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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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

SUMMARY

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

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

ARAB STATES

Note : the following report need to be read in conjunction with Item 9 of Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A on the World Heritage properties of Iraq.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2003-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

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

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities
- Managements systems/management plan

- Water infrastructure (dam building project)
- Partial flooding and seepage
- Fragile mud brick structures
- Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

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

Current conservation issues

On 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/1130/documents/>, provide the following information:

- The property suffers from the impact of natural factors, especially its western side, which is located along the Tigris River. The retaining wall that had been built to mitigate the impact of flooding of the river has undergone severe erosion, which prompted the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) to address its conservation. The necessary works are being carried out through contracting a national company. The full report will be provided upon completion;
- Other works that the SBAH has carried out at the property include the filling of the trench around the Ziggurat of Ashur with soil and infill of some internal tunnels, in order to mitigate the risks posed by weathering;
- The State Party recalled the damage to the property prior to its liberation in 2017, including to the Ziggurat of Ashur, Tabira Gate, Farhan Pasha Palace and the headquarters of the German expedition. All such information will be included in a special damage assessment report for the property;
- Conservation work was initiated at Tabira Gate and was carried out by a team from the American University in Sulaymaniyah, through the support of the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH);
- The imminent commencement of construction of Makhool dam poses a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and surrounding archaeological sites and the State Party requests technical assistance in preserving the property and the archaeological sites in the dam basin;
- The State Party reiterates its previous request that a mission be dispatched to assess damage to the property.

In January 2021, UNESCO was notified of the intention of the State Party to proceed with the construction of Makhool Dam that had previously been cancelled. UNESCO requested the provision of all relevant information for technical review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. On 28 March 2021, information on the construction of the dam was received indicating that the dam is the same as proposed in 2003. While information was provided regarding the archaeological sites that will be affected, including the property, no technical information has been provided about the construction of the dam itself.

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

Although there is still a lack of detailed and comprehensive information about the state of conservation of the property, the State Party has referred to the fact that a damage assessment report will be provided. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, all reports prepared related to the damage assessment and interventions it has undertaken at the property. It is recommended that future interventions be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party has carried out urgent intervention measures, aiming to mitigate the impact of threats at the property, including potential flood and water damage. As previously recommended, any protection and emergency stabilization work should be undertaken only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention. In addition, any elements found at the property and resulting from conflict-related damage such as intentional destructions, should be retrieved

and gathered in a safe location, and the boundaries of the property protected from illegal excavations and looting. The State Party's efforts to address immediate risks at the property are appreciated.

It is regrettable that the plans to construct the Makhool dam have been re-activated. When the property was first inscribed on the World Heritage List, the large dam project was considered as a major threat justifying concurrent inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Therefore, the State Party was encouraged to relocate or cancel the project. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2011 reiterated concerns regarding the construction of the dam, and recommended that the State Party propose and implement preventive measures. In 2013, on the basis of the state of conservation report that had been submitted, the Committee welcomed the announcement by the State Party of the then cancellation of the project (Decision **37 COM 7A.24**).

Considering the foreseen impact that the dam would have on the property and numerous other archaeological sites, it is recommended that Committee again request the cancellation or relocation of the project. It is further recommended that the Committee specifically reaffirms the potential danger to the OUV of the property arising from the proposed dam as it did in 2003, at the time of inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Paragraph 179(b) of the Operational Guidelines.

It is once again recommended that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission take place once security and sanitary conditions permit, in order to assist in assessing the condition of the property, as a preparatory step for the development of a comprehensive conservation plan and formal identification of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSCOR).

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.18** 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 address risks at the property and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation at the property, but expresses again its concern about its condition and the lack of comprehensive information on its state of conservation;*
5. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party concerning the planned construction of Makhool Dam, and deeply regrets that the construction of the dam is again proposed and requests the State Party to relocate or cancel the project in view of its potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and other archaeological sites, and in the meantime, to submit the full technical information including a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment to the World Heritage Centre for technical review;*
6. *Reaffirms the potential danger to the OUV of the property arising from the proposed dam, which already justified in 2003 the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Calls upon the State Party to suspend any work towards the dam construction, pending consideration of cancellation or relocation of the project and review of the technical information for the project;*

8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit all preliminary assessments of the property it has undertaken, and to carry out a detailed review of the damage incurred outlining the 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;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on all interventions carried out as a matter of priority and also 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;*
10. *Reminds the State Party of its obligation 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;*
11. *Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, once 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);*
12. *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;*
13. *Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
14. *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;*
15. ***Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add.2

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add.2

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add.2

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 5,250

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

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

January 2017: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Legal framework (Lack of definition of the buffer zone)
- Management System/ Management Plan (Lack of conservation and/or management plans)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Inappropriate restoration works)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)

Since 2013:

- War (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)

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

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/21/documents/>, and include updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- Many activities are being implemented for the recovery of the property, despite numerous challenges, including shortage of financial resources and traditional building materials;
- The following actions build on the “Vision and Planning Framework for the Recovery of the World Heritage City of Aleppo” (2019):
 - Infrastructure networks and facilities are being improved,
 - The suqs were identified as Special Areas of economic interest. More than 380 shops are being restored in Suq al-Saqatiyya, Khan al-Harir, Khan al-Bandaqa, Suq al-Haddadin, Suq al-Niswan and Suq al-Khabiya. Information about the restoration projects for Suq al-Saqatiyya and Khan al-Harir, both supported by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, were transmitted to the World Heritage Centre. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has supported livelihoods for nearly 200 workshops and shop owners in other suqs, and provided training to copper artisans and women working in embroidery, who in turn are transferring traditional knowledge to the youth. Other international partners include the International Trade Centre, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Government of Japan,
 - Works are progressing for the rehabilitation of schools and restoration of public squares, historic and religious buildings, including 80% of the damaged mosques, as well as the Great Mosque with its minaret. At the Citadel of Aleppo, structural studies and restoration of the damaged walls have been carried out,
 - The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) is carrying out consolidation works at damaged buildings under its responsibility, such as Bayt Ajiqbash and Bimaristan Arghun,
 - Regulations guiding land use management, housing improvement, restoration and rehabilitation works have been adapted, to facilitate the return of inhabitants,
 - The Committee for the Protection of the Ancient City, headed by the Governor of Aleppo, supervises works, supported by technical committees. Licenses are being granted by the DGAM and the Directorate of the Old City. In 2020, about 430 restoration permits were provided to residential buildings and shops,
 - An updated building control system is in the process of ratification,
 - Legal facilities are provided to encourage investors to participate in the recovery of the city, and, social, educational and cultural activities are carried out to encourage the return of inhabitants;
- A Minor Boundary Modification is being prepared following Ministerial Decree n° 111/A, 5 May 2019, proposing a buffer zone for the property;
- With the support of the UNDP in Syria and funding from the Government of Japan, the National Museum of Aleppo reopened its doors on 24 October 2019.

Third party sources report inappropriate restoration work, and call for comprehensive planning.

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

See General Decision **44 COM 7A.24** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Planning, coordination, and regulation setting, as well as restoration works, have progressed well. It is recommended that the Committee welcome that the DGAM, its partners and the local community carried out work despite the extremely difficult conditions, and encourage pursuit of activities planned in the strategic document "Vision and Planning Framework". The State Party should be reminded of the Committee's previous request in Decision **43 COM 7A.31** to afford priority to a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan and an updated Management Plan, to be developed in line with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. It is also desirable that the State Party undertake the detailed risk assessment for the buildings most in need and develop emergency measures to enhance the safety of inhabitants, as also previously requested by the Committee.

The ICOMOS technical review on the restoration project at Suq al-Saqatiyya, undertaken by the DGAM with Aleppo Municipality and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), underlines that the project involves a complete restoration of the damaged domes and structures, the construction of new and modern technical installation, and the design of appropriate functional and decorative elements in harmony with the historic character of the site. This successful restoration provides a model for other restoration works at the property and has received an ICCROM-Sharjah Award. The AKTC has also supported restoration works at the nearby Suq al Harir.

In March 2020, the State Party shared drawings and pictures of the restoration of the minaret of the Great Mosque, and a building code proposal for the property. The drawings show that 72% of the minaret would be restored using original stones where possible and strengthening the foundation. The proposed building code takes into account the various typologies and scale of the city, with several assigned levels of heritage value. However, there have been other significant works completed and the State Party report indicates that hundreds of permits have been issued. The Committee should remind the State Party to submit information on any major projects, to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

One of the major challenges that remain is the lack of available funds. Given the immense challenges of reconstruction and recovery at the property, and considering that it is critical to intervene swiftly during the early stages to avoid further irreversible loss, the international community should again be encouraged to support the implementation of activities outlined in the "Vision and Planning Framework".

Given the recovery progress achieved, it is now crucial that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property. It is also highly desirable that the required 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) be developed as expeditiously as possible.

The Committee should welcome the proposed creation of a buffer zone and encourage the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.31** 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. Notes the efforts mobilized by the State Party for the recovery of the Ancient City of Aleppo since December 2016, commending the commitment of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), its partners and the local community, encourages

DGAM to continue its efforts in implementing actions outlined in the “Vision and Planning Framework” for the property, in particular the development of a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan and an updated Management Plan for the property, and recommends that these should be developed in line with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and be carried out in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Reiterates its request that the State Party undertake a detailed risk assessment for structures most at risk, and undertake necessary emergency measures in order to enhance the safety of inhabitants;
6. Noting the good quality of the restoration works undertaken at Suq al-Saqatiyya, invites the State Party and its partners to consider these works as a successful model for other restoration works;
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as occurred for the restoration of the minaret of the Great Mosque and the building code submitted for the evaluation of the Advisory Bodies;
8. Calls again on all States Parties to support the emergency safeguarding and recovery measures outlined in the “Vision and Planning Framework” for the property, 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. Also invites the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to facilitate 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) at the earliest opportunity;
11. Welcomes the regulation issued for the creation of a buffer zone, and also encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2022**, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;
12. 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 Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Current conservation issues

The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and escalated leading to significant violence and degradation of humanitarian conditions. It has inflicted damage on the inscribed properties as well as on the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List. Sites have been damaged by shelling, fires, extensive illegal excavations, military use, construction violations, in addition to intentional targeted destruction of

cultural property by armed groups, and inappropriate use of archaeological sites by internally displaced populations. Some sites remain at risk as a result of the conflict.

On 15 January 2020 and 7 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/documents/#state_of_conservation_reports. These reports represent official statements by the Syrian authorities and collate available information from the various branches of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) up to 31 December 2020. In some areas, access to heritage sites is extremely limited. In particular, the property of the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria remains inaccessible, preventing full understanding of the extent of damage to this site and reliance on third party documentation.

The State Party has reported on actions carried out by the DGAM, despite the difficult working conditions. These comprise monitoring World Heritage properties and cultural heritage in general, and assessing damage, including some very detailed reporting for the Ancient City of Bosra, the Ancient City of Aleppo, and the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din. Emergency conservation and risk mitigation actions have occurred whenever possible as well as restoration and reconstruction activities, in particular at the properties of the Ancient City of Aleppo, and the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din. At the site of the Ancient City of Damascus, which suffered to a lesser extent as a result of the conflict, the State Party has resumed regular conservation and management activities, in parallel to the emergency works undertaken at the ancient city wall. The State Party reports emphasise that the reasons for which the Ancient City of Damascus and the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger no longer apply. The reports also stress the extreme financial difficulties that the DGAM is facing in its efforts to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage, in addition to the limited international funding provided to support these efforts.

Updated information on the conservation of sites inscribed on the Tentative List was also provided in the report, indicating the following:

- At the sites of the 'Arwad Island', 'Maaloula' 'Noreas of Hama', 'Tartus: The Crusaders Citadel-City' and 'Ugarit (Tell Shamra)' restoration and maintenance works are being undertaken. In particular, in Maaloula, local communities are being consulted in view of the elaboration of a nomination file for the site. At Arwad Island, no new development concerning the tourism project has been reported;
- Access to the sites 'Apamea (Afamia)', 'Mari (Tell Hariri) and Dura Europos' and 'Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi, a Desert Castle' is still limited owing to the presence of landmines;
- Drone images were taken for 'Dura Europos' and 'Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi, a Desert Castle' in September 2019, 'Mari (Tell Hariri)' in September 2019 and October 2020, and 'Ebla (Tell Mardikh)' in May 2020, confirming extensive looting and damage;
- No information could be reported for the site of 'Raqqqa-Rafiqqa and The Abbasid City'.

The report highlights requests by the DGAM for technical support for updating the Syrian Tentative List, initiating the process of nomination for the site of 'Maaloula', and carrying out assessment surveys at the sites of 'Apamea (Afamia)', 'Mari (Tell Hariri) and Dura Europos' and 'Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi, a desert Castle'.

Activities undertaken by UNESCO

- Since the 43rd session of the Committee (Baku, 2019), UNESCO has pursued actions to assist sustained efforts to safeguard cultural heritage of Syria;
- At the international level, UNESCO continues to raise awareness of the international community on the destruction of cultural heritage of Syria, in the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2199 (February 2015) and Resolution 2347 (March 2017) recognizing the importance of heritage protection for peace and security;
- At the national level, UNESCO has monitored the situation of Syrian cultural heritage, raised awareness on its protection, undertaken actions to safeguard it, and coordinated work of national and international entities;
- The UNESCO-UNITAR joint publication "Five years of Conflict: the State of Cultural Heritage in the Ancient City of Aleppo" launched in November 2018 has been translated into Arabic and French, and is available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000265826>;

- Another joint publication with UNITAR “Ten Years of Conflict: the State of Conservation of cultural heritage in Syria” is under preparation, with funding support from the States Parties of Germany and Norway. It is planned to be launched in 2021;
- The World Heritage Centre, with the support of the State Party of the Netherlands, organized a Technical Meeting on the Recovery of the World Heritage Site of Palmyra on 18 December 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters, which was attended by over 30 international experts. This meeting focused on issues of reconstruction and recovery at the property, and a number of recommendations were agreed (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2133>);
- An International Assistance request has been approved for Qal’at Salah El-Din (March 2020). This assistance will facilitate systematic documentation of damage incurred at Qal’at Salah El-Din, implementation of risk mitigation measures, and elaboration of a conservation Management and Master Plan for the site and its surroundings. The International Assistance request approved for the Crac des Chevaliers in January 2019 is still under implementation;
- An Emergency International Assistance request has been approved for Safeguarding the Damascus Ancient City Wall and the Adjacent Urban Fabric (the area between Bab al-Salam and Bab Touma). This assistance facilitates documentation work, the implementation of risk mitigation measures, and the elaboration of a restoration project for the collapsed portion of the wall.

In the framework of the Italian Funds-in-Trust project entitled “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” (200 000 Euros), a technical assistance workshop was initially organized in Beirut in October 2019, in order to assess ongoing emergency interventions undertaken by the DGAM at the Ancient City of Bosra, the Ancient City of Damascus and at the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal’at Salah El-Din. The meeting was also intended to provide advice on recovery interventions, and to initiate elaboration of the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). Owing to the prevailing security situation in Lebanon at the time, the workshop could not take place, so it was rescheduled for March 2020 in Amman (Jordan), but again could not take place because of the prevailing sanitary conditions restricting travel and meetings. The workshop will still take place as soon as health conditions allow. Nevertheless, initial work on DSOCRs for some of the Syrian World Heritage properties was initiated remotely, through exchanges between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the DGAM. Online meetings were organized on 19 November 2020, 15 February and 3 May 2021. The DSOCR for the Ancient City of Damascus was finalized in May 2021, and the process is regarded as a successful ‘pilot project’ for proceeding with the implementation of the DSOCR process in circumstances when a Reactive Monitoring mission is not possible.

Activities undertaken by the Advisory Bodies

ICOMOS has actively participated in the above ‘pilot project’ to devise the document for the DSOCR of the Ancient City of Damascus and related corrective measures. Although this process has facilitated the preparation of the DSOCR, it remains desirable that a Reactive Monitoring mission take place as soon as circumstances allow. ICOMOS has also participated in preliminary steps to follow a similar approach for Crac des Chevaliers and Qal’at Salah El-Din, and it is expected that preliminary work on the DSOCR for the Ancient City of Bosra and for the Site of Palmyra will be initiated subsequently.

