
Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) No 527ter

1 Basic data

State Party

Ukraine

Name of property

Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra

Location

Kyiv
Ukraine

Inscription

1990

Brief description

Designed to rival Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, Kyiv's Saint-Sophia Cathedral symbolizes the 'new Constantinople', capital of the Christian principality of Kyiv, which was created in the 11th century in a region evangelized after the baptism of St Vladimir in 988 CE. The spiritual and intellectual influence of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra contributed to the spread of Orthodox thought and the Orthodox faith in the Russian world from the 17th to the 19th century.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2020

2 Issues raised

Background

The property Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). This is a serial property with three component parts. At the time of inscription, no buffer