically endangered Sumatran orangutans are present in this area, which was not mentioned in the Environmental Evaluation Document. The bisecting road will fragment the wildlife population in the south-eastern tip of GLNP and may also facilitate access for illegal activities. It is vital to keep the road closed except for emergency evacuation use and to assess how the road upgrade impacts wildlife species, especially the orangutan.

The Bukit Tapan road upgrade appears not to have been undertaken yet. While the proposed mitigation measures are noted, no update is provided on the specific assessment of the OUV requested by the Committee. The Trans-Sumatran Highway proposal, available on the website of the Ministry of Public Works, indicates that the road would be in close proximity to the property, potentially threatening its ecological integrity. No decision should be made for either road proposal before a thorough assessment of any potential impact on the OUV of the property has been undertaken.

The large error margins for Sumatran tiger density data mean that no trend can be obtained, because of low encounter rates and the limited spatial coverage of surveys. The 2017 IUCN Red List assessment shows the continuing dramatic decline of Sumatran orangutan. The continued breeding signs for the Sumatran rhino are positive, but their overall population is understood to be in decline. To meet Indicator 2 of the DSO CR, it is essential that range occupancy of all key species be monitored.

It is noted that the drafting process of the new management plan of KSNP for 2020-2029 is ongoing, and the collaboration with relevant sectors and stakeholders, including local communities, is welcome.

No further details are provided on the reported work on the significant boundary modification. Recalling that the 2018 mission considered the boundary demarcation on the ground to be largely insufficient, continued work is needed to ensure law enforcement and report on its progress. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to closely consult with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta to further develop a proposal for the significant boundary modification, making use of the framework of the newly approved UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are increasingly alarmed by the continued deterioration of the OUV of the property through encroachment, further road development, impacts of invasive species, continued decline of key species and increasing ecological isolation of the property. It is recommended that the State Party substantially and urgently increase its efforts to implement the corrective measures in order to address the significant threats to the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.40** and **43 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its utmost concern over the alarming continued deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through encroachment, further road development, impacts of invasive species, the continued decline of key species and increasing ecological isolation of the property, and urges the State Party to increase its efforts to implement the corrective measures in order to address the significant threats to the OUV of the property;
4. Appreciating the signing of agreements with the regional governments not to expand encroachment and to undertake ecosystem restoration within each component of the property, also expresses its utmost concern over the plans under discussion to clear forest areas within the property, and also recalling that the indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) stipulate that there should be no further loss of primary forest and no net loss of secondary forest cover in the property, reiterates its request that the State Party take urgent measures to halt all encroachment linked to logging, plantation development or mining and to scale up forest restoration activities, with priorities given to ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife corridors and roadsides;
5. Further expresses its utmost concern that the integrity of the property continues to be severely threatened by various road developments, including the Namu-Karo road upgrade inside the Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP), the Bukit Tapan road upgrade inside Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), the Trans-Sumatran Highway proposal that would be located in close proximity to the property and reported plans for Muara Situlen-Gelombang road through GLNP and, further recalling the indicator for the DSOCR that there should be no new road development or proposal to that effect within the property, also urges the State Party to ensure that:
 - a) No new road development is permitted within the property,
 - b) Any road and development proposal close to the property be subject to a thorough assessment of its potential impact on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before a decision is taken that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - c) The Namu-Karo road is closed for all traffic except for emergency evacuation, and that the impact of the road on wildlife species, especially the critically endangered Sumatran orangutan, is urgently assessed,
 - d) A comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Bukit Tapan road upgrade on the OUV is undertaken to identify appropriate mitigation measures and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any further construction takes place,
 - e) More details are provided on the reported Trans-Sumatran Highway proposal that would be located in close proximity to the property;