ICOMOS made presentations on Syrian heritage in the context of several meetings, as follows: Conference on “Reconstruction and Recovery of Towns after war damage in the different parts of the world. Theory, methodology, practice”, International Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages (CIVVIH), September 2019 (Poland); “Bouncing back after the drama: heritage and resilience” Institut National du Patrimoine – Blue Shield France, January 2020 (France); “Private actors/institutional actors, which mission, which methods?” Institut National du Patrimoine – École du Louvre, February 2021 (France); “A Hundred/Thousand Years: Genealogies and Perspectives of the National Museum of Damascus”, Institut national d’histoire de l’art, April 2021 (France).

ICOMOS members also contributed to the publication “After Hour Zero – learning from post-war experiences for Syria? Preservation of historical monuments, archaeology and urban planning as an international task”, German Archaeology Institute (DAI), November 2019 (Germany).

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

The situation of armed conflict in Syria has affected the six World Heritage properties and has substantially limited capacities to sustain and protect their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The properties have been increasingly threatened by ascertained and potential dangers.

Illegal excavations across archaeological sites and tels in Syria are causing extensive and irreversible damage to those sites, a number of which are on Syria's Tentative List. They are also a major source for the illicit trafficking of cultural property, providing looted artifacts to be sold in regional and international black markets.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the DGAM, heritage professionals in Syria and local communities who have made sustained efforts in monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, and implementing first aid measures for its safeguarding, despite the very difficult situation.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue to support the State Party in the identification of the necessary corrective measures and in the development of DSOCRs, and have been successfully pursuing more flexible approaches and online engagement that have demonstrated that the preparation of DSOCRs can be progressed, despite the current circumstances and inability to schedule Reactive monitoring missions at this time.

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

It is recommended that the Committee further encourage the State Party to plan for the future of the World Heritage properties according to international conservation charters and standards, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, also taking into consideration the 2018 Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction. It is also appropriate to 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 recommended that the Committee also call for international and national heritage professionals to continue to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage; and to further support its safeguarding through earmarked funds and contributions to the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund.

Until conditions improve, it is recommended that the Committee repeat its previous call for all parties associated with the conflict in Syria to refrain from any action that could further damage the heritage of the country, in particular all World Heritage properties and sites included on the Tentative List, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, especially the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, in part by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage and preventing any damage that may result from targeting World Heritage properties, and support recovery plans that are based on community participation, sustainability and inclusion.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its suggestion that the State Party consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

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

3. *Deplores the continued conflict situation prevailing in some parts of the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;*
4. *Taking note of the reports provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and the sites included on the national Tentative List, commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and all heritage professionals and local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, for their sustained efforts amidst extremely difficult conditions, but expresses its utmost concern about the damage incurred and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;*
5. *Urges again all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to the country's cultural heritage, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, including preventing any damage that may result from targeting World Heritage properties, sites included in the national Tentative List and other cultural heritage sites;*
6. *Also urges the State Party and the international community to include recovery actions of cultural heritage properties within the overall humanitarian, security and peace building response, and support recovery plans that promote community participation, sustainability and inclusion;*
7. *Further urges the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and to refrain from undertaking conservation and restoration work until the situation allows for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Takes note with satisfaction of the works initiated by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a set of corrective measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) of some of the Syrian properties;*
9. *Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015, and, in engaging in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and reiterates its suggestion to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;*
10. *Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred at World Heritage properties, whenever conditions allow, to implement all possible risk mitigation measures;*
11. *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, including infrastructure development 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;*

12. *Reiterates its call upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds or through contributions to the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;*
13. *Also reiterates its call upon the international and national cultural heritage professionals to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage, and to pursue their ongoing initiatives in coordination with UNESCO;*
14. *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 properties and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

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

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/4357>

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1994-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 188,997

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Total amount granted to Yemeni cultural properties: USD 194,836 from the European Union for damage assessments, capacity development and emergency stabilization of damaged buildings and protection of archaeological sites

2018-2021: USD 12,074,096 from the European Union for the project: Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen (Sana'a, Shibam, Zabid and Aden)

2019-2020: USD 40,200 from the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for post flood emergency interventions on two historic houses of outstanding importance in Zabid World Heritage site.

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020, a report on the state of conservation of the property was provided by local technical actors, presenting the following information:

- The armed conflict in Yemen continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Implementation of a number of activities aiming at the conservation and protection of the property has continued, including those addressing construction violations by suspending licenses and removing illegal buildings;
- Some conservation projects were implemented in cooperation with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the local authorities. These projects include paving, improvement of rainwater drainage, and restoration of a number of buildings;
- Cooperation has continued with the UNESCO Doha Office for the implementation of the first phase of projects under the European Union funded project 'Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen'. Within the framework of the project, an assessment of damage to historical buildings and infrastructure has been initiated and is currently underway ;
- A workshop focused on periodic reporting was carried out at the Centre for Architectural Training and Studies (CATS).

While there is support provided by the European Union through the UNESCO Doha Office, as well as that of GIZ, there is the need for additional technical and financial support that would contribute to capacity building and conservation efforts. There is also a need to expedite the joint world Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as soon as the situation improves.

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

The security situation in Yemen, in combination with a lack of maintenance of the fragile structures are the main problems for the property. This is aggravated by the lack of organizational support and limited resources compared to the needs, which continue to limit the effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. However, the efforts of local and international actors, including the UNESCO Doha Office and GIZ, are commendable. The implementation of the European Union funded project 'Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen' which began in 2019 through the UNESCO Doha Office, is seeking to promote livelihood opportunities for youth through urban regeneration, including the restoration of particular buildings in the World

Heritage properties of the Old City of Sana'a, Old Walled City of Shibam and the Historic Town of Zabid that have been damaged during the ongoing conflict or by the lack of maintenance and extreme weather situations. Thanks to the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for post flood emergency interventions in 2019, consolidation and rehabilitation works in two outstanding historic houses have been finalised within the property.

All construction activities should ensure compliance with building regulations, respecting original materials and building techniques. This is important to ensure maintaining the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity. It is desirable that future training further develops local expertise in technical fields that contribute to preserving historical monuments within the property, and in Yemen generally. Urgent financial assistance is still required to support physical, economic and social recovery, which have been further aggravated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Doha Office have been coordinating efforts to support the State Party in the definition of boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification for the property in line with paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The definition of boundaries is an important step towards ensuring the protection of the property. It is therefore crucial that these efforts are pursued, contributing to the submission of the respective proposals for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It remains necessary for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property as soon as the security situation allows, in order to advise on short-term repair works and to assist in the identification of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and associated corrective measures and timeframe. For some years, there has been no reported progress in finalizing the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, nor in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015.

However, thanks to the EU-funded Cash for Work project, an evidence-informed priority rehabilitation plan was prepared in 2019 and endorsed, which led to the launch of emergency interventions and the mobilization of additional resources from the Heritage Emergency Fund.

In March 2021, the World Heritage Centre received information about the recommended removal of shops in the vicinity of Al-Ashair Mosque, which is part of the World Heritage property. The urban fabric and layout of the Historic Town of Zabid are an integral part of its Outstanding Universal Value, which could be impacted by such interventions. It is recommended that the Committee recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for the evaluation of the Advisory Bodies.

The Historic Town of Zabid remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and it would be appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.38**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Expresses its continuing concern that the Historic Town of Zabid has incurred irreversible destruction and continues to be vulnerable, owing to the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;*
4. *Commends the efforts of the local actors, as well as international agencies, on initiatives undertaken to protect the attributes which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to restore individual buildings;*
5. *Requests the State Party to consult with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to prioritise urgent maintenance and stabilization actions, to restore damaged buildings, based on*

surveys and documentation, using traditional construction techniques and materials, and to ensure that construction permits are in compliance with building regulations to avoid incremental impact on OUV;

6. Welcomes the finalization of the first phase of the ‘Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen’ project, and encourages the continued collaboration with the UNESCO Doha Office in its implementation;
7. Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for the evaluation of the Advisory Bodies, and also requests information regarding the reported planned removal of shops in the vicinity of Al-Ashair Mosque;
8. Further requests the State Party to report on progress with the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, and the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen’s Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015;
9. Also encourages the State Party to elaborate proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification in close coordination with UNESCO Doha Office, and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to determining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as soon as the security situation in Yemen allows;
11. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, especially sites on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
12. Further encourages the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
13. Reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen’s Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
14. 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;
15. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iv)(v)(vi)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Damage and threats related to the armed conflict in Yemen

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

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 6 (from 1990-2014)
Total amount approved: USD 101,997
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: 1988: USD 374,800, UNDP/UNESCO project in support of local staff training and fund-raising. 2004-2006: USD 680,000 for the Inventory of the historic city (Italian Funds-in-Trust and Fund for the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of the city of Sanaa); USD 12,000 for technical assistance in support of the reconstruction of the al-Qasimi neighborhood (Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH));
Total amount granted to Yemeni cultural properties: USD 194,836 from the European Union for damage assessments, capacity development and emergency stabilization of damaged buildings and protection of archaeological sites;
2018–2021: USD 12,074,096 from the European Union for the project: Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen (Shibam, Sana'a, Zabid and Aden);
2019: USD 100,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for the reconstruction of the al-Qasimi neighborhood in old Sanaa;
2020: USD 97,245 from the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for post flood emergency interventions in Sana'a.

Previous monitoring missions
1998, 1999, 2003: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; from 2003 to 2005 and 2009: World Heritage Centre and experts' missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Problems with the rainwater drainage network
- Modern constructions and uncontrolled expansion of commercial activities (issue resolved)
- Lack of a Safeguarding Plan (issue resolved)
- Fly-over bridge project (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled vertical and horizontal additions
- Management activities (Use of inappropriate building materials and techniques)
- Densification of the historic fabric through occupation of green areas
- Functional decay of the residential neighbourhoods
- Continued vulnerability of the property, as a result of extreme conditions since 2011
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen
- Physical damage and instability of buildings

- Urgent need for shelter for displaced residents
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Desertification of green areas and public gardens/orchards

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020, a report on the state of conservation of the property was provided by local technical actors, presenting the following information:

- The armed conflict in Yemen continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to cause economic and social hardship. The property has incurred irreversible destruction and remains vulnerable;
- Conservation actions have continued when feasible within the available resources. Some buildings were restored using traditional methods and materials;
- Damaged buildings remain under threat, especially in Al-Falihi, Al-Qasimi and Bahr Rajaraj, with two further collapses occurring during 2019;
- During 2019, efforts were focused on rehabilitation work, urgent interventions, regulatory protection, stopping violations and providing technical advice. Building permits were suspended pending completion of guidelines for the Old City of Sana'a;
- The Centre for Architectural Training and Studies (CATS) has been conducting a damage inventory and assessment funded by UNESCO, and continues to provide heritage courses to raise awareness of the importance of preserving traditional building styles and materials. In addition, awareness campaigns have continued involving the community and local NGOs;
- As part of the EU-funded project 'Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen', a partnership agreement has been signed between UNESCO and the Social Fund for Development covering the urgent stabilization and rehabilitation of private houses, the Sana'a National Museum, souks areas, Bustan and public spaces. A UNESCO team has been deployed to supervise the implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Assistance continues to be needed for the protection of heritage, construction and rehabilitation, management planning, and collaboration in corrective measures for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

The security situation in Yemen, in combination with a lack of structured continuous maintenance and of organizational support and resources, continues to obstruct effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. In addition, heavy rains, flash flooding in August 2020 and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have exasperated an already fragile context.

The efforts of the local technical and international actors, are commendable. The UNESCO Doha Office is contributing to damage assessment and conservation efforts as well as to the broader objectives of providing shelter, livelihoods and community awareness. Despite the challenging circumstances, documentation and conservation works have been undertaken, and a range of training and community awareness programmes have been implemented, many of which in cooperation with UNESCO.

The property continues to require rehabilitation plans that reconcile the maintenance of housing and services with the need to restore damaged precincts and buildings, based on survey and documentation, and by using traditional techniques and materials. Unregulated new constructions and inadequate restorations are incrementally affecting the OUV of the property.

The implementation of the European Union funded project 'Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen,' which began in late 2018 through the UNESCO Doha Office, is promoting livelihood opportunities for youth through urban regeneration, including the maintenance and restoration of several buildings in the World Heritage properties of the Old City of Sana'a, the Old Walled City of Shibam and the Historic Town of Zabid that have been damaged by neglect, heavy rains or during the ongoing conflict. It is noteworthy that around 2000 young male and female workers under 35 are already engaged in the cash-based urban rehabilitation works, with guidance from senior master builders, and benefitting from daily wages that allow for the concrete enhancement of community

livelihoods within the World Heritage Property. The community-focused approach is seen as critical for the sustainable safeguarding of Sana'a's cultural heritage as well as a lever of ownership and commitment of the inhabitants.

The World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Doha Office have been coordinating efforts in order to support the State Party in the definition of the boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification for the property, in line with paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This will contribute towards ensuring the protection of the property.

The torrential rains of April 2020 have led to further deterioration and aggravated living conditions. Floods resulted in extensive damage to historic houses around the Mahadi Mosque, mainly on the west bank of Al-Sailah. Through the support of UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF), the UNESCO Doha Office is implementing emergency interventions using preventive physical barriers to protect from future floods, and facilitating the conservation of traditional houses.

By August 2020, unusual torrential rains have brought additional damage to historical houses. According to rapid assessments, three uninhabited houses collapsed, 50 houses were severely hit and 111 houses sustained roof damages. The UNESCO Doha Office and the Social Fund for Development (SFD) have adjusted implementation of the Cash for Work program to respond to the resulting increased needs.

Owing to the prevailing security conditions, it has not been feasible to organize the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, with the purpose of assisting the State Party in determining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and developing the related corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation. Close cooperation with UNESCO Doha Office, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies continues to be critical, especially in the framework of the Cash for Work project.

Further support from the international community remains essential for building capacity in preventive and conservation measures. For some years, there has been no reported progress in finalizing the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, nor in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015.

In November 2020, it came to the attention of the World Heritage Centre that works are being planned at the Great Mosque of Sana'a, which include demolishing students' rooms, known as "Al Manazel". In February 2021, it was reported that Al-Nahareen Mosque had been demolished and a new mosque was planned in its place. The World Heritage Centre referred the issue to the State Party on both occasions, requesting further information, and recalling the obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for the evaluation of the Advisory Bodies.

The Old City of Sana'a remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and it would be appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.39, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the efforts of local actors and other parties in the initiatives undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions at the property, and requests that they continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to prioritise urgent stabilization actions, and to restore damaged buildings, based on surveys and documentation, using traditional construction techniques and materials, in order to avoid incrementally affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. *Welcomes the effective implementation of the ‘Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen’ and encourages the continued collaboration with the UNESCO Doha Office to continue its implementation;*
5. *Expresses its continuing concern that the Old City of Sana’a has incurred irreversible destruction and continues to be vulnerable, owing to the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;*
6. *Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also requests that information is provided to the World Heritage Centre regarding the Great Mosque of Sana'a and Al-Nahareen Mosque, including any future plans;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to report on progress with the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, and the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen’s Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015;*
8. *Also encourages the State Party to elaborate proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification in close coordination with the UNESCO Doha Office, and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to determining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as soon as the security situation in Yemen allows;*
10. *Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, especially sites on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;*
11. *Further encourages the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;*
12. *Reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen’s Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;*
13. *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;*

14. **Decides to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1982-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 121,966

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to Yemeni cultural properties: USD 194,836 from the European Union for damage assessments, capacity development and emergency stabilization of damaged buildings and protection of archaeological sites.

