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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
16 – 31 July 2021

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Establishment of the World Heritage List
and of the List of World Heritage in Danger**

8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties

SUMMARY

This document presents a Draft Decision concerning the adoption of seven “boundary clarifications”, i.e. clarifications of the delimitations of properties at the time of their inscription on the World Heritage List by the States Parties.

The boundary clarifications have been prepared in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory of nomination dossiers of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the period 1978-1998, as well as for properties inscribed after 1998 in the framework of the Periodic Reporting.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 8D, see point IV.

I. RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY

1. The Retrospective Inventory, an in-depth examination of the nomination dossiers available at the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN, was initiated in 2004 and endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 7th Extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004), Decision **7 EXT.COM 7.1**.
2. The objective of the Retrospective Inventory is the identification and collection of data such as information on boundaries, serial components and areas of World Heritage properties where the required information is missing or not adequate. This data plays a key role in different statutory processes, such as reactive monitoring, modification of boundaries, Periodic Reporting and, above all, this data is essential for the effective conservation of World Heritage properties.
3. Thus, through the Retrospective Inventory all documentation on properties inscribed from 1978 onwards available in the archives of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN was analysed and inventoried.

II. BOUNDARY CLARIFICATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY AND PERIODIC REPORTING

4. In the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, all maps provided in the nomination dossiers and in the evaluations of the Advisory Bodies were examined to check whether they included the delimitations of the World Heritage property as inscribed. Cases where the delimitations were not included or were not clear, were communicated to the States Parties concerned in order for them to provide the missing information on the delimitation of the properties at the time of their inscription.
5. Since 2004, the Retrospective Inventory process has dealt with more than 600 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the Committee took note of more than 300 clarifications.
6. Furthermore, in parallel to the third cycle of Periodic Reporting, maps and geographic information of all properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the Arab States, Africa and Asia and the Pacific regions were examined. Cases where the cartographic information provided in the nomination dossier at the time of their inscription did not fulfil the current technical requirements as established in paragraph 132 and Section 1.e of Annex 5 of the *Operational Guidelines*, or is still missing, were communicated to the States Parties concerned. 7 States Parties in the Arab States, 24 in Africa and 28 in the Asia and the Pacific regions were contacted and asked to provide technically improved maps and up-to-date geographic information for 178 inscribed properties.
7. This document presents information related to maps and geographic information of properties reviewed through the Retrospective Inventory process, as well as in the framework of the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

III. BOUNDARY CLARIFICATIONS IN 2020 AND 2021

8. Boundary clarifications are considered satisfactory only if: a) they are consistent with the information provided in the nomination dossier, with the evaluation of the concerned Advisory Body(ies) and with the decision of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription; b) they meet the current technical requirements, i.e.:

- are provided on topographic or cadastral maps at the largest available scale (the choice between a topographic or cadastral map depends on the size as well as the type of the property);
 - are provided on maps that:
 - a) show a clearly labelled coordinate grid (or coordinate references of at least four points on the map);
 - b) include a bar scale;
 - c) display a legend in English or French clearly referring to the “boundaries of the World Heritage property” and/or to the “buffer zone of the World Heritage property”, if applicable.
9. At its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), the World Heritage Committee requested States Parties concerned to submit all requested boundary clarifications by **1 December 2019** (Decision **43 COM 8D**). Furthermore, taking into consideration the worldwide sanitary situation, States Parties were exceptionally invited to submit boundary clarifications until **15 February 2021**. Out of the received boundary clarifications, 7 were considered satisfactory. They are presented to the World Heritage Committee in the Annex of this document, in alphabetical order by region and by State Party.
10. The list of the World Heritage properties concerned is included in Paragraph 11. The Annex of this document presents detailed information on boundary clarifications for each concerned property and provides the following elements:
- a table indicating the name of the property, its date of inscription, its identification number and its area in hectares as well as the area in hectares of its buffer zone, whenever applicable;
 - a technical summary providing further details and explanations;
 - for serial properties, a table listing the serial components and the areas in hectares as well as the area in hectares of their buffer zone(s), whenever applicable;
 - the maps are available at the following website <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/documents/#map>.
11. Boundary clarifications for the following properties are presented:
- AFRICA**
- Mozambique, Island of Mozambique
 - Nigeria, Sukur Cultural Landscape
- ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**
- Australia, Purnululu National Park
 - Iran (Islamic Republic of), Bisotun
 - Japan, Shiretoko
- EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**
- France, Canal du Midi
- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**
- Guatemala, Tikal National Park

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 44 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/8D,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 8D**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Acknowledges the excellent work accomplished by States Parties in the clarification of the boundaries of their World Heritage properties and commends them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List;
4. Recalls that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear;
5. Takes note of the clarifications of property boundaries and areas provided by the States Parties as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/21/44.COM/8D:

AFRICA

- Mozambique, Island of Mozambique
- Nigeria, Sukur Cultural Landscape

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- Australia, Purnululu National Park
- Iran (Islamic Republic of), Bisotun
- Japan, Shiretoko

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- France, Canal du Midi

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Guatemala, Tikal National Park;

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue the identification and collection of geographic and cartographic information of World Heritage properties in nominations where the required information is not available or not adequate;
7. Also requests the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory and the Periodic Reporting, to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible, and by **1 December 2021**, for their subsequent examination, if the technical requirements are met, by the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee.

ANNEX

The boundary clarification maps for the concerned properties can be found at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/documents/#map>. All the maps presented are consistent with the decision of the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription, and/or the evaluation of the relevant Advisory Body(ies) and/or the nomination dossier.

AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

Property	Island of Mozambique
Identification number	599
Date of inscription	1991
Area of the inscribed property	95.7 ha
Area of the buffer zone	6026.02 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
599-001	Island of Mozambique	94.2	6026.02
599-002	Sao Lorenco Island	1.5	
TOTAL		95.7	6026.02

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps of the property, displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts and the buffer zone.

NIGERIA

Property	Sukur Cultural Landscape
Identification number	938
Date of inscription	1999
Area of the inscribed property	764.40 ha
Area of the buffer zone	1178.1 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

Property	Purnululu National Park
Identification number	1094
Date of inscription	2003
Area of the inscribed property	239723 ha
Area of the buffer zone	79602 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Property	Bisotun
Identification number	1222
Date of inscription	2006
Area of the inscribed property	187 ha
Area of the buffer zone	361 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

JAPAN

Property	Shiretoko
Identification number	1193
Date of inscription	2005
Area of the inscribed property	71100 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

FRANCE

Property	Canal du Midi
Identification number	770
Date of inscription	1996
Area of the inscribed property	2007 ha
Area of the buffer zone	195836 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

GUATEMALA

Property	Tikal National Park
Identification number	64
Date of inscription	1979
Area of the inscribed property	57600 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.