6. Further urges the State Party to urgently increase its efforts to implement all corrective measures and in particular to strengthen property-wide monitoring of four key species (Sumatran elephant, tiger, rhino and orangutan) as well as to control measures preventing further proliferation of the invasive species *Merremia peltata*, and requests the State Party to report on progress in achieving the DSOCR for the property;
7. Notes that the new management plan of KSNP for 2020-2029 is being developed, and also requests the State Party to submit a copy of the management plan to the World Heritage Centre when it is finalised;
8. Recalling furthermore that the 2018 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission considered the boundary demarcation on the ground to be largely insufficient, further requests the State Party to continue the boundary demarcation of the property to halt encroachment, report on progress, and work in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta to develop a proposal for the significant boundary modification, with support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project to integrate management and review boundaries for the long-term protection of the property's OUV;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;
10. **Decides to retain Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

53. 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

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7423>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7423>

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 56,689 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (2015): Technical Support to East Rennell; USD 35,000, UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2015): Support to East Rennell; USD 38,398, UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (2019-present): Developing sustainable livelihoods in 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 (issue resolved)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (Over-exploitation of coconut crab and other marine resources)
- Forestry/wood production (Commercial logging)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Storms
- Mining
- Management systems/management plans (Management planning and administration of the property)
- Legal framework (Legislation)
- Commercial fishing (issue resolved)

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 June 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, followed by an update on 12 March 2021. Both are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/854/documents/> and provide the following updates:

- Two stakeholder dialogues were organized to discuss an update of the 2016 Cabinet Paper, the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and commitments from each stakeholder and each ministry. Limited capacity and budget were identified as main challenges;
- Different views on the management of the property continue to exist among the customary landowners, including interests in commercial logging and mining. Logging and mining activities in West Rennell have negatively impacted the livelihoods of the communities in East Rennell. Community consultations are scheduled in 2021 with support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (NFIT);
- The logging concession in close proximity to the property ceased in December 2019. An assessment of potential residual environmental impacts by the Environment and Conservation Division was postponed to later in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- A proposed road construction within the property was approved by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and a scoping study was undertaken in July 2020 by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology to assess the need for a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Further government deliberations are ongoing;
- The process to apply for National Protected Area status is yet to be initiated. The required Management Plan has not yet been finalized. The registration of lands under the Registration of Customary Lands Act is under discussion;

- Tropical Cyclone Harold and prolonged heavy rain in 2020-2021 have severely impacted the food security of the communities through the disruption of farming activities and monthly shipping services from Honiara. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock plans to strengthen food security based on traditional farming methods;
- Mass mortality of flying foxes has been reported. The cause is yet unknown;
- A livelihood and conservation project is currently under implementation with support from the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP);
- A three-year project to control invasive rats led by BirdLife International is also in the pipeline;

The State Party requested that the current timeframe to implement the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) be extended to 2025, in view of the need for further mobilisation of international support and because of the delay with the implementation of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 12 April and 10 May 2021, the World Heritage Centre sent letters to the State Party, following up on third-party information relating to the grounding of a barge that reportedly belongs to a logging company and relaying concerns regarding the customary governance of the property. The exact location of the grounding and its potential impacts are being verified with the State Party.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's efforts to foster stakeholder dialogue to implement the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission are welcomed and should be continued. While the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are acknowledged, the limited progress with the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the mission is of concern. Since the implementation depends on the allocation of budget through a new Cabinet Paper, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to adopt, as a matter of urgency, this Cabinet Paper with the commitments and associated budgets of the respective ministries, to be reflected in the budget allocation for the following fiscal year. The establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee, as was recommended during the stakeholder dialogues, might help accelerate progress. The reported disagreement between the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) and Paramount Chief is a further source of concern as it directly impacts the set-up of a legal protection mechanism. All parties involved should be encouraged to develop a workable, long-term solution for the customary governance of the property.

The continued efforts by customary landowners, local communities of East Rennell and the LTWHSA to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from destructive activities are appreciated. However, it remains of concern that interests in commercial logging and mining still exist among some landowners. In this regard, joint efforts by the State Party and LTWHSA to facilitate community dialogues to build consensus on the management of the property, including the development of sustainable livelihoods in the framework of the NFIT project, are welcomed, and it is recommended that the project be implemented as a matter of priority.