2018–2021: USD 12,074,096 from the European Union for the project: Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen (Sana'a, Shibam, Zabid and Aden)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020, a report on the state of conservation of the property was provided by local technical actors, presenting the following information:

- The residual impact from severe flooding and the ongoing challenges in Yemen, continue to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, with affected buildings in need of urgent intervention. Despite the insufficient resources, limited international support, and the deteriorating economic conditions, conservation efforts have continued, although these have not been sufficient to resolve the multiple threats to OUV;
- There has been further damage to the inner courtyard and surrounding buildings of the Shibam Gate and to the historic wall that serves as a retaining wall for a large number of houses;
- The risk of flooding continues, with no remedial action taken owing to lack of capacity and a shortfall in the emergency budget;
- The Rehabilitation of the Shibam Oasis as part of the Landscape Buffer Zone was partly addressed by Shibam Oasis Development Project in 2010, which had a short implementation period and did not achieve its specific objectives of dual irrigation, protecting Shibam from flooding, and developing agricultural diversity;
- A short summary has been provided of the components of the 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018 - 2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', including activities such as awareness programmes, community and local authority participation, communication with international heritage organisations, workshops and meetings, traditional skills, and building restoration;
- There has been ongoing communication with the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Doha Office, in particular regarding implementation of the first phase of the European Union funded project: Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen;
- The support of UNESCO is acknowledged and a call to international organizations has been reiterated to continue to provide financial and technical support to help preserve the authenticity and integrity of the property and to facilitate a long term process for its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

The security situation in Yemen, in combination with flood damage and threats, plus a general lack of maintenance and the organizational support and resources, continues to hamper effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. However, the efforts undertaken to do what is possible within available resources are acknowledged. The property is built of mud, located in a flood-prone area and remains at severe risk of major damage from natural elements and the effects of armed conflict, unless preventive measures are undertaken.

It is a matter of great regret that the 'Shibam Oasis Development Project' has been pursued, to the point where it is now regarded as unsuccessful, without referral to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, despite a previous request by the Committee. The Committee has also requested that the report 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018 – 2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', which provides a management strategy for the property, also be submitted in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Although some information about this report has been provided, neither the report itself, nor information on works undertaken at Siwan Palace and the government building, have been submitted.

The Shibam Infrastructure Project was able to renew and consolidate most of the infrastructure of historic Shibam including pavement, but could not be completed. Its rehabilitation remains important as infrastructure problems, especially related to water or sewage, can cause structural risks for the high-rise mudbrick houses of Shibam.

The implementation of the European Union funded project Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen, which began in 2019 through the UNESCO Doha Office, is promoting livelihood opportunities for youth through urban regeneration, including the restoration of particular buildings in the World Heritage properties of the Old City of Sana'a, the Old Walled City of

Shibam and the Historic Town of Zabid that have been damaged due to lack of maintenance, neglect, weathering factors and the ongoing conflict. Some rehabilitation works on the historic wall and the oasis were already completed and renovation works on historic houses have started after the July flooding. Unusual torrential rains in August 2020 resulted in further damage to 200 historic houses according to a rapid damages assessment.

For some years, there has been no reported progress in finalizing the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, nor in the implementation by the State Party of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015.

The World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Doha Office have been coordinating efforts to support the State Party in the definition of the boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification for the property in line with paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The definition of boundaries is an important step towards ensuring the protection of the property. It is therefore crucial that these efforts are pursued, contributing to the submission of the respective proposals for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It remains necessary for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property, as soon as the security situation allows, in order to assist in the identification of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and associated corrective measures and timeframe. Hence, close cooperation with UNESCO Doha Office, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies continues to be critical.

The Old Walled City of Shibam remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and it would be appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.40** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Commends the efforts of the local actors and community to protect and conserve the property, despite the very difficult conditions;*
4. *Expresses its continuing concern about the damage caused to the property as a result of natural elements and the ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be vulnerable, owing to the residual impact of previous flooding as well as the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organizational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;*
5. *Welcomes the initiation of the 'Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen' project, and encourages the continued collaboration with the UNESCO Doha Office in its implementation;*
6. *Regrets that the 'Shibam Oasis Development Project' was not referred to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as previously requested by the Committee, and also regrets that this project does not appear to have fulfilled its aims of dual irrigation, protecting Shibam from flooding, and developing agricultural diversity;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit the report 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018 – 2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', as well as full details regarding the works undertaken at Siwan Palace and the*

government building, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Also requests the State Party to report on progress with the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, and the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015;
9. Also encourages the State Party to elaborate proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification in close coordination with UNESCO Doha Office, and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to determining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as soon as the security situation in Yemen allows;
11. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, especially sites on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
12. Further encourages the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
13. Reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
14. 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;
15. **Decides to retain Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures for the property

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/885/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (HUL Recommendation) at the World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan; 2019: USD 43,115 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for building capacity in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan.

Previous monitoring missions

October 2002: Monitoring mission by an international expert; March 2006: UNESCO Tashkent/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2014: UNESCO Tashkent fact-finding mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Human resources (inadequate)
- Financial resources (inadequate)

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

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report and an update was received by the World Heritage Centre on 30 January 2021. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/documents> and provide the following information regarding the State Party's actions in response to earlier decisions of the Committee:

- A number of legal tools (Presidential Decree, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, amendment to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan) were adopted in 2018-2019 to reinforce heritage preservation, notably by halting all construction at the property, pending the adoption of a clear policy for the property's rehabilitation;
- A map showing the proposal to restore the traditional setting of the streets and houses in several areas in the property was submitted as part of the State Party's report;
- An assessment of the impact of past actions on heritage is underway, as recommended by the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission of January 2019;
- A study on a possible modification of the property's boundaries is under preparation. The State Party has contracted independent experts to assess the potential for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination that might justify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and their conclusions will be taken into account when defining potential new boundaries for the property;
- A working group and an Action Plan for the implementation of the Decision **43 COM 7A.44** were set up in 2020 in order to carry out all necessary studies to further explore the two options suggested by the 2019 High-Level Mission, although the State Party indicated its preliminary preference for the second option, namely the exploration of the key elements of the Timurid urbanism within the Historic Centre. The Terms of Reference for this study, to be completed by December 2021, have been established;
- In the 2021 update, the State Party reports that a detailed urban restoration plan is under development, aiming at the recovering of the settings of the monuments in the central area and the rehabilitation of the existing urban fabric;
- A design proposal was developed for restoration work yet to be conducted and is in the process of being approved, possibly for implementation in cooperation with the Russian Institute of Urban and Investment Development ('GipRoGor', Russian Federation);
- The report of 2020 succinctly lists conservation activities at a number of historic monuments, carried out mainly in 2015-2016;
- Lighting equipment installed on the property was reassessed and reduced;
- Attraction sites and the children's playground located in the east of Ak-Saray were removed and reinstalled outside of the inscribed area;
- The revision of the Management Plan in the framework of a substantial revision of the management system for the property is to be completed by December 2022, and the establishment of an Integrated Conservation and Management Plan by December 2024 in taking into consideration the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (HUL);
- The increase in the occurrence of material failures on tiles and tile falling at the Ak-Saray Palace has been reported, and a national multidisciplinary team has been established to cope with the issues;
- The State Party is establishing an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan. Progress has been made, including liaison with the World Heritage Centre, identification of potential members and budget allocation, with a first meeting expected in 2021 to ensure follow-up of the Committee decisions and previous mission recommendations;

Due to the global situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Party did not submit details of proposals for a Significant Boundary Modification that might have the potential to justify the OUV by the deadline set by the Committee at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019).

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

At its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), the Committee noted with concern the conclusions of the December 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission that *“as the monumental buildings have now been disengaged from their urban surroundings, the heart of the Temurid town planning has been lost and, as the traditional dwelling houses in the core of the medieval town have been destroyed, the key attributes of the OUV have been damaged to such an extent, and for the most part irreversible, that property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed”*, and hence that recovering sufficient attributes to justify the OUV identified at the time of inscription seemed impossible (Decision **41 COM 7A.57**). The Committee was tasked with considering whether the property had *“deteriorated to such an extent that it has lost the attributes of the OUV defined at the time of inscription and should therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the Operational Guidelines, be deleted from the World Heritage List”*. It nevertheless decided to recommend that the State Party should explore whether a significant boundary modification, based on some of the monuments and the remaining urban areas, might have the potential to justify OUV.

The 2019 High-level Reactive Monitoring mission proposed two possible options that the State Party might wish to explore: 1) focusing on the monuments representing the Temurid period, or 2) exploring the key elements of the Temurid urbanism within the Historic Centre. However, the 2019 mission did not have the necessary documentation to allow a thorough assessment of whether OUV might be justified for either of these options and suggested that much more work would be needed by the State Party in the form of research, documentation, and conservation, including plans for a possible reversal of recent conservation work in the case of the monuments, before it might be possible to assess whether or not either of these options might have the potential to justify OUV.

In Decision **43 COM 7A.44**, the Committee accepted the mission’s recommendations and decided *‘to allow the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination, and at the end of this period, to consider once again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period to allow time, if by then a clear direction of travel has been articulated, or to delete the property altogether’*. The Decision also made it clear that, in exploring either option, the State Party *‘should undertake further research and documentation and develop a restoration plan, in order to provide sufficient details to allow assessment of the potential for each option to justify OUV, before any work is undertaken on a significant boundary modification in compliance with Paragraphs 165 and 166 of the Operational Guidelines or on a new nomination’*, and it further encouraged the State Party to *‘request upstream support in relation to the potential for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination to justify OUV’*.

The creation of a working group and an Action Plan to explore the two options is noted, as are the completion date of December 2021 for the studies and the State Party’s preference for the second option. The State Party indicates that it will explore the two options in depth and will take into account the complexity of the site and its critical condition. The State Party also notes that there is a strong will at the local level to work in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. In its 2020 report, it indicated that the way forward being explored could include a plan for the *‘restoration of the traditional setting of the streets in the historic period’*, the restoration of traditional houses, and the development of new (restored) traditional houses in the empty space created by recent demolition. It is also reported that a detailed urban restoration plan aiming to recover the settings of the monuments in the central area and the rehabilitation of the remaining urban fabric is under development.

The State Party acknowledges that exploration of the second option would need to be based on detailed documentation of what survives of the urban grain, research on its evolution, and analysis of the specificities of vernacular building traditions in order to allow an assessment of what might be recovered and its feasibility. Before any work is undertaken to implement this second option or on other large-scale restoration projects, full details of the research and analysis of this option should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, together with the implications of this option in terms of restoration, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration by the Committee. If the Committee were to then consider such an option to be potentially feasible, the next step would be for the State Party to prepare and submit a Significant Boundary Modification or a new Nomination, which would also need to consider in detail an overall urban restoration plan that aligned with the need to upgrade infrastructure and living conditions in order to ensure a living city, and the development of new protection, conservation and management

systems for the property in line with the 2011 *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL).

The current position is that no option or potential way forward for the property has been outlined or proposed within the timeline set by the Committee. The State Party has indicated that the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted its timetable and has requested an extension from the Committee. Given the proposals now in place to explore the second option in association with international experts by the end of December 2021, and the willingness expressed by the State Party to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in this process, it is recommended that the Committee extend the deadline by one year and request the State Party to submit a report on the feasibility of the preferred option for consideration at its 45th session in 2022.

Given the crucial importance of the assessment work being undertaken and the sensitivities in relation to authenticity and integrity of some of the possibilities being discussed, e.g. those related to any potential reconstruction, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its encouragement that the State Party seek upstream advice from ICOMOS. The State Party reports that it is contracting individual ICOMOS experts who will determine the boundaries of a possible modification. In that regard, it should be clarified that individual experts cannot provide formal upstream advice on behalf of ICOMOS International.

In relation to other aspects of the property, the adoption of several new legal instruments is expected to reinforce the protection of the property. Following the introduction of the new laws, all construction activities have been stopped, which is to be welcomed. As the Committee requested all further work to be halted, clarity is needed on whether restoration and demolition have also been halted. The report indicates that this may not be the case, as it is stated that after re-housing residents, three locally protected, 19th-century traditional houses were torn down after 'measuring, study and preparation of the passports', apparently with the intention to build new 'traditional houses' of a similar design. There is clearly a need to upgrade dwellings, to enlarge some and install new services. The issue is how this is done in a way that allows good examples of traditional buildings to survive, rather than be demolished, and sensitive new additions to be constructed – but not as multiple copies of a 19th century model. An overall approach to this issue needs to be defined and agreed before any further work is undertaken. Work on demolition and restoration of traditional houses also needs to be halted until such an agreed approach is in place.

As the state of conservation of the tiles at the Ak-Saray complex remain a great concern, the State Party established a multidisciplinary team to propose ways forward to tackle the issue. The requested information concerning the Ak-Saray Palace tiles and the strategy for their conservation remains to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are fully aware that the property now faces a highly complex situation. It remains essential that the phases identified by the Committee to assess potential ways forward are respected. This means that before any work is undertaken on restoration, rebuilding or further demolition, the State Party should first submit an outline of their preferred option, based on (a) research and documentation; (b) a detailed analysis of what survives in comparison with what existed before recent demolitions; (c) a comprehensive and detailed historical analysis of the evolution of the town over time, including the development of its Timurid urban planning; (d) conservation assessments of what remains; and (e) a proposed restoration plan. The outline of the preferred option should set out clear justifications for restoring or conserving elements, particularly in relation to the *mahallas*, as well as demonstrating how a completed project might have the potential to justify OUV. If such an outline of the preferred option is submitted for discussion at the 45th session, the Committee would consider one of the two ways forward that were set out in 2019:

- *'if a clear direction of travel has been articulated,'* the State Party could progress with the development of a Significant Boundary Modification or a new Nomination dossier and undertake work towards this, including completing the revised Management Plan and strengthening the protection and management systems, in compliance with Paragraphs 165 and 166 of the *Operational Guidelines*, or of a new Nomination;
- if the research and assessments do not indicate a potential to demonstrate OUV, then the Committee has agreed that the property should be removed from the World Heritage List altogether.

Meanwhile, until these matters are considered at the 45th session and a way forward has been agreed, there is a need to retain a complete moratorium in place at the property for restoration and reconstruction as well as development.

Finally, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to pursue the establishment and operation of an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for all cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which can advise on the conservation of the property and implementation of Committee decisions and mission recommendations.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.48**, **41 COM 7A.57**, and **42 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively, and Decision **43 COM 7A.44** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), in which the Committee decided “to allow the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination, and at the end of this period, to consider once again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period to allow time, if by then a clear direction of travel has been articulated, or to delete the property altogether”, and that in exploring options, the State Party “should undertake further research and documentation and develop a restoration plan, in order to provide sufficient details to allow assessment of the potential for each option to justify OUV [Outstanding Universal Value], before any work is undertaken on a significant boundary modification in compliance with Paragraphs 165 and 166 of the Operational Guidelines or on a new nomination”, and further stated that the State Party is encouraged to “request upstream support in relation to the potential for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination to justify OUV”;*
3. *Notes that the State Party has created a Working Group, is drafting an Action Plan to implement the Committee’s past decisions and, in particular, is exploring the possibility of two options for a potential Significant Boundary Modification, as suggested by the Committee, with a preference for the option related to key elements of Timurid urbanism including the urban fabric of the mahallas, and that international professionals have been invited to assist in developing a draft outline of the preferred option for the way forward, based on detailed research and assessment, and that the Working Group will not complete its work until 31 December 2021;*
4. *Expresses its concern that the State Party could not submit, by the deadline of 1 February 2021, an outline option proposal for a significant boundary modification that might have the potential to justify OUV, and also notes that the State Party has explained this delay in relation to the global situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;*
5. *Agrees to extend the deadline by one year, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, details of a proposal for the preferred option and its potential to justify OUV, together with its implications in terms of restoration and conservation, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration at its 45th session;*
6. *Reiterates its intention to decide at its 45th session, in line with Decision **43 COM 7A.44** and following consideration of a submitted option proposal, whether:*

- a) *The option proposal has adequately indicated the potential to justify OUV, and the State Party should thus be encouraged to submit a detailed proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 165-166 of the Operational Guidelines, or a new Nomination, or*
 - b) *The details and assessment provided for the option selected do not adequately indicate the potential to justify OUV, and the property should thus be removed from the World Heritage List;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the outline proposal of the selected option is fully supported by adequate documentation and analysis of the urban form, its history and evolution, on the detailed form and characteristic of traditional houses, and on the comparison between what exists now and what existed before the recent demolitions;*
 8. *Further notes that, as the State Party's report and the additional map submitted on 17 February 2020 indicate, possibilities are being explored that include the 'restoration of the traditional setting of the streets in the historic period', the restoration of traditional houses and the development of new (restored) traditional houses in the empty space created by recent demolition, and considering that these could have an impact on the property's authenticity and integrity, reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to request upstream advice in the assessment of the options and development of the restoration plan, to be submitted to the Committee;*
 9. *Welcomes the ban on any new construction at the property, but notes with concern that, after re-housing residents, three locally protected, 19th-century traditional houses were torn down after 'measuring, study and preparation of the passports' with the apparent intention of building new 'traditional houses' to a similar design, and therefore further reiterates its request to retain a complete building moratorium in the property, including for construction and restoration projects, until the outline proposal for the selected option for Significant Boundary Modification has been considered by the Committee;*
 10. *Encourages the State Party to ensure that the proposed Restoration Plan encompasses the mahallas, conservation works and new building, but strongly discourages an approach that relies on rebuilding copies of demolished buildings;*
 11. *Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to implement its recommendations for the conservation of the Ak-Saray Palace tiles, develop a conservation strategy and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work is undertaken;*
 12. *Reiterates moreover its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the December 2016 and January 2019 Reactive Monitoring missions to the property;*
 13. *Also encourages the State Party to pursue the establishment and operation of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for all cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which can advise on the conservation of the property and implementation of Committee decisions and previous missions recommendations;*
 14. *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;*
 15. ***Decides to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

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

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

Drafted, proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Corrective measures identified

Identified, proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Identified, proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 3 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, and on 29 January and 30 April 2021, the State Party submitted addenda, all of which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/documents>. These reports provide information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to the Decision **43 COM 7A.45**, as follows:

- The City of Vienna has confirmed that the proposed Heumarkt – Ice Skating Club – Vienna Concert Hall tower block will not proceed as previously planned. A process was initiated to develop alternative variants to the design with particular consideration to the project's height and volume. A visual study and a new Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will assess a new design, which currently comprises two disc-shaped structures of 56,5 and 48 meters respectively, and will analyse potential impact on the property, having regard to the 2019 HIA and the 2018 High Level Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS will be consulted;
- Completion of the new Management Plan for the property is scheduled for late autumn 2021, with the final document due to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before adoption. An additional HIA will be developed for the Schwarzenberg Gardens development. The Wien Museum closed in February 2020 and construction work has commenced for its restoration and transformation. There are no current plans for development of the Winterthur Building. The Austrian Federal Monuments Authority, in cooperation with the City of Vienna, will extend the roof cadastre to include iron-construction-works and pay particular attention to the Ringstraße area. The roof cadastre will be implemented through the new Management Plan;
- Enhanced protection of World Heritage throughout Austria will be provided through a programme released by the Federal Government in January 2020, including anchoring of World Heritage properties in the Austrian legal system, sustainable protection and preservation of cultural heritage, and commitment to UNESCO Conventions on Cultural Diversity and the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- The proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a related set of corrective measures have been elaborated in cooperation between the City of Vienna and agencies of the State Party. The DSOCR has regard to the 'Three-Stage-Process' and the findings of missions in 2012, 2015 and 2018 and related Committee decisions, and has been interactively discussed online between the State Party, the City of Vienna, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. The DSOCR is being submitted for adoption by the Committee (see below).

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

The State Party and the City of Vienna have made significant progress in responding to and implementing previous decisions of the Committee and working progressively towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The programme to enhance protection within the national legal system will contribute to the protection and conservation of all of Austria's World Heritage properties and other cultural assets. Progress with the new Management Plan is welcome, and this plan should be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and implementation. The expansion of the roof cadastre and its intended implementation through the Management Plan will contribute to the conservation of this important attribute of the property and build on the work done to document and assess historic roofscapes within the property.

The property remains at risk from existing planning controls, such as the 'High-Rise Concept' and 'Glacis Masterplan' as well as inappropriate developments, so it is appropriate for the current moratorium to be maintained on new developments or planning measures which may impact upon attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, pending completion of the new Management Plan, the adoption of the DSOCR, implementation of related corrective measures, and amendments to planning controls which successfully address the cumulative impact of urban development since inscription and provide new tools which enable sustainable development that protects the attributes which contribute to the OUV of the property.

It is appropriate and welcome that an additional HIA is to be prepared for the Schwarzenberg Gardens development. It would also be appropriate to remind the State Party of the Committee's previous request to pursue legislative protection for the Schwarzenberg Gardens. Final plans and designs for the Wien Museum, including technical details and additional visualisations, including that of a new entrance, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

The decision not to proceed with the proposed Heumarkt – Ice Skating Club – Vienna Concert Hall tower block as planned is very welcomed, as is the process initiated to develop and assess alternative variants to the design, although it remains a concern that a building which is higher than the existing building on

the site has not been precluded. It is important that the proposed additional visual study assesses the currently proposed new design and any subsequent variations, and evaluate the potential impact on the property, having regard to the findings of the 2018 Joint High Level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, and that a new HIA be prepared using precisely the same data, methodology and format of the 2019 HIA.

The State Party should be commended on the elaboration of the DSOCR and related corrective measures, and particularly the productive collaborative process with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The following DSOCR has been developed by the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and stakeholders, and is proposed for adoption by the Committee:

I. Desired state of conservation for the removal of the Historic Centre of Vienna from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

The desired state of conservation for the property is defined as follows:

- Attributes which reflect and support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are clearly defined and described.
- Sound planning tools and legal provisions to foster the safeguarding of the property are in place.
- A comprehensive Management Plan and a related management system are the legal basis for all future decisions concerning the World Heritage property.
- The Management Plan includes a comprehensive process for continued monitoring and evaluation that is focused on retention of OUV while sustaining the economic growth of the City of Vienna.
- Revised design of the Heumarkt Neu project is implemented, respecting the integrity and authenticity of the OUV of the property as a whole as measured through an independent Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), based on the results of the HIA 2019 and following its methodology.
- No further high-rise development occurs within the property as well as in areas affecting its visual integrity.
- There are no further roof top conversions of historically and artistically significant roof constructions, or that adversely affect the historic skyline and the overall integrity of the property, and enhanced safeguarding is provided for historic roof constructions.
- No inadequate developments occur within the area of Ringstraße and Glacis.
- There is no further disturbance of the baroque layout and visual integrity of the Belvedere / Schwarzenberg Complex (Palace and Gardens) including the vistas constituting an integral part of the original logic of this Baroque Gesamtkunstwerk.
- Karlsplatz / Wien Museum / Winterthur Building area is redesigned according to the findings of the 2018 High Level Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission and the related mission report.
- Priority is given to the preservation of historic / original building stock of the property.
- Historic gardens and green spaces receive strong statutory protection and play a major role in preservation and management strategies to support and improve climate conditions in the urban area.
- Schwarzenberg Garden and Palace are recognized as a major attribute reflecting the OUV of the property, ensuring its protection through the new comprehensive Management System for the Historic Centre of Vienna and an updated garden care-plan.
- The Retrospective Statement of OUV (RSOUV) is interpreted consistently with the initial intentions as adopted by the World Heritage Committee when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List.
- Contemporary interventions in the property, its surrounding buffer zone and all areas that have potential visual impacts on the latter are based on sound assessments giving priority to the requirements of a World Heritage property.

BACKGROUND

The World Heritage Committee inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger based on Decision **41 COM 7B.42** mainly for two reasons:

- “Current planning controls pose serious and specific threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property”;
- “Inadequate extent of change proposed for the Vienna Ice Skating Club - Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project.”

The Committee therefore requested the preparation of a DSOCR including a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation for submission to allow for their examination at its 2018 annual session.

In order to facilitate these measures, the State Party initiated an inclusive three-stage process involving all major stakeholders of the property and the particular project in 2018. It included an experts-workshop, a comprehensive HIA (as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its decisions of 2016 and 2017) and in addition to this a High Level joint ICOMOS/UNESCO Advisory mission to the property.

The procedure was a necessary preparatory exercise with the aim to re-establish a close cooperation between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the authorities in charge for safeguarding the property as well as to get a solid basis for the elaboration of the requested DSOCR. The World Heritage Committee welcomed this approach in its Decision **42 COM 7A.5**, as well as the results communicated to the Committee in March 2019. The latter, together with the mission reports of 2012, 2015, 2018 and the corresponding decisions by the World Heritage Committee constitute the framework for the corrective measures and the DSOCR as to be defined within this framework.

Much of the building stock and the historic layout of the Viennese first district is in a very good state of preservation. Nevertheless, the above- mentioned developments since time of inscription led (and further on would lead) to changes of the cityscape, this being a major pillar to support the OUV of the property. Smaller but permanently progressing changes to the building stock, compared to its status at the time of inscription, as well as some insensitive contemporary interventions in or near important historic areas added to the reduction of the material authenticity of the property and other attributes, which led to a deterioration of the OUV.

The State Party and the City of Vienna therefore aim for a prompt re-establishment of a statutory management and planning framework which ensures retention of those attributes of the Historic Centre of Vienna that contribute to the OUV of the property.

The actual threats that lead to the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the DSOCR are set out in the below table. Among the corrective measures required to achieve the DSOCR, the most important steps are the:

- Implementation of amendments to the legal planning controls in order to avoid further deterioration and to retain the OUV of the property
- Redesign of the Heumarkt Neu project (Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus area) and elaboration of a comprehensive visual study including an assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property based on the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment 2019 and reassessment of the redesign through an independent HIA to ensure that the OUV of the property is not harmed by the project.
- Preparation, implementation and demonstration of the effectiveness of a comprehensive Management Plan and a corresponding management system (incorporating identification, description and mapping of tangible and intangible attributes of the property) that ensures the safeguarding of the OUV of the property.

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on the Committee decisions of 2011 to 2019 and on the mission reports of 2012, 2015 and 2019. It also takes into account the results of the 2019 HIA concerning the development of the property since inscription and the expectable impacts of the Heumarkt Neu project.

The schedule of goals and measures concentrates on the main objectives and does not include detailed to-do lists with corrective measures. The latter are provided by way of a ‘Roadmap’ – a schedule of ‘Corrective Measures’ - that will be updated and submitted to the World Heritage Committee by way of

progress reporting. To give an example: The new Management Plan (MPL) (that is a major request according to the Committee decisions, mission reports and HIA) will include further details recommended by the mission reports and/or Committee decisions, such as regulations and provisions for:

- Cooperation between local and federal authorities on an institutional basis,
- Creation of an independent Advisory Body,
- Sustainable Development Strategies for the property,
- Continued Monitoring of the property,
- Elaboration of HIAs,
- Use of the Digital Height Model of the City of Vienna and 3D Modelling for HIAs.

The new Management Plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. Therefore, the more detailed tasks can be assessed by the review of the Management Plan.

This principle also applies to the revision of planning tools and legal regulations. The latter will form an integral part of the Management Plan that will set out and be consistent with the respective amendments to these provisions, which shall be legally implemented by way of adoption through the regional and national authorities after acceptance of the MPL by the World Heritage Committee.

The elaboration of a list of attributes reflecting the OUV, key places, key vistas etc. is a separate major tool to be elaborated as essential input to the Management Plan and will be encompassed by the latter as well as the planning regulations. Hence no detailed list of those tools and regulations is provided within this report, as this would go beyond of its scope.

The structure of the schedule of goals and measures follows the template provided by the World Heritage Centre. It includes inter alia two columns indicating the status of the respective measures at the time of submission of the report and the target date for their completion. The Management Plan for example currently is work in progress and it is proposed that it shall become operative in July 2021 after acceptance by the World Heritage Committee.

The schedule is subdivided into three sections: Protection and Management / Attributes / Integrity. Some goals and measures appear in more than one section in order to address more specific challenges and to emphasise aspects that require special attention - regardless of the need for a general compliance of the respective measures with the OUV in total. This applies for instance to the Roof Cadastre that shall be extended to iron and composite constructions, which mainly appear in the area of Ringstraße. The latter also being a major attribute reflecting the OUV of the property and still providing possibilities for roof conversions and extensions. Therefore, a measure specifically addresses roof conversions in this area.

To facilitate the traceability of the goals and measures, a table of Committee decisions and schedules which provide the recommendations of the 2012, 2015 and 2018 mission reports are provided as annexes to this DSO CR.

Reports on the progress of the implementation of corrective measures will be provided by way of updated "roadmaps" annexed to the regular State of conservation reports.

PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE DSO CR

The DSO CR was jointly developed by the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sports, the Federal Monuments Authority and the Government and responsible authorities of the City of Vienna. In keeping with Decision **41 COM 7B.42**, the Austrian authorities closely involved and consulted the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International in the drafting of the DSO CR.

In order to reach a broader acceptance and enable preventive measures, ICOMOS Austria and the Austrian National Commission to UNESCO were consulted during the process.

ATTRIBUTES OF THE PROPERTY THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER THREAT

In accordance with the 2012, 2015, 2018 mission reports, the results of the 2019 HIA and the related Committee decisions the following attributes of the property are recognised as currently under threat and/or deteriorated:

1. Urban morphology (*Criterion ii* and statement of integrity): overall visual appearance of the property as a whole, integrity of the historic fabric and urban skyline and key views and vistas (due to inappropriate developments including excessive roof top conversions);
2. Urban layout of Ringstraße and Glacis (*Criterion iv*): Due to the building mass and height allowed by current controls, as evidenced by the proposed Heumarkt Neu project (according to Decision **41 COM 7B.42**) neglecting the logic of the Gründerzeit development;
3. Roofscape of the property (*Criterion ii* and statement of integrity) due to excessive roof top extensions and conversions also affecting rare mansard roofs that constitute prominent material testimony for the baroque period;
4. Baroque layout and visual integrity of the Belvedere Complex (Palaces and Gardens) within the early modern logic of the baroque “Gesamtkunstwerk” (due to existing and potential further disturbances of the main historic vista, it being an essential component of the overall artistic concept);
5. Karlsplatz - St. Charles Church and adjacent Wien Museum and Winterthur Building (*Criteria ii and iv*): due to proposed developments in the direct vicinity of the St. Charles Church, the latter being one of the world’s major baroque artworks;
6. Material authenticity of the historic / original building stock of the property: The material authenticity of the historic building-stock of the property in general is in a very good condition. Nevertheless, due to a very permissive interpretation of the Vienna Memorandum, the focus in the last years shifted from conservation to renewal of building stock that is neither under national heritage protection nor part of a protection zone according to the Viennese Building Code;
7. Historic gardens and green spaces: Gardens, parks and green spaces in the Historic Centre of Vienna are in general very well maintained and in good condition. As the statutory protection of historic gardens currently is limited to gardens in public ownership, some contemporary interventions recently put in place bear the risk of weakening this status. The same applies to not distinctively defined development-areas as laid down in the Masterplan Glacis.

II. Corrective measures

	<i>N</i>	<i>INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>	<i>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</i>	<i>CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR</i>	<i>TARGET COMPLETION DATE</i>
PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT						
Protection and Management	1	The attributes which reflect and support the OUV of the property are clearly defined and described.	The nomination dossier and the current RSOUV name only a few areas or buildings that contribute to the integrity and authenticity of the property and hence the conservation in their original status is crucial for the safeguarding of the OUV. The lack of clearly defined and described attributes constituting the basis for a sound management-framework lead to inadequate developments in the property and thus to deterioration of the OUV.	A description of attributes that support the integrity and authenticity of the OUV of the property and supporting its status at the time of inscription is part of an integrated management system that has been proven to protect the OUV in practice. The attributes schedule will form an integrated part of the Management Plan. It will be public available and the respective places will be indicated in the digital map outlining the property.	Not yet started. The elaboration takes place parallel to the procedure of the elaboration of the management plan and the implementation of a related management system, but will be completed before finalising the Management Plan in order to inform the Management Plan's content and mechanisms.	July 2021 for the public availability within the Management Plan.
	2	Sound planning tools and legal provisions foster the safeguarding of the property.	The deterioration of the OUV of the property largely is the result of insufficient or inappropriate planning tools and of legal provisions that were adapted rather to enable (inconsistent) renewal than to foster	Planning tools and legal provisions at both Federal and regional level are amended according to the recommendations of the related Committee decisions, the 2012, 2015, 2018 mission reports, the results of the 2019 HIA and their effect monitored and proven.	The implementation is based on the Management Plan and the implementation of a related management system. The latter shall encompass revised legal provisions that ensure the safeguarding of the property and prevents from	(City of Vienna), June 2024 at the latest for the legal provisions on Federal Level (please also note N3 in section "Attributes").