While the need to improve the condition of the only road to the property is acknowledged, the proposal to develop a new road across the property is of great concern, not only in terms of its potential impacts to the OUV, but also because it would provide easier access for commercial logging in the absence of adequate legal protection. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake a full EIA, including identification of alternative options with detailed maps, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and in line with the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

Food insecurity of the communities, caused by the prolonged heavy rain, is of great concern. The State Party should accelerate the implementation of the proposed assistance by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to strengthen food security as a matter of urgency.

The mass mortality of flying foxes, a species recognized as an attribute of the property's OUV, and the grounding of another industrial boat that reportedly belongs to a logging company are both of great concern. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to investigate these issues and to take measures to restore or prevent further negative impacts on the property's OUV and local livelihoods. In view of multiple challenges faced by the local communities, whose wellbeing is a requisite for the safeguarding of the property, the State Party should be encouraged to mobilize more actively international support, including International Assistance.

Given the number of challenges that the property is facing, and since achieving the DSOCR will be challenging without substantial international support, it is recommended that the Committee extend the timeframe for the implementation of the DSOCR until 2025, as requested by the State Party, and retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's efforts to foster stakeholder dialogue to implement the recommendations made by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts;*
4. *Expresses concern that little progress has been made to implement the mission's recommendations; considers that the establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee dedicated to the property might help to accelerate progress; reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a new Cabinet Paper with the commitments and associated budgets of the respective ministries reflected in the budget allocation for the next fiscal year; and urges all parties involved to develop a workable long-term solution for the customary governance of the property;*
5. *Commends the continued efforts by customary landowners, local communities of East Rennell and the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, but also expresses concern that potential threats to the property's OUV, and notably its integrity, arising from commercial logging and mining still exist in the absence of an adequate legal mechanism for the property,*
6. *Notes with concern the proposed construction of a new road across the property, and also requests the State Party to undertake a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the road construction and for other planned developments before implementing the projects, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit a copy of the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
7. *Notes with great concern the reported food insecurity of the local communities following the prolonged heavy rains in 2020-2021, and further requests the State Party to accelerate the implementation of proposed assistance by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to strengthen the food security of the communities as a matter of urgency;*
8. *Also notes with great concern the mass mortality of flying foxes, a species recognized as an attribute of the property's OUV, and the grounding of an industrial barge inside the property, and also urges the State Party to urgently investigate both of these issues and to implement adequate measures to prevent any negative impact on the property's OUV and local livelihoods;*
9. *Also welcomes the implementation of a livelihood project in East Rennell with the support of the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme, along with on-going efforts by the State Party and the LTWHSA to facilitate dialogues among community members to build consensus on the management of the property and develop sustainable livelihoods in*

the framework of a UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (NFIT) project, and encourages the State Party to implement the NFIT project as a matter of priority and to mobilize more actively international support, including through the International Assistance mechanism under the World Heritage Fund;

10. Noting the State Party's request for an additional four years to implement the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), decides to extend the timeframe to implement the DSOCR until 2025, yet further expresses concern that achieving full implementation of the DSOCR within this timeframe will continue to be challenging without international support, and calls upon the international community to provide the State Party with the necessary support;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a progress report of the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;
12. Also decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

54. 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
- Significant reduction of both marine and estuarine biodiversity in Florida Bay

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/1062>

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>. The State Party provided additional information in a letter dated 16 December 2020 upon the request of the World Heritage Centre. These documents report as follows:

- Several short periods of high rainfall separated by prolonged drought conditions resulted in a dry year overall. This prevented the buildup of freshwater fish, macroinvertebrates, or formation of super colonies of wading birds, and caused hypersaline conditions and algal blooms in Florida Bay. These swings in ecosystem productivity are expected, given typical seasonal and annual variations in rainfall patterns. However, it also demonstrates the need to improve water quality in drier years;
- Full implementation of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) and 'Canal-111 South Dade' (C-111) will occur in August 2020 through the completion of the Combined Operational Plan. The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir (EAAR) are currently in design. Additional funding commitments of over USD 4.5 billion have been made available to accelerate critical restoration projects. The Tamiami Trail Next Steps (TTNS) Phase 2 project and CEPP are expected to be completed by 2023. The full benefits of the Restoration Strategies and the CEPP/EAAR are not expected to be realized before 2027-2030;
- In June 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill banning oil drilling within the Everglades Protection Area, which includes the Water Conservation Area upstream of the property where exploratory oil and drilling had been granted. However, according to the additional information submitted by the State Party on 16 December 2020, the bill, as amended, was not included within the final appropriations bill. To prevent future oil exploration activities, on 15 January 2020, the Florida Governor announced plans to buy approximately 8,000 ha of land and drilling rights in the Everglades Protection Area, including the parcels targeted for potential oil and gas drilling. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) approved the land purchase on 1 February 2020. In September 2020, the President of the United States of America proposed a 10-year extension of a moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling on Florida's Gulf and Atlantic Coasts;
- The 2015 General Management Plan takes into account potential impacts from climate change, storm surge, and sea level rise. The State Party has re-evaluated all operations and visitor activities with reference to the anticipated impacts from climate change;
- An update of the Strategic Action Framework is expected to be completed in 2020, which will enhance the management of the property and its wider Everglades ecosystem against invasive alien species (IAS).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress in implementing the 2006 corrective measures is commendable, particularly with the continued efforts on the next generation of restoration projects, which includes the CEPP and TTNS, and for committing over USD 4.5 billion for the hydrological restoration of the Everglades ecosystem over the next years. At the same time, in order to attain the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), these on-going efforts will need to be sustained or strengthened over time.

It is regrettable that not all 14 DSOCR indicators are reported on because of insufficient time to collect, analyze and interpret the information. It is recommended that the next State Party report provides again an overview of progress for all indicators in a table format as was done previously, comparing progress with the 2013 report. For some of the indicators reported, preliminary results suggest a positive or a sustainable trend but still remain below the restoration targets. This emphasizes the need to continue or strengthen current efforts.

The complexity of managing the threat from IAS, which mostly originates from outside the property boundaries, is acknowledged. The allocation of resources and the update of the Strategic Action Framework in 2020 is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue its long-term management actions to address IAS, including by reducing the maximum cover

of IAS to below an agreed threshold and by placing emphasis on prevention and early detection with rapid response measures.

Furthermore, the submission of the General Management Plan is welcomed, as is the active leadership of the Park in preparing for and mitigating climate change impacts.

The approval for the acquisition of approximately 8,000 ha (20,000 acres) of land and drilling rights in the Everglades, thereby permanently preventing any oil, gas, and mineral exploration and extraction on those purchased lands, should be welcomed. As the issue of potential hydraulic fracturing is ongoing (either through a bill or through the purchase of land and drilling rights in the Everglades by the State of Florida), it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to inform the World Heritage Centre about any hydraulic fracturing projects in proximity to the property.