	N	INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR	TARGET COMPLETION DATE
	3	<p>A comprehensive Management Plan and a related management system are the legal basis for all future decisions concerning the World Heritage property.</p> <p>The Management Plan has been accepted by the World Heritage Committee and formally adopted by the Vienna Council and the Federal Government.</p> <p>The efficacy of the Management Plan is demonstrated in practice by way of regular monitoring reports through the national and international monitors of the property assigned by ICOMOS Austria.</p>	<p>conservation and preservation.</p> <p>The current Management Plan dates back to 2002, never led to an integrated Management System nor was it part of actual planning deliberations.</p>	<p>A revised Management Plan based on the initial safeguarding and management intentions as laid down in the SOUV has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and accepted by the World Heritage Committee as well as adopted by the City Council of Vienna.</p> <p>Its efficacy is proven in practice by way of regular monitoring reports through the national and international monitors of the property assigned by ICOMOS Austria.</p>	<p>further deterioration of its authenticity and integrity.</p> <p>The process of developing a Management Plan and an integrated management system has been initiated and is work in progress.</p>	<p>July 2021 for the implementation of the Management Plan and Management System.</p> <p>End of 2021 for the implementation of the related legal provisions on the level of the City of Vienna.</p> <p>Prove of efficacy: From July 2021 on regularly at least once a year by way of monitoring reports.</p>
	4	<p>The Management Plan includes a comprehensive process for continued</p>	<p>To be effective the Management Plan needs to include an ongoing mechanism for monitoring</p>	<p>A revised Management Plan which addresses matters raised in World Heritage Committee Decisions 41 COM 7B.42 and</p>	<p>The implementation takes place during the procedure of the elaboration of the Management Plan and the</p>	<p>Starting from July 2021.</p>

	<i>N</i>	<i>INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>	<i>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</i>	<i>CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR</i>	<i>TARGET COMPLETION DATE</i>
		monitoring and evaluation that is focused on retention of OUV while sustaining the economic growth of the City of Vienna.	and evaluation. This mechanism should be directed at OUV, but must also recognise the need for the City to be sustainable.	43 COM 7A.45 has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and accepted by the World Heritage Committee, adopted by the City Council of Vienna, and its efficacy proven in practice through monitoring and evaluation over a period of 5 years.	implementation of a related management system.	
	5	Assessment of a revised design for the Heumarkt Neu project by a new HIA based on the results of the 2019 HIA and following its methodology.	HIA and 2018 mission report assessed the current design as “major negative” and its implementation as a potential conclusive threat to the OUV.	New HIA, prepared using the same methodology and impact assessment methodology as the 2019 HIA. The new HIA concludes that the revised project does not adversely impact upon the OUV of the property and has undergone a Technical Review by ICOMOS International. The latter assessed the revised design to be consistent with the requirements of safeguarding the OUV of the property.	The assignment of an independent expert to carry out the new HIA is currently in preparation.	Autumn 2020 submission of the new HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review.
ATTRIBUTES						
Attributes	1	Implementation of a revised design of the Heumarkt Neu project respecting the integrity and authenticity of the OUV of the property as a whole as measured	Particularly the proposed height of the project adversely affects the monocentric character of the urban morphology.	A revised project that does not harm the OUV is either implemented or its implementation guaranteed within the legislative framework	Revision of the project currently undergoing a Visual study and new independent HIA to be conducted.	End of 2021 for the complete legal implementation of the respective provisions in accordance with the redesign (e.g. zoning

	N	INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR	TARGET COMPLETION DATE
		through an independent HIA.		(zoning plan / building permission).		plan, building permission).
	2	No further high-rise development within the property as well as in areas affecting its visual integrity.	The high-rise development since inscription of the property already deteriorated the integrity of the historic urban skyline and hence the OUV of the property.	The current planning tools (particularly the STEP 2025 High Rise concept) have been revised according to the findings of the 2012, 2015, and 2018 missions and the related Committee decisions and are based on sound legal provisions adopted by the City Council of Vienna.	The implementation takes place during the procedure of the elaboration of the Management Plan and the implementation of a related management system. The process of developing an integrated management system has been initiated.	July 2021 for the Management Plan and Management System. End of 2021 for the implementation of the revised legal provisions on the regional level (City of Vienna).
	3	No further roof top conversions that adversely affect the historic skyline and the overall integrity of the property and enhanced safeguarding of historic roof constructions based on the results of a comprehensive <i>Roof Cadastre</i> and the guidelines provided by way of the <i>Standards for Built Heritage Conservation</i> https://bda.gv.at/publikationen/standards-	The increase of roof extensions already deteriorated the urban fabric. Specific projects already threatened to affect valuable examples of baroque mansard roofs as well as remarkable Gründerzeit building stock.	The Roof Cadastre and the related regulations in the Management Plan apply to the whole building stock of the property and includes specific measures related to areas / objects according to the list of attributes. The Management Plan includes regulations based on the results of the Roof Cadastre for all future roof extensions and conversions.	The Roof Cadastre is currently extended to Iron and Composite Constructions with special attention to the area of the Ringstraße (as the latter can be found mainly in this area).	End of 2021 as part of the Management Plan and Management System. Independently from the Management Plan the Roof Cadastre will be publicly available after completion.

	N	INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR	TARGET COMPLETION DATE
		leitfaeden-richtlinien/standards-der-baudenkmalpflege/				
	4	4a: Implementation of a revised design of the Heumarkt Neu project respecting the overall integrity and the authentic character of the logic of the Gründerzeit layout.	At present, the Ringstraße morphology is well maintained (with the exception of minor “disturbances” prior to inscription). The proposed height and building mass would adversely interfere with the historic logic of the ensemble and with its morphology.	The revised project that is not harming the OUV in total and meets said criteria in detail has been assessed through an independent HIA and is either implemented or its implementation guaranteed within the legislative framework (zoning plan / building permission).	Revision of the project currently undergoing a Visual Study and independent HIA to be conducted. HIA concludes that the revised project does not adversely impact upon the OUV of the property including the logic of the Gründerzeit Ensemble, this being a major attribute reflecting the OUV.	Autumn 2020 for the HIA. End of 2021 for the implementation of the revised legal provisions for the revised design. (please also note N1 in this section)
		4b: No further roof top conversions that adversely affect the historic appearance of the Ringstraße ensemble and Gründerzeit layout.	Due to progressing loss of historic fabric in the roof zones the authentic appearance of the urban and architectural heritage of the Gründerzeit era are increasingly threatened.	The Management Plan includes regulations based on the results of the Roof Cadastre and the recommendations provided by the <i>Standards for Built Heritage Conservation</i> for all future roof extensions and conversions.	The Roof Cadastre is currently extended to iron and composite constructions with special attention to the area of the Ringstraße, where these types of constructions mainly appear.	From July 2021 on by way of regular monitoring reports (also note N3 “Protection and Management”).
		4c: No inadequate developments within the area of Ringstraße and Glacis.	Currently the Masterplan Glacis allows for uncertain developments without explicitly mentioning the World Heritage status as a basic parameter for any intervention.	The planning tools (particularly the Masterplan Glacis) have been revised according to the findings of the 2012, 2015 and 2018 missions and the related Committee decisions and are based on sound legal provisions adopted by the City Council of	The process of developing an integrated management system at present is work in progress.	From July 2021 on by way of regular monitoring reports (also note N3 “Protection and Management”).

	<i>N</i>	<i>INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>	<i>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</i>	<i>CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR</i>	<i>TARGET COMPLETION DATE</i>
				Vienna. The planning tools and regulations are an integral part of the Management Plan that has been reviewed, adopted, implemented and its efficacy proven.		
	5	No further roof top conversions of historically and artistically significant roof constructions.	Roof top conversions in the last years also affected roof constructions of eminent quality, such as originally preserved baroque mansard roofs in the most prominent areas of the property.	The policy based on the results of the Roof Cadastre are implemented through legal measures and encompassed by the Management Plan and related Management System. The Roof Cadastre is available for the public.	The process of developing an integrated management system has been initiated and is work in progress. The Roof Cadastre is currently prepared for publication and shall be extended to iron and composite constructions.	July 2021 for the implementation of the Management Plan. End of 2021 for the implementation of the legal provisions on regional level (City of Vienna), which constitute the majority of planning and protection provisions for the property according to the Austrian Federal System. June 2024 at the latest for the implementation of the amended Federal Monuments Protection Act (as the latter applies not only to Vienna but to the whole Federal Republic and has to be adopted by the Austrian Parliament).

	<i>N</i>	<i>INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>	<i>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</i>	<i>CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR</i>	<i>TARGET COMPLETION DATE</i>
	6	No further disturbance of the baroque layout and visual integrity of the Belvedere / Schwarzenberg Complex (Palace and Gardens) including the vistas constituting an integral part of the original logic of this baroque Gesamtkunstwerk.	The Belvedere / Schwarzenberg Complex (Palace and Gardens) is a key attribute and major representative of the OUV of the property. The vista constituting an integral feature of this stellar baroque complex compared to its status at time of inscription is disturbed by high-rises.	A description of attributes reflecting and representing the OUV is part of the Management Plan. The Belvedere / Schwarzenberg Garden Complex is anchored in this list as an area of highest protection level. A revised Heumarkt Neu project that constitutes no further interference with this most important vista is either implemented or its implementation is guaranteed within the legislative framework (zoning plan / building permission).	The process of developing an integrated management system has been initiated and is work in progress. Revision of the project currently undergoing; visual study and HIA to be conducted and project developed to the point that it does not negatively affect the OUV of the property.	July 2021 as integral part of the Management Plan and Management System.
	7	Karlsplatz / Wien Museum / Winterthur Building area is redesigned according to the findings of the 2018 Advisory mission and the related mission report.	The projected redesign was considered a benefit for the area.	The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies reviewed and agreed to the final designs for the extension and redesign of the Wien Museum and Winterthur Building as well as the new landscape designs.	Final landscape designs were submitted to the World Heritage Centre subsequently to the 2018 Advisory mission. Final designs for the Wien Museum currently are work in progress. Conversion of Winterthur House halted; beginning of conversion works currently not foreseeable.	Final designs for the Wien Museum will be available end of 2020 and submitted with the SOC Report in January 2021. Conversion of Winterthur House only possible according to the design linked to the conversion of the Wien Museum. Regular reports on progress by way of roadmaps and State of conservation reports.

	N	INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER	RATIONALE	METHOD OF VERIFICATION	CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR	TARGET COMPLETION DATE
	8	Priority to preservation of historic / original building stock of the property.	Perceived inaccuracies and contradictions in the RSOUV as well as a very permissive interpretation of the Vienna Memorandum lead to a predomination of urban renewal instead of enhanced conservation of the existing building stock.	The RSOUV has been clearly and definitively interpreted in the reviewed and adopted Management Plan. The property is defined as a protection zone according to the Vienna Building Code. National Monuments Protection is strengthened in accordance with the definition of attributes reflecting the OUV of the property.	Enhanced protection provided by a legal provision within the Viennese Building Code concerning all buildings built before 1945 (enacted 2018). Implementation of further protection measures takes place during the procedure of the elaboration of the Management Plan and the implementation of a related management system. National Monuments Protection is a constant process based on the Federal Monuments Protection Act; specific provisions concerning World Heritage protection will be amended.	July 2021 for the implementation of the Management Plan. End of 2021 for the implementation of the legal provisions on the regional level (City of Vienna), which constitute the majority of planning and protection provisions for the property according to the Austrian Federal System. June 2024 at the latest for the implementation of the amended Federal Monuments Protection Act (as the latter applies not only to Vienna but to the whole Federal Republic and has to be adopted by the Austrian Parliament).
	9	Historic gardens and green spaces in general receive strong statutory protection and play a major role in preservation and management	There is a gap in the suite of statutory protection mechanisms for the property, such that important gardens are not adequately protected. Already implemented	The Masterplan Glacis declares green spaces as strict protection zones. Related regulations are evident in the Management Plan. Regulations are provided for enhanced protection of historic gardens within the	The implementation takes place during the procedure of the elaboration of the management plan and the implementation of a related management system. National legal regulations shall be	January 2021 for submission of the HIA Schwarzenberg Garden. July 2021 for the Management Plan and

	<i>N</i>	<i>INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>	<i>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</i>	<i>CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR</i>	<i>TARGET COMPLETION DATE</i>
		strategies not least with the aim to support and improve climate conditions in the urban area.	building projects in historic gardens as well as projected development areas evident in the Masterplan Glacis currently are inconsistent with this goal or could cause harm to the generally well-preserved status of green spaces in the property.	national Monuments Protection Act or other legal matters concerned.	implemented during the current legislators' term that ends in 2024.	Management System. Amendment of legal provisions on Federal level until June 2024 at the latest.
	10	Schwarzenberg Garden and Palace are recognized as a major attribute reflecting the OUV of the property and thus anchored in the list of attributes. The protection is ensured by way of the new comprehensive Management System for the Historic Centre of Vienna as well as by an updated garden care-plan taking in account the results of an independent HIA.	Contemporary interventions in the historic garden environment lead to censure and complaints by members of the civil society and experts for historic gardens. Hence the whole area was assessed by the 2018 Advisory mission.	An HIA assessing the developments in Schwarzenberg Garden has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Recommendations provided by a Technical Review have been implemented in the Management Plan of the property.	The HIA is carried out to best international practice guided by adopted Guidelines, by order of the World Heritage Unit in the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sports. The placing of the HIA is work in progress.	The results of the HIA shall be available by the end of 2020. The implementation in the Management System takes place according to the scheduled timeframe (please note relating sections in this document).
INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY						
Integrity and Authenticity	1	The RSOUV is interpreted consistently with the initial	The current version of the RSOUV gives room to misunderstandings due to	The Management Plan includes an adopted statement on the interpretation of the RSOUV	Not yet started. The statement on interpretation of the RSOUV is part of the	July 2021 within the framework of the

	<i>N</i>	<i>INDICATOR FOR REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE LIST IN DANGER</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>	<i>METHOD OF VERIFICATION</i>	<i>CURRENT STATUS OF INDICATOR</i>	<i>TARGET COMPLETION DATE</i>
		intentions as adopted by the World Heritage Committee when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List.	perceived inaccuracies and contradictions that have the potential to impair the authenticity and integrity of the property as a whole.	consistent with the initial intention of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription.	elaboration of the Management Plan.	Management Plan and Management System.
	2	The German version of the RSOUV does no longer contain any misleading terms.	The German translation until 2018 as well as the current version amplified the potential for misinterpretation of the OUV as mentioned above.	The adopted statement on the interpretation of the RSOUV (see above) is publicly available after official translation.	Not yet started. The statement on interpretation of the RSOUV is part of the elaboration of the management plan.	July 2021 within the framework of the Management Plan and Management System.
	3	Contemporary interventions in the property, its surrounding buffer zone and all areas that have potential visual impacts on the latter are based on sound assessments giving priority to the requirements of a World Heritage property.	Most of the recently put in place or projected contemporary interventions referred to the Vienna Memorandum. The latter in this context was partly misunderstood or misinterpreted. The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendations currently are not part of planning tools.	The HUL Recommendation constitutes a basic element within the Management Plan and related Management System and the success of this new Management System is proven through implementation. HIAs are carried out prior to the implementation of projects with potential impact on the authentic character of the property.	The implementation takes place during the procedure of the elaboration of the management plan and the implementation of a related management system.	July 2021 within the framework of the Management Plan and Management System.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the significant progress made by the State Party in implementing previous Committee decisions and progressing towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and, in particular:
 - a) The programme for protection of World Heritage announced by the Austrian Government in January 2020, including anchoring of World Heritage properties in the Austrian legal system, sustainable protection and preservation of cultural heritage, and commitment to UNESCO Conventions on Cultural Diversity and the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage,
 - b) Progress towards completion of a new Management Plan for the property,
 - c) Extension of the coverage of the roof cadastre and its proposed implementation process through the new Management Plan;
4. Also welcomes the decision not to proceed with the proposed Heumarkt – Ice Skating Club – Vienna Concert Hall tower block as planned, further welcomes the process initiated to develop and evaluate alternative variants for the design and requests the State Party to ensure that the proposed additional visual study assesses the new design and potential impact on the property, having regard to the findings of the 2018 High Level Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission, and that a new Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is prepared using precisely the same data, methodology and format of the 2019 HIA;
5. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the new Management Plan for the property is submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and implementation, and that it addresses the findings and recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission;
6. Reminds the State Party of the Committee's previous request to pursue legislative protection for the Schwarzenberg Gardens and to submit final plans and designs for the Wien Museum to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Further requests that the current moratorium be maintained on new developments or planning measures which may impact upon attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, pending completion of the new Management Plan, the implementation of the proposed corrective measures, and consequent amendments to planning controls;
8. Commends the State Party on the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, and particularly the productive collaborative process with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
9. Adopts the DSOCR developed by the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and all stakeholders, as presented in Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add and urges the State Party to proceed with the implementation of the corrective measures;

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, including progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures for the DSOCR, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;
11. **Decides to retain Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

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

Criteria (ii) (iii) (iv)

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

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

Urgent/short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša;
- b) Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljeviša, that was partly removed);
- c) Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and with Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**;

Long-term corrective measures:

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: USD 0 (from 2003-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/assistance>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

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

Current conservation issues

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

At its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), the World Heritage Committee decided to adjourn the debate on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **43 COM 7A.46**) until its next ordinary session. The State of conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/>.

On 30 January 2020, the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Serbia to UNESCO submitted a State of conservation report to the World Heritage Committee, followed by additional information on 29 January 2021, which is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/>. The report provides the following information:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no conservation intervention took place at the Dečani Monastery in 2020. The site's overall integrity and security were endangered by the construction of the main road Dečani-Plav in the vicinity of the Visoki Dečani Monastery Special Protected Zone (SPZ). The road construction initiated in May 2018 caused limited damage to the terrain within the protected area, which has not since been restored to its original state. On 8 November 2020, the Implementation and Monitoring Council, which includes the local authorities, representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church and other denominations, as well as the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), reached an auspicious agreement that the international bypass road would not be a part of the regional road and that bulky obstacles would be placed to prevent heavy vehicles from using this latter. The members of the

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

Implementation and Monitoring Council committed to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the agreement with support of the Kosovo Force (KFOR);

- At the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, the construction of drainage channels for the discharge of atmospheric precipitation from the roofs of the churches was carried out in 2019 to avoid damage to the monument elements and structures, generally caused by abundant spring and summer rain showers. The Serbian Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments has continued to work on the preparation of a project documentation, which began in 2018, for the rehabilitation of the Holy Apostles' church roof. Despite the fact that no conservation work was conducted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the monastery was closed to visitors most of the year, the monitoring of the condition of the wall paintings, monastery objects and movable artistic materials was continued;
- At the Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša in Prizren, no new conservation work was conducted in 2019 but in 2020, the lead cover on the damaged parts of the roof cover was replaced, the wooden structure of the bell tower was rehabilitated, the lower zones of the façade were repaired and cleaned, and the fence stone wall was repaired including replacement of its tiles. In November 2020, the Serbian Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments finished a reconstruction project for the iconostasis in the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša church and is now awaiting approval from the World Heritage Centre to pursue with its implementation. The preparation of an inventory for documenting necessary future conservation interventions in the walls due to capillary moisture resulted from the 2004 March fire is still ongoing. On 10 November 2020, the State Party submitted information about the establishment of an altar screen in the Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša for review by the Advisory Bodies. On 2 February 2021, the World Heritage Centre has transmitted the preliminary ICOMOS technical review on the information received which advised to submit additional information for a comprehensive evaluation of the state of conservation of this component and provide the documentation of the in-situ research, detailed plans, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as well as relevant policies in relation to the management plan of this property;
- At the Gračanica Monastery, monitoring was conducted for the buildings in the monastery, wall paintings in the main church and mobile church mobiliary with no adverse impact to the overall conservation of the Monastery was detected;
- The World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and its Antenna Office in Sarajevo continues to closely monitor the situation, on all four elements of the property, through the regular exchange of information with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK);
- Due to the complex regional security instability, KFOR remains continuously present at the Dečani Monastery to establish a secure environment in the area and to avoid further endangerment of the site. The Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša and Gračanica Monastery are also secured by local police forces daily.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.33 *

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.add,*
2. ***Recalling Decisions 30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28, 32 COM 7A.27, 33 COM 7A.27, 34 COM 7A.28, 35 COM 7A.31, 36 COM 7A.32, 37 COM 7A.34, 38 COM 7A.18, 39 COM 7A.42, 40 COM 7A.30, 41 COM 7A.21, 42 COM 7A.6, 42 COM 8C.2 and 43 COM 7A.46, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn,***

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

2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,

3. ***Acknowledges** the information provided in the State of conservation reports of 2009-2021, and the results of the missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), to the property, as well as the information received from the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK);*
4. ***Reiterates its request**, in cooperation with UNESCO, UNMIK and the local Institutions in Kosovo, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the monuments and the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the Management Plan;*
5. ***Also reiterates its requests**, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation defined for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
6. ***Requests** the State Party to take into consideration the recommendations of the ICOMOS Preliminary Technical Review on proposals to establish an altar screen in the Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre the documentation of the in-situ research carried out, detailed plans, and a Heritage Impact Assessment, as well as relevant policies in relation to the management plan of this property;*
7. ***Also requests** the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;*
8. ***Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue applying the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism until the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2022.***

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

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

The proposed development of 'Liverpool Waters' project

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

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2011: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance: Lack of overall management of new developments
- High impact research/monitoring activities: Lack of analysis and description of the townscape characteristics relevant to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and important views related to the property and its buffer zone
- Legal framework: Lack of established maximum heights for new developments along the waterfront and for the backdrops of the World Heritage property
- Social/cultural uses of heritage
- Buildings and development: Commercial development, housing, interpretative and visitor facilities
- Lack of adequate management system/management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/>. A further revised and updated Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as requested from the State Party by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session was not submitted at the time, but was provided on 5 August 2020. The report by the State Party provides the following information:

- The Liverpool City Council has prepared a 'vision' for the North Shore area within the World Heritage site called *North Shore Vision*. The *North Shore Vision* covers an area of the City that includes 'Liverpool Waters' and the immediately adjacent Ten Streets area as well as the Stanley Dock Conservation Area. It seeks to place the regeneration of the area in the context of the historic built environment, and in particular appreciation and acknowledgment of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its attributes. The State Party wished to base its DSOCR around the North Shore Vision and on tools that will be finalised subsequently. These tools include the Local Plan, the Tall Buildings Policy and Supplementary Planning Document (note that the full North Shore Vision document was submitted to the World Heritage centre and the Advisory Bodies on 7 May 2020);
- Public hearings for the draft Liverpool Local Plan were scheduled for late spring 2020, while its adoption by the Liverpool City Council (LCC) was planned to take place in late 2020. The Supplementary Planning Document adopted in 2009 is currently being revised and will be finalized alongside the Local Plan. An update of the Tall Buildings policy is being developed and will be included in the emerging Local Plan;
- The Princes Dock Neighbourhood Masterplan has been submitted and approved by LCC in 2018. The Central Docks Masterplan was approved in October 2019;
- Ongoing initiatives have been designed to promote awareness about the World Heritage property and its values, including a dedicated website launched in 2019 (<https://www.liverpoolworldheritage.com>);
- In 2019, LCC established a Heritage Priorities and Investment Steering Group working in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). Over 40 heritage projects both

tangible (capital) and intangible have been identified and prioritised for future discussions with NLHF;

- An overview was provided on works undertaken to improve the condition of buildings within the property.

In the State Party's view, no individual development, which has been given permission to date within 'Liverpool Waters' and the property, has impacted adversely to a significant extent on the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.

The State Party repeated that it is neither desirable nor practical to enforce a moratorium for new buildings and that OUV, including authenticity and integrity, are being sustained through the current planning regime. The State Party argues that development has been a fundamental driver towards improving the conditions of the property.

The State Party reiterates in the report its former notification to the Secretariat in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* that in December 2019, a full planning application was submitted for a new football stadium in the Bramley-Moore Dock, within the property. The State Party, furthermore, provided updated information on this project in 2021: LCC has approved the Everton Stadium project proposal in February 2021. Media reports indicate that in March 2021, the UK Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government reviewed and approved the project.

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

At its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), the World Heritage Committee considered that the proposed development of 'Liverpool Waters' constituted a potential danger to the World Heritage property and noted that the implementation of the development would irreversibly damage the attributes and conditions of integrity that warranted inscription. Regarding these, the Committee decided to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with the possibility of deletion from the World Heritage List, should the project be approved and implemented. It also requested the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the DSOCR and a set of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013 (Decision **36 COM 7B.93**).

At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the State Party informed the Committee that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government decided not to call in the 'Liverpool Waters' development for consideration at the national level, and that LCC had granted consent to the framing document of this project, the Outline Planning Consent (OPC) – Development Consent Order (2013-2042), submitted by the developer, which forms the basis of both the Neighborhood Master Plans and the individual planning applications. Following this, the Committee repeatedly requested the State Party to:

- Consider all measures that would allow changes to the extent and scope of the proposed 'Liverpool Waters' scheme to ensure the continued coherence of the architectural and town-planning attributes, and the continued safeguarding of the OUV of the property, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity;
- Establish substantive commitments to limit the quantity, location and size of allowable built form and linking the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document, which provides legal guidelines on the protection of OUV.

The State Party prepared the first draft DSOCR in 2013, and a second draft was submitted to the Secretariat in 2014. Following the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2011, an Advisory mission was conducted by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in 2015 to consult with the State Party, whether a DSOCR and corrective measures could be agreed. The mission concluded that the second draft DSOCR was inconclusive as to the removal of threats to the property and also considered a need to reduce the urban density and height of the proposed development from the maximum granted for the 'Liverpool Waters' project.

Following this, the State Party submitted updated DSOCR documents for the 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions of the Committee. These documents did not provide a comprehensive desired state of conservation, nor appropriate corrective measures. Despite several meetings over recent years, the State Party has not followed the Committee's Decision **42 COM 7A.7**, for substantive commitments to establish limitations on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form in order to acknowledge the importance of protecting key attributes which contribute to the OUV of the property, and the significance of the context of the property and its buffer zone. Based on the State Party's approach the effectiveness of the DSOCR would rely on the content of additional documents,

which are yet to be prepared or finalized, including the Local Plan, the revised Supplementary Planning Document, the majority of the Neighborhood Masterplans, and the Tall Building (skyline) Policy. The timeline for developing and approving all these documents extend well into the future and, therefore, the presented DSOCR versions were not considered appropriate for adoption by the Committee. A further updated DSOCR was not submitted together with the state of conservation report by the State Party for the 44th session of the Committee scheduled for 2020, as requested. However, a new proposed DSOCR was provided by the State Party on 5 August 2020, for which ICOMOS has prepared a technical review, concluding that in its present form the DSOCR is not suitable to be proposed for adoption by the Committee.

Following the confirmation from the State Party that a moratorium remains in place for the Central Docks, at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO 2016), the Committee requested the State Party to ensure that only repair and reuse of historic buildings, maintenance works and small scale projects should receive permission within the rest of the property until the DSOCR is finalized and adopted. This request has been repeated by the Committee in its following sessions, but the State Party has advised that such a request is neither necessary nor legally feasible. Hence the State Party has continued to permit new constructions that have negatively impacted the attributes which contribute to the OUV of the property.

At its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) the Committee noted with regret that the implementation of the 'Liverpool Waters' scheme had started with the granting of planning permission for individual buildings. This process of granting planning permits for individual buildings without a strategic vision anchored in regulatory frameworks has continued until the present. Construction projects continue to receive approval and are being implemented within the property and its buffer zone, both in the frame of the 'Liverpool Waters' scheme and independently. The Committee considered that the stated inability of the State Party to control further developments clearly reflects inadequate governance systems and planning mechanisms that undermine protection and management and therefore, fail to sustain the OUV of the property. The Committee set out four specific requirements to be met to prevent the property from being considered for deletion from the World Heritage List, as follows:

- a. Reverse course and stop the granting of planning permissions which have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,
- b. Provide substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form,
- c. Link the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document,
- d. Submit, lastly, a DSOCR and corrective measures in a form that might be considered for adoption by the Committee (Decision **41 COM 7A.22**).

In its state of conservation report for the 42nd session of the Committee (Manama, 2018), the State Party advised (on the basis of the stated position of Peel Holdings, the developer of 'Liverpool Waters') that there is no likelihood of the scheme coming forward in the same form as in the OPC. However, this statement was not followed by binding implementation measures. At its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), the Committee therefore, regretted that the submission of Princes Dock Masterplan and changes to the 'Liverpool Waters' scheme has not been submitted to the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies for review and comments before their adoption by the LCC, and expressed its utmost concern that these documents put forward plans, which do not ensure the adequate mitigation of the potential threats to the OUV for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In October 2019 and January 2020, in its technical reviews of the Central Docks and Princes Dock Neighbourhood Masterplans, ICOMOS concluded that aspects of the allowable developments under these plans would fundamentally adversely affect the inscribed property and its buffer zone, resulting in an unacceptable impact on the OUV of the property. Subsequent consideration of a proposed amendment to the 'Liverpool Waters' Masterplan did not realign the OPC with the requirements for maintenance of the OUV of the property. The cumulative effect of the OPC and the related series of individual project approvals and implementation, exacerbated by the absence of a satisfactory DSOCR, have now reached a point where the property has lost characteristics which supported its inclusion in the World Heritage List, and the OUV of the property continues to deteriorate through a process that appears to be irreversible.

In February 2020, the State Party submitted notification under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* of the foreshadowed proposed new football stadium to be constructed on the site of Bramley-Moore Dock, within the property. This proposal, presented in more than 400 documents, would require infill of the historic dock, and construction of a very large new built form on the Liverpool waterfront.

ICOMOS has advised that the proposal, if implemented, would have a completely unacceptable major adverse impact on the authenticity and integrity, therefore, the OUV of the property and should not proceed at this location and that the proposal is also contrary to the State Party's own guidance documents, and contrary to explicit Decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party has recently developed and published the *North Shore Vision* for the northern part of Liverpool, resulting in a document that includes a part of the property and its buffer zone, but its focus is not on protecting OUV but rather on outlining integrated development approach for an area of the city that is in need of social and economic realignment. The relevant authorities of the State Party should have afforded greater weight to the objectives and requirements of the United Kingdom's *National Planning Policy Framework*, and in particular the provisions of paragraphs 192, 193, 194, 196 and 200, to give priority to sustainable conservation and use of heritage assets for community benefit, and afford primacy to conservation of World Heritage, over and above the desire to permit an inappropriate level of intervention and change allowable under the OPC. The *North Shore Vision* itself doesn't require a separate technical review, a section dedicated to its content having been included by ICOMOS in its technical review of the proposed DSOCR.