Considering that the imminent threat from oil drilling outside of the property in the Everglades Protection Area appears to have abated for the moment, and that the implementation of the corrective measures whilst underway will still take some years, it is recommended that the Committee return to requesting the State Party to submit a progress report in two years' time, based on the view expressed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in 2013 that the implementation of the corrective measures and improvement of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger would likely take at least another ten years.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.3, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the progress achieved in implementing the 2006 corrective measures and notes with satisfaction that the implementation of the Combined Operational Plan is expected to start in August 2020;*
4. *Commends the State Party for continuing to implement the next generation of 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), and also notes with satisfaction the additional funding commitments of over USD 4.5 billion, already made for the next years;*
5. *Regrets that not all 14 DSOCR indicators are reported on, and encourages the State Party to report using its previous table format to track relative progress in achieving the DSOCR;*
6. *Appreciates the continued efforts on the management of invasive alien species (IAS) and update of the Strategic Action Framework planned for 2020, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure a continued, long-term allocation of resources to control the existing IAS inside the property, and for the management strategy to emphasize prevention and early detection combined with rapid response measures;*
7. *Also appreciates that the General Management Plan (GMP) of the property was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and that it includes comprehensive climate change planning to anticipate, adapt to, and mitigate climate change impacts on the property;*
8. *Welcomes the planned purchase of approximately 8,000 ha (20,000 acres) of land and drilling rights in the Everglades Protection Area to permanently prevent oil, gas and mineral exploration and extraction on the acquired land, nevertheless, noting that this*

does not eliminate all threats from beyond the property boundaries, requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about any planned or potential oil and gas drilling activities in the proximity of the property, and to ensure that any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before conducting any drilling activities;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023;
10. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

55. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996-2007, 2011-present

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

- Illegal logging
- Illegal occupation
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure
- Reduced capacity of the State Party
- General deterioration of law and order and the security situation in the region

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/6236>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1982-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 223,628

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 80,000 (in addition to approximately USD 100,000 of in-kind technical assistance) under the management effectiveness assessment project “Enhancing our Heritage”

Previous monitoring missions

November 1995 and October 2000: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2003, 2006 and 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2017: Advisory mission facilitated by the World Heritage Centre

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities (settlements, livestock grazing and agricultural encroachment, drug trafficking, logging, commercial fishing, poaching and wildlife trade)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Land conversion (deforestation and forest degradation)
- Legal framework (lawlessness and lack of law enforcement)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of clarity of the boundaries of the property, lack of clarity regarding land tenure and access to natural resources)
- Water infrastructure (potential impacts from hydroelectric development projects Patuca I, II and III)
- Overlap with important archaeological sites implying a need to harmonize management of cultural and natural heritage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents>, providing the following information:

- Efforts have continued in order to fight environmental crime through the strategies developed by the Ad-Hoc Committee and the actions taken within the “SOS Honduras: Stop the destruction of forests” campaign. Operations to control illegal logging have been conducted through air and ground monitoring. Inter-institutional control posts have been constructed in prioritised areas to strengthen institutional presence and indigenous territorial governance;
- The land titling process to recognise property rights of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples in the cultural zone of the Biosphere Reserve continues and is expected to be completed in 2020. In addition, 2,400 Family Usufruct Contracts have been awarded as part of the process of recognition and regularization of land possession in the buffer zone;
- Regarding the implementation 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), progress is reported on assessing forest cover and land recovery, documenting jaguar populations, strengthening of the community forestry strategy reducing threats within the core zone of the Biosphere Reserve, as well as recognising ancestral rights in its cultural and buffer zones. However, management effectiveness evaluation results only showed a 64% effectiveness level;
- The State Party remains committed to advancing the preparation of a Significant Boundary Modification (SBM). During 2019, there was some progress to strengthen indigenous territorial governance, however no formal consultation regarding the possible modifications of the property’s boundaries was undertaken. Capacity building and resources are needed to ensure effective participation in this process;
- The construction of the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) has been completed to 97% and the reservoir is currently filled at 81,3%. An Environmental Measures Compliance Report (ICMA) including 108 environmental mitigation measures for the HPP was released in July 2019. Mitigation measures include safety measures during construction, water quality monitoring, as well as control measures for clearing wildlife from the reservoir and relocating people, vegetation cover management and guaranteed minimum flow. The State Party confirms its readiness to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Terms of Reference have been drafted;
- Other projects such as turtle conservation, forest fire prevention, reforestation and environmental education were undertaken during 2019.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued inter-institutional efforts to protect and conserve the property and combat environmental crime, such as illegal logging and occupation, are commended. It is noted with appreciation that measures have been taken to enhance biodiversity protection through monitoring, analysis and conservation projects, and to strengthen indigenous territorial governance. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures and ensure that they are adequately funded.