Over the period since the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party has been provided with consistent advice through Committee Decisions, missions and technical reviews. The State Party has not complied with the advice and repeated requests of the World Heritage Committee. It has neither developed a tool and framework document in the form of a DSOCR and corrective measures, which defines the state of conservation that a property must reach in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened by ascertained or potential serious and specific danger and would enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, nor demonstrated either adequate commitment to limit the quantity, location and size of allowable built form, nor put mechanisms in place to prevent the implementation of the 'Liverpool Waters' scheme and other construction projects in the property and its buffer zone from having a major negative impact on the OUV of the property. Furthermore, the new *North Shore Vision* incorporates both implementation of the 'Liverpool Waters' scheme and the recently-approved stadium on the site of the historic Bramley-Moore Dock. The necessary corrective measures have not been taken in conformity with Paragraph 191(a) of the *Operational Guidelines*. Moreover, the State Party itself has unequivocally confirmed on multiple occasions that with regard to its obligations to comply with the national and local planning framework, it has no ability to put in place the requested moratorium for new building projects, nor to stop nor to significantly change the approved OPC for the 'Liverpool Waters' scheme. This indicates that there are no legal and instrumental means available in the governance of the property that would allow the State Party to protect the OUV of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies conclude that despite some successful projects aiming to protect the OUV of the property through adaptive reuse of buildings mostly in the historic centre of Liverpool, within the property and its buffer zone, the inevitable process for the implementation of the 'Liverpool Waters' project and other large scale infrastructure projects in the waterfront and northern dock area of the property and its buffer zone have progressively eroded the integrity of the property and continue to do so as the most recent project proposals and approvals indicate. These actions have already resulted in serious deterioration and loss of attributes that convey the OUV of the property to the extent that it has lost characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraph 192(a) of the *Operational Guidelines*. The approved planning application for a new football stadium in Bramley-Moore Dock within the property adds to the ascertained threat on the property's OUV and is directly contrary to the approach requested by the Committee for this property. Furthermore, it reflects the lack of commitment from the State Party to protect this property in the long-term. At its 36th session in 2012, the Committee decided to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and specifically identified at the time the possibility of deletion of the property from the World Heritage List, should the 'Liverpool Waters' project be approved and implemented. The Committee has considered several times (Decisions **36 COM 7B.39**, **37 COM 7A.35**, **38 COM 7A.19**, **40 COM 7A.31**, **41 COM 7A.22** and **42 COM 7A.7**) the possibility of deletion of the property from the World Heritage List owing to the clear deterioration and irreversible loss of attributes conveying the OUV of the property including its authenticity and integrity, arising from the 'Liverpool Waters' development OPC, and **decided, at its 43rd session, to delete the property from the World Heritage List at its 44th session, if the Committee decisions related to the adoption of the DSOCR and the moratorium for new buildings were not met.**

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.93, 37 COM 7A.35, 38 COM 7A.19, 39 COM 7A.43, 40 COM 7A.31, 41 COM 7A.22, 42 COM 7A.7 and 43 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively, and in particular its repeated serious concerns over the impact of the proposed 'Liverpool Waters' development in the form presented in the approved Outline Planning Consent (2013-2042) which constitutes an ascertained threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that the implementation of the development, as planned, would irreversibly damage the attributes and conditions of integrity that warranted inscription;
3. Also recalling its repeated requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Consider all measures that would allow changes to the extent and scope of the proposed 'Liverpool Waters' scheme to ensure the continued coherence of the architectural and town-planning attributes, and the continued safeguarding of the OUV of the property, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity,
 - b) Establish substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form and linking the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document, which provides legal guidelines on the protection of the OUV,
 - c) Establish a moratorium for granting of planning permissions which have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,
 - d) Submit, a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures in a form that might be considered for adoption by the Committee;
4. Further recalling that, according to Article 6.1 of the Convention, the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List constitute the world's heritage, the protection of which is the duty of the international community as a whole, and that it is the duty of the international community to assist and to cooperate with States Parties in their endeavour to conserve such heritage;
5. Recalling furthermore that States Parties have the obligation under the Convention to protect and conserve the cultural and natural heritage situated on their territory, notably to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection and conservation of such heritage;
6. Notes with deep regret that inadequate governance processes, mechanisms, and regulations for new developments in and around the World Heritage property, have resulted in serious deterioration and irreversible loss of attributes conveying the OUV of the property along with significant loss to its authenticity and integrity, that the process of further deterioration is irreversible, and that the State Party has not fulfilled its obligations defined in the Convention with respect to protecting and conserving the OUV, as inscribed, of the World Heritage property of Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City;
7. Also notes with deep regret that as a result of approved and implemented development projects, the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost characteristics, which

determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraph 192(a) of the Operational Guidelines and that the necessary corrective measures have not been taken in conformity with Paragraph 193 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. *Regrets that the entreaties of the World Heritage Committee at its 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd and 43rd sessions have not resulted in protection of the property;*
9. *Also regrets that the process for the implementation of the ‘Liverpool Waters’ project and other large-scale infrastructure projects in the waterfront and northern dock area of the property and its buffer zone has resulted in serious deterioration and irreversible loss of attributes that convey its OUV, and that further projects, such as the approved new football stadium in Bramley-Moore Dock within the property, add to the ascertained threat of further deterioration and loss of the OUV of the property;*
10. *Further regrets that the State Party has not complied with the repeated requests of the Committee, and has itself indicated that there are no legal and other means available in the governance of the property that would allow the State Party to comply with all of the Committee’s requests so as to ensure the protection of the property and retention of its OUV in the long-term;*
11. ***Decides to delete Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) from the World Heritage List.***

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7464>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 21 (from 1981-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 510,649

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>), USD 31,214 from the Government of China Funds for Capacity Building and cooperation for World Heritage in Africa (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/280/?id=1058&&>)

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Influx of refugees
- Agricultural encroachment
- Deforestation
- Poaching
- Weak management capacity
- Lack of resources
- Unsatisfactory transboundary cooperation

- Road construction

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020, the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property and on 30 January 2021 they submitted additional information, all of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents> and provides the following information:

- The process of developing the updated high-resolution map of the boundaries of the property in Côte d'Ivoire began in mid-2020;
- As from January 2021 the Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems of Mount Nimba (PAPFor) financed by the European Commission will contribute to strengthening the operational capacities of the Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves (OIPR) and the Centre for Environmental Management of Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS) while ensuring the involvement of the neighbouring communities in the management of the property;
- As the creation of a buffer zone was not clearly defined by Ivorian legislation, a peripheral zone composed of community forests was established and is being monitored by OIPR;
- An ecological monitoring system developed and harmonized on the scale of the property has been implemented since December 2019 to ensure the monitoring of the species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). In Guinea, support from the German Commission for UNESCO enabled ecological monitoring and surveillance activities to continue during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Joint surveillance patrols were organized by the two States Parties. Poachers have been apprehended in Guinea, their hunting weapons have been seized, and poaching camps have been destroyed;
- A first version of the development and management plan for the property is available only in Côte d'Ivoire but is pending validation;
- In Guinea, the occupants of the Déré forest were evacuated and ecological restoration activities in degraded areas as well as awareness-raising sessions were organized;
- In parallel with the discussions underway within the framework of PAPFor for the sustainable financing of the property, Côte d'Ivoire has initiated actions for the creation of a window of opportunity at the level of the Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI);
- The indicators for a proposed Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) were defined by the State Parties following a workshop organized by the World Heritage Centre in January 2021 with the Government of China Fund for the safeguarding of World Heritage in Africa. Significant progress was made in the implementation of corrective measures.

In September 2019, the mining project of the Société des mines de fer de Guinée (SMFG) to exploit the Mount Nimba iron deposit was taken over by High Power Exploration (HPX), which set an ambitious timetable to develop the project. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project is currently underway. Following a request from the SMFG and the CEGENS to the World Heritage Centre and the IUCN for technical advice on carrying out the ESIA, an independent expert has been suggested by IUCN to provide said advice on the process, and an independent technical review of the ESIA will be undertaken.

On 2 September 2019, the World Heritage Centre sent a communication to the State Party of Guinea concerning the granting of a new mining exploration permit to the company Gui-Appro authorizing operations in the areas of Lola and N'zérékoré near the property. No response has been received to date. On 16 April 2020, the World Heritage Centre received the terms of reference to update of the ESIA of the iron-ore mining project of the Zali Mining Company to which it provided, with IUCN, technical recommendations.

The discovery of a new endemic bat species, *Myotis nimbaensis*, was announced in January 2021. Another endemic bat species, *Hipposideros lamottei*, was already known within the property.

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The strengthening of transboundary cooperation between the two countries, resulting in the organization of joint surveillance patrols and the harmonization of the ecological monitoring system on the scale of the property, is welcomed. At this stage, the data from this joint ecological monitoring are partially available, and efforts to improve the monitoring of species characteristic of the OUV must be continued. Also, with the persistence of poaching, it is recommended to strengthen this cooperation to reduce the threats to the property. The discovery of a new endemic bat species is further evidence of the exceptional biodiversity of Mount Nimba, which is characterized by a pronounced endemism.

The submission of a proposed DSOCR is positive and IUCN will review the submission in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Committee at its 45th session. In this context, the launch of the PAPFor will contribute to improving the effectiveness of the management of the property and it is recommended that the Committee request States Parties to ensure that this programme prioritizes the achievement of the DSOCR indicators and the further implementation of corrective measures.

The development of the management plan for the Guinean component is encouraging, and all management plans should be finalized. The lack of a buffer zone in Côte d'Ivoire remains worrying. However, the alternatives considered by OIPR are welcomed and it is recommended that the forests in the vicinity of the property be officially designated as a buffer zone following the procedure of minor boundary modifications with reference to paragraphs 107 and 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. In addition, the monitoring of community forests must be strengthened so that their management objectives are compatible with the management of the property. Therefore, the updated high-resolution map of the boundaries of the property should be finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

It is regrettable that no information has been provided on the measures to mitigate the impacts of the asphaltting project of the Danané - Lola road which crosses the buffer zone of the property in its Guinean portion. It is recommended that the Committee request Guinea to implement all the provisions of the environmental and social management plan regarding the impacts on the project.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain deeply concerned about the potential individual and cumulative impacts of mining projects in Guinea. It is regrettable that no follow-up was given to the correspondence of 2 September 2019 concerning the granting of a new exploration mining permit near the property, and that the ESIA of the SAMA Resources company has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. Also, the report also does not provide any information on the current state of the Zali Mining concession and the environmental certificate obtained by this company, although during the meeting in August 2019, the State Party of Guinea mentioned that the certificate would no longer be valid. With regard to the update of the ESIA for the Zali Mining project, it is recommended that the terms of reference be revised to ensure that the ESIA is carried out in accordance with the IUCN advice note on Environmental Assessment. Furthermore, the process of developing the ESIA for the SMFG mining project is noted. Considering the potential impact of this project on the OUV of the property, it is important that the ESIA be carried out according to the highest international standards and that the Committee reiterates its request for an independent evaluation of the ESIA as soon as it becomes available before any decision to approve the project, including the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate to the SMFG.

The proliferation of mining permits around the property remains very worrying and it is recommended that no new permits for mining exploration or exploitation near the property be granted without a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment being carried out in order to assess the impacts on the OUV of the property, including the cumulative effects of these projects.

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

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7A.6 adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*

3. *Commends the States Parties for their efforts in strengthening transboundary cooperation which has resulted in the establishment of a joint ecological monitoring system and the organization of joint surveillance patrols, and encourages them to strengthen this cooperation to reduce the current threats to the property and continue efforts to improve the monitoring of species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to finalize a management plan for the entire property;*
4. *Welcomes the discovery in 2021 of a new endemic species of bat, *Myotis nimbaensis*, thus demonstrating the strong endemism of the site;*
5. *Appreciates the support of donors, in particular the European Commission, the Government of China Funds for the safeguarding of World Heritage in Africa, the German Commission for UNESCO and technical partners for their support for the conservation of the property, and requests the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to ensure that these various projects / programmes prioritize the implementation of corrective measures;*
6. *Recalls the importance of having a functional buffer zone (or an equivalent measure) around the property in Côte d'Ivoire, and also requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to designate such an area following the Guidelines procedures, and to strengthen the monitoring of community forests around the property, while ensuring that their management objectives are compatible with the management of the property, and to submit as soon as possible the updated high resolution map of the boundaries of the property to the World Heritage Centre;*
7. *Further requests the State Party of Guinea to provide detailed information on the measures taken to mitigate the impacts caused by the asphaltting of the Danané-Lola road, which crosses the buffer zone of the property in its Guinean area in accordance with provisions of the environmental and social management plan on the impacts of the project;*
8. *Takes note of the resumption of the activities of the proposed mining project of the iron deposit of Mount Nimba by the Société des mines de fer de Guinée (SMFG), as well as of its willingness to carry out an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) of the proposed project in accordance with the IUCN Advice Note on World Heritage and submit it to an independent technical review, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that:*
 - a) *the ESIA will be carried out in accordance with the highest international standards, subject to independent and expert assessment, and in close consultation with all key stakeholders,*
 - b) *the ESIA qualifies and quantifies the potential effects of the project on the OUV of the property, at each phase of its cycle, including construction and operation, taking into account the synergistic and collateral impacts also linked to on-site transformation of the ore and its transport, as well as the socio-economic changes to be expected,*
 - c) *the ESIA should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision to approve the project and the issuance of a certificate of environmental compliance to the Company;*
9. *Reiterates its deep concern regarding the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate and an operating permit to Zali Mining SA (ex West Africa Exploration) for the mining block immediately adjacent to the property, in the absence of appropriate ESIA, and urges the State Party of Guinea to confirm the cancellation of this environmental compliance certificate and the granted operating permit, and that the ESIA will be*

undertaken in accordance with the IUCN Advice Note on World Heritage before any decision to approve the project;

10. *Expressing its deepest concern about the proliferation of mining permits around the property, in particular the granting of a new exploration mining permit to the company Gui-Appro, and the potential cumulative impacts of mining on the OUV of the property, requests furthermore the State Party of Guinea to not grant any new exploration or mining permits around the property without carrying out a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and submitting it for prior consideration to the World Heritage Centre and for examination by IUCN in order to assess the impacts, including synergistic ones, of these projects;*
11. *Reiterates its position that mining exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, a policy supported by the position statement of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;*
12. *Takes note of the submission by States Parties of a proposal for a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) developed during the 2019 mission and updated in 2021, and further notes that this document will be reviewed by IUCN in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;*
13. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;*
14. ***Decides to retain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

2014: Poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in elephant populations, and the effects thereof on the ecosystem. In 2018 the impacts of the proposed Stiegler's Gorge hydropower dam (referred in the latest State Party report as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP)) were added to the justification for Danger Listing.

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

A draft DSOCR was developed but not finalized before the justification for Danger listing was amended to include the impacts of the JNHPP.

Corrective measures identified

A draft action plan with corrective measures was developed but not submitted by the State Party before the justification for Danger listing was amended to include the impacts of the JNHPP.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1984-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 67,980

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2007, November 2008 and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions. February 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Significant decline of wildlife populations due to poaching
- Insufficient funding and interruption of the retention scheme
- Management challenges of trophy hunting
- Changes in legislation in 2009 permitting hydrocarbon and uranium prospecting and extraction inside game reserves
- Excision of land from the property to accommodate a uranium mine
- Operationalizing the uranium mining project and consideration of in situ leaching by the developer
- Lack of disaster preparedness and water monitoring related to the uranium mine
- Inadequate tourism management and development
- Decision to construct and subsequent construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and its associated infrastructure without adequate impact assessment
- Logging within the reservoir area
- Proposed Kidunda Dam development without adequate impact assessment
- Other potential infrastructure developments
- Need for buffer zone
- Need for increased involvement of local communities
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>, with the following information:

- The State Party recalled its prior notifications at the time of inscription in 1982 and in 2016 that it intends to pursue the development of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), formerly known as the Rufiji Hydropower Project (RHPP);
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the JNHPP will be revised to take into account the independent reviews commissioned by IUCN;
- The vegetation (Miombo woodland) of the future dam's reservoir area, which is expected to cover a maximum surface area of 125,000 ha, will be cleared. According to the State Party this will result in minor disturbances to the ecological processes and wilderness values but will not significantly impact the ecosystem;
- The State Party did not invite the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in its Decision **42 COM 7A.56** (2018) pending "logistical arrangements";
- The proposed Kidunda Dam will inundate 400 to 600 ha of the property. The EIA is under revision;
- Consultation continues for studies on the hydrological regime and a specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Kito-1

oil and gas exploration project proposed within the Kilombero Valley Ramsar site adjacent to the property;

- Poaching in and around the property has been controlled but the results of the 2018 aerial wildlife survey are not yet available.

In response to the World Heritage Centre's letter of 6 August 2019, the State Party confirmed on 9 August 2019 its decision to split the property into two protected areas (Nyerere National Park and Selous Game Reserve), noting that further details will be provided at a later stage. No information has been provided on this issue from the State Party since 2019.

Following receipt of the revised SEA of the JNHPP on 21 May 2019, IUCN commissioned an independent technical review of the SEA (available at <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48718>), which was sent to the State Party on 14 November 2019.

In February 2020, the State Party released the official 2018 wildlife census report. Although the report was not transmitted to the World Heritage Centre, it is publicly available on the website of the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) (see <http://tawiri.or.tz/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Selous-Mikumi-2018-Final.pdf>).

The World Heritage Centre sent letters on 23 September 2019 and 15 January 2020, which reiterated the repeated request of the Committee to the State Party to invite the Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the impacts of the on-going major construction of JNHPP. On 6 February 2020, the State Party responded it was still not ready to invite the mission as it needed more time to finalize the revisions of the EIA and the SEA of the JNHPP and to set the boundaries of the proposed new protected areas replacing the earlier Selous Game Reserve, as inscribed on the World Heritage List. On 20 April 2020, the State Party sent a further letter to the Director-General of UNESCO, submitting a document entitled "Correct record and information on JNHPP in Tanzania", which provides historic background on the project and reasserts the information included in the State Party report that the hydropower project was mentioned at the time of inscription. No further updates were provided by the State Party on the advancement of the work on the JNHPP since then. At the time of writing of the report, the State Party has still not invited the Reactive monitoring mission.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Selous Game Reserve was inscribed on the World Heritage List under criteria (ix) and (x) for its large wilderness, including relatively undisturbed ecological and biological processes, including the globally significant Miombo forest habitat, the dynamic river ecosystem of the Rufiji River, and the presence of globally significant populations of wildlife, especially large mammals including elephant and black rhino.