The expected completion of the land titling process in 2020, giving property rights to indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples in the cultural zone, and the progress of regularising land use rights in the buffer zone through family usufruct contracts, are welcomed.

The progress towards achieving the 2020 targets of the DSOCR in terms of hectares of forest under sustainable management through community contracts and hectares of land in the cultural zone titled to indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples, is noted. However, challenges appear to remain in attaining biodiversity targets and effective management of the property, as well as participatory mechanisms to improve governance of the indigenous and Afro-Honduran territories ensuring that rights, customs and ancestral practices are respected in the area. It is recommended that the Committee again urge the State Party, as well as the governmental and non-governmental partners, to ensure that collaborations, financial and technical resources and political will are improved in order to reach the targets set out in the corrective measures and to achieve the DSCOR.

The State Party's commitment to advance the preparation of a SBM of the property is welcomed. However, it is noted that no formal consultation has been carried out yet with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils that hold ancestral rights in the proposed areas. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee reiterates its strong encouragement to the State Party to continue the proposal for a SBM, in consultation with indigenous representatives, as a crucial step towards achieving the DSOCR, and to secure technical and financial resources as well as the required capacity building to develop the necessary consultation processes.

It is noted with serious concern and regret that construction of the Patuca III HPP is now essentially completed and the reservoir is almost filled, without a proper assessment of the current and potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property. Recalling that the State Party has confirmed its commitment to undertake a SEA, it is recommended that the Committee, notwithstanding the virtual completion of the project, request for this process to be urgently expedited specifically to undertake an assessment of current and potential impacts on the OUV of the property with a view to putting in place the necessary measures to mitigate adverse impacts on the property's OUV. It is noted that certain mitigation measures have already been established, nonetheless, it is of concern that, out of the 108 mitigation measures outlined in the ICMA, only three are focused on longer term mitigation of environmental impacts.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.4 adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's and its governmental and non-governmental partners' ongoing inter-institutional efforts to protect and conserve the property, enhance biodiversity and strengthen indigenous territorial governance, and encourages the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures and ensure that adequate funding is available to allow this;*
4. *Also welcomes the advances on the land titling process in the cultural zone of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve and the progress to regularise land use rights in its buffer zone through awarding family usufruct contracts and requests the State Party to ensure the process is completed in line with the established timelines;*
5. *Notes the State Party's progress to achieve the targets established to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), however, notes with concern that many challenges remain, and urges the State Party and its partners to ensure that collaborations, financial and technical resources and political will are sustained and increased to reach the targets set out in the corrective measures in order to achieve the DSOCR;*
6. *Further welcomes the State Party's re-stated commitment to advance on the preparation of a Significant Boundary Modification (SBM) for the property, however, also notes with concern that formal consultation on boundary modifications with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils has not yet started, and also requests the State Party to secure technical and financial resources required for the necessary consultation processes and development of the proposal of a SBM as a crucial step towards achieving the DSOCR, and in particular to:*
 - a) *Coordinate the many governmental sectors and institutions involved at various levels,*

- b) *Seek support from the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and other States Parties, as appropriate,*
 - c) *Guarantee full consideration of the archaeological heritage of the property and corresponding actors;*
7. *Noting with utmost concern the near completion of the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant without the current and potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property having been properly assessed, recalls the commitment of the State Party to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the power plant, and also urges the State Party to expedite this process so that a specific assessment of the impacts of the power plant on the OUV of the property can be developed in the appropriate format and can be used to develop the necessary mitigation measures;*
 8. *Also notes that certain mitigation measures have already been put in place for the Hydroelectric Power Plant, however, recommends that the State Party ensure that these are specifically aimed at preventing impacts on the OUV of the property, and also encourages the State Party to revise these measures once the results of the SEA are available;*
 9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022;*
 10. ***Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

56. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add