In 2014, the Committee inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the dramatic decline in elephant population as a result of intense poaching. In 2018, the Committee added to the justification for the Danger List, the tendering of large-scale logging rights inside the property for JNHPP (formerly RHPP).

It is of the utmost concern that public statements by Government officials quoted in the press report that works on the JNHPP have reached 48% completion (as of 15 April 2021) and will be fully completed by 2022. This current situation is despite the Committee's repeated expressions of utmost concern regarding the likely irreversible damage of JNHPP on the OUV of the property, and its request to the State Party to halt all activities (Decision **43 COM 7A.16**), as well as the Committee's unequivocally established position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status (Decision **40 COM 7**). Furthermore, it is also done despite the State Party's own commitment to not undertake any development activities in the property without the Committee's approval (Decision **36 COM 8B.43**).

JNHPP will involve the construction of a 130 m-high dam on the Rufiji River, a reservoir 12.5 km wide and 100 km long, inundating an area of 125,000 ha; a power plant; transmission lines; workers camp and access roads and transmission infrastructure inside the property. Publicly available information, including promotional video footages by the Government-owned Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) and associated construction companies confirm the advancement of the large-scale construction work inside the property (videos available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRx6a284MB4> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf2lftfnu0>). These sources explicitly demonstrate the completion of a 703 m long river diversion tunnel, construction of river closure coffer dams, the diversion of the river from its natural riverbed and the on-going work on the elevation of the dam wall. The basis for the main

dam has been excavated and four saddle dams of a total length of 18.2 km are under construction. Roads and bridges have been installed. Crushing and batching plants, camps, offices and worker villages have also been constructed, creating an industrial area in the middle of the property. The area where the powerhouse is being constructed has been excavated with explosives and heavy equipment. Available time series of satellite images also clearly show the extent of the construction site and the massive alterations in the natural vegetation and landscape that have already taken place. The above-mentioned documentation by TANESCO reports that the main dam wall construction is expected to be finalized by November 2021, at which time the filling of the reservoir will start. From the available data, it seems clear that the project has reached a very advanced stage, which would now be extremely difficult to reverse.

It is important to stress that the impact of JNHPP on the Rufiji River, Tanzania's largest river, will far exceed the physical footprint of the project. Decades of well-documented evidence from comparable large-scale dam projects indicates the clear likelihood of substantial hydrological, morphological, chemical, biological, ecological and limnological changes across the entire downstream floodplain over enormous distances all the way to the Rufiji River delta.

The independent technical reviews of the EIA and SEA of JNHPP, commissioned by IUCN, concluded significant technical and procedural shortfalls. The proposal by the State Party to revise the assessments to take into consideration the findings of the independent reviews now serves no apparent purpose, as the EIA/SEA can no longer inform decision-making at this advanced stage of the development.

The State Party has not provided further information to the World Heritage Centre and has not invited the overdue Reactive Monitoring mission. Had this mission been implemented after it was initially requested in 2018 (Decision **42 COM 7A.56**), it may have provided an opportunity for a first-hand assessment of these impacts and an in-depth dialogue before the project became irreversible. Based on the above mentioned information including past missions to the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that there is no doubt that the values that provide the basis of recognition under criterion (ix) have already been irreversibly damaged, and that the integrity of the property has been lost. Large-scale deforestation and the removal of vegetation has already taken place, and more loss is foreseen as soon as the filling of the reservoir starts. With the river diversion in place, the river system has now been altered and once the dam is in place this is anticipated to result in many downstream impacts beyond the physical footprint of the dam project. The downstream floodplain ecosystem, which sustained the world-famous aggregations of wildlife in the northern part of the property, will be irreversibly altered. The dam will alter the seasonal variation in the river flow and will affect water chemistry, turbidity, sediment loads, temperature and the complex interface with all riparian systems. Moreover, much more infrastructure will be needed to complete the project, including roads and transmission lines. JNHPP has therefore irreversibly affected the exceptionally intact character of the property and the intact ecological and biological processes of the Rufiji River that are a central basis of its OUV. Additional planned and existing projects such as the Mkuju uranium mine, the Kidunda Dam, the Kito-1 oil and gas exploration project, planned road projects, potential additional uranium and other mining projects for which prospection and mining licenses have been attributed inside the property as well as overlapping oil exploration blocks will further affect the ecological integrity of the property and the larger Selous ecosystem.

The exceptional biodiversity values which justified criterion (x) have already been severely affected by poaching. The results of the recently published 2018 aerial survey show that while the catastrophic decline appears to have been halted, elephant populations have unexpectedly not started recovering, strongly indicating that poaching has likely remained a problem. The population of black rhino, estimated at more than 2,000 at the time of inscription, is likely to be extinct or no longer viable. If there are remaining individuals, they have likely survived in the dense woodlands, including those which will be flooded by the dam. The creation of the large reservoir area, the loss of a large area of dense forest vegetation and the permanent alterations to the floodplain system will all have significant impacts on the biodiversity and wildlife populations, already heavily impacted by poaching over the last decade.

It is therefore concluded that irreversible damage to the OUV of the property has already been caused through the loss of values and integrity under criterion (ix), and there continues to be significant threat to the remaining values under criterion (x), which is anticipated to be further impacted as a result of JNHPP. Consequently, in view of the permanent loss of the attributes that are the basis of the OUV of the property, the conditions for deleting the property from the World Heritage List, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the Operational Guidelines, are now met. **It is therefore recommended that the Committee delete the Selous Game Reserve from the World Heritage List.**

In the State Party document entitled “Correct record and information on JNHPP in Tanzania”, the State Party incorrectly states that the World Heritage Centre did not respond to the State Party’s notification on its decision to move ahead with JNHPP on 5 July 2017. The World Heritage Centre’s reply on 8 August 2017 recalled Decision **41 COM 7A.17**, in which the World Heritage Committee “*strongly urge[d] the State Party to conduct a comprehensive ESIA/HIA for this project before deciding to proceed with the construction of the project and submit [the ESIA/HIA] to the World Heritage Centre for review*”. The correspondence that ensued is recorded in the 2018 and 2019 reports to the World Heritage Committee (Documents WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add and WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2). The document of 20 April 2020 also recalls historical information including from the time of inscription, but does not take account of the Committee’s utmost concerns raised over the recent decade regarding the JNHPP, based on a series of assessments and detailed reviews that are all included in the record of the Committee’s decisions. Furthermore, the JNHPP was added to the justification for the continued inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that there remains important biodiversity in the wider ecosystem including the Selous-Niassa Ecosystem. It would therefore be appropriate that the State Party, in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre and possibly with other States Parties where relevant, could consider the evaluation of these remaining areas with significant biodiversity and assess if these areas could potentially be nominated as a new property on the World Heritage List.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **31 COM 7B.3, 32 COM 7B.3, 33 COM 7B.8, 34 COM 7B.3, 35 COM 7B.6, 36 COM 8B.43, 37 COM 7B.7, 38 COM 7B.95, 39 COM 7A.14, 40 COM 7A.47, 41 COM 7A.17, 42 COM 7A.56 and 43 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Also recalling that States Parties have the obligation under the Convention to protect and conserve the World Cultural and Natural Heritage situated on their territory, notably, to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection and conservation of such heritage,*
4. *Further recalling the Committee’s clear position, adopted in its Decision **40 COM 7**, that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status,*
5. *Recalling furthermore that the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the dramatic decline in elephant population due to poaching, and the tendering of large-scale logging rights within the property for the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) (formerly the Rufiji Hydropower Project),*
6. *Recalling moreover the commitment made by the State Party that led to the adoption of Decision **36 COM 8B.43**, to not undertake any development activities in the property without the Committee’s approval,*
7. *Notes the additional planned and existing projects such as the Mkuju uranium mine, the Kidunda Dam, the Kito-1 oil and gas exploration project, planned road projects, potential additional uranium and other mining projects for which prospection and mining licenses have been attributed inside the property as well as overlapping oil exploration blocks,*

which will further affect the ecological integrity of the property and the larger Selous ecosystem;

8. *Deeply regrets that the State Party has not halted the JNHPP inside the property, for which construction is well underway, resulting in a loss on integrity and irreversible damage to the values which underpin the Outstanding Universal Value as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List;*
9. *Also deeply regrets that the State Party has not fulfilled its obligations defined in the Convention, in particular the obligation to protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value, as inscribed, of the World Heritage property of the Selous Game Reserve;*
10. **Decides to delete Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) from the World Heritage List.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

56. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2019-present

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

- Imminent extinction of an endemic porpoise species (vaquita) and conservation status of a marine fish (totoaba)
- Insufficient capacity to control illegal fishing and trafficking activities
- Presence of unsustainable fishing practices that endanger non-target marine species

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/1182/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Illegal activities (illegal fishing)
- Serious concerns about the imminent extinction of an endemic porpoise species (vaquita) and conservation status of a marine fish (totoaba)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The State Party re-affirms its commitment to using the tool of the List of World Heritage in Danger to strengthen international cooperation and is seeking cooperation with other States Parties to fight illegal international trafficking of totoaba products, which continues to be the main threat to the survival of the vaquita. Consultations are ongoing with the State Party of China regarding an adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding that would improve cooperation in this field, and

the possibility of convening a meeting of States Parties that are transit and destination countries for the illegal totoaba products is being considered in line with a decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES);

- It is confirmed that alternative fishing gear solutions already exist, including for shrimp, curvina and sierra fisheries. For the 2019-2020 shrimp fishing season, a total of 544 permits for 588 speedboats were issued, all authorizing only the allowed fishing gear;
- Surveillance and enforcement activities have continued, coordinated by the Inter-institutional Operation Committee (COI), including air, sea and land law enforcement activities, supported by the Mexican Navy, Federal Police, Environmental Gendarmerie and other agencies. 42 totoaba swim bladders were detected by the Mexican Army on a single day in 2019 thanks to ongoing control of vehicles at military checkpoints; 271 swim bladders were seized at Mexico International Airport in 2019;
- Cooperation with civil society has also been strengthened through signing collaboration agreements with the Whale and Marine Sciences Museum for the installation of buoys to mark the Vaquita Refuge Area and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society for continuing the ghost nets retrieval programme, particularly in the “zero tolerance zone” corresponding to the area with the highest possible concentration of the remaining vaquitas.
- Other conservation and monitoring activities across the components of the property are reported.

In 2020, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN held several virtual meetings with the State Party regarding the development of the corrective measures and a proposal for a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). A proposal for corrective measures was submitted by the State Party on 15 July 2020. On 20 August, the State Party further communicated that a technical working group has been established to develop the DSOCR. Further discussions were held through online meetings in 2021, and the World Heritage Centre and IUCN provided further written advice to the State Party on the developed proposals for corrective measures and the DSOCR.

In April 2021, the World Heritage Centre provided funding through the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) for the resumption of net retrieval operations in the vaquita sanctuary. Net retrieval operation had been suspended in December last following an incident between the NGO operated net retrieving vessels and illegal fishermen.

On 4 May 2021, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party regarding third-party information raising concerns that the new fishing regulations developed for the areas within the property, while including a number of important elements, do not fully address previously raised concerns. No response has been received at the time of writing of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing inter-institutional efforts aimed at fighting illegal fishing activities in the Upper Gulf of California and illegal trafficking of totoaba products should be welcomed. While the figures reported by the State Party in terms of the seizure of illegal products show that the measures put in place for the detection of illegal trafficking activities are working, they also show that the volume of illegally extracted totoaba swim bladders remains alarmingly high, indicating that illegal fishing activities continue in spite of the important efforts to stop them. The third-party information received also confirms that illegal activities remain widespread in the vaquita sanctuary. It is therefore recommended that the State Party further strengthens these efforts based on a critical assessment of the efficiency of the current efforts on how to improve them.

It is expected that the State Party provide further information on the new fisheries regulations which have been approved in September 2020. Third party sources note that the new regulations, if enforced, have the potential to reduce totoaba poaching and vaquita bycatch but raise concerns that the State Party has not fully implemented the regulations and has failed to enforce them.

The efforts by the State Party to continue a dialogue with the States Parties that are transit and destination countries for illegal totoaba products, including within the framework of CITES, should also be welcomed and strongly encouraged to continue.

Regarding legal fishing and the development of alternative vaquita-safe fishing gear, the confirmation provided by the State Party that a number of alternative solutions is available and has been provided to the interested fishers, including for the 2018-2019 shrimp fishing season, is positive and welcomed.

However, the level of uptake of the alternative fishing gear across the fishing communities in the Upper Gulf is unclear based on the information provided. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue these efforts and to provide further information on the scale of deployment of alternative fishing gear.

Ongoing 'ghost net' retrieval efforts, including through collaboration with civil society organizations, now formalized through a collaboration agreement, are also welcomed. However, the figures provided by the State Party again indicate that the situation remains of concern, since a large number of ghost nets continues to be found. It is also noted that the ghost nets retrieval activities have been concentrated in the so called "zero tolerance zone", however, no further information has been provided on how effective the zone has been. The recent suspension of net retrieval operations following the December last incident is of outmost concern, especially that the totoaba illegal fishing season is now well underway.

Finally, in light of significant concerns regarding the drastic decline of the vaquita in recent years, it is noted that while important information has been provided by the State Party regarding the ongoing surveillance and law enforcement activities, no recent update on the status of the vaquita population has been provided, which makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the measures. The report also provides no information if further cases of dead vaquita were reported.

The efforts by the State Party to develop a set of corrective measures and a DSOCR in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to speed up this process and to submit the final revised version with its next report on the state of conservation of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN express their availability to provide further advice to the process, if necessary, through available means, including a technical workshop with participation of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, including its Species Survival Commission, and the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA).

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7A.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the critical status of the vaquita population, specifically recognized as part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endemic to the Gulf of California, and that illegal fishing of totoaba has continued in the Upper Gulf of California resulting in a threat of imminent extinction of the vaquita population;*
4. *Notes that no updated information has been provided regarding the remaining vaquita population and therefore requests the State Party to cooperate with the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA) to update the current estimate and transmit this information to the World Heritage Centre;*
5. *Welcomes the efforts by the State Party to use the mechanism of the List of World Heritage in Danger to strengthen international cooperation to fight illegal international trafficking of totoaba products and to continue a dialogue with the States Parties that are transit and destination countries for illegal totoaba products, including within the framework of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES);*
6. *Also welcomes the ongoing inter-institutional efforts aimed at fighting illegal fishing activities in the Upper Gulf of California and illegal trafficking of totoaba products, but notes with concern that the volume of illegally extracted totoaba products remains high, and also requests the State Party to further strengthen these efforts based on a critical assessment of the efficiency of the current efforts on how to improve them;*

7. Also notes the reported information on new fisheries regulations that have been approved in September 2020, which, if enforced, could have the potential to reduce totoaba poaching and vaquita bycatch, as well as the concerns that the State Party has not fully implemented the regulations and has failed to enforce them; and further requests the State Party to provide further information in this regard;
8. Further welcomes that ongoing 'ghost net' retrieval efforts, including through collaboration with civil society organizations, have been formalized, but expresses concern that a large number of ghost nets continues to be found, that the ghost nets retrieval activities have been concentrated in the so called "zero tolerance zone", but that no further information has been provided on how effective the zone has been and that net retrieval operations remain suspended since December 2020, while the totoaba illegal fishing season is underway;
9. Taking note of the confirmation provided by the State Party that alternative vaquita-safe fishing gear is already available for a number of fisheries and has been provided to interested fishers, requests furthermore the State Party to continue these efforts and to confirm the scale of deployment of alternative fishing gear across the fishing communities of the Upper Gulf of California;
10. Notes with satisfaction the dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regarding the development of a set of corrective measures and requests moreover the State Party to submit the final proposal with its next report on the state of conservation of the property, taking into account the comments provided by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
11. Welcomes furthermore the establishment of a technical working group for the development of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and urges the State Party to expedite the process, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, including by organising a technical workshop with participation of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, including its Species Survival Commission, and CIRVA;
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 Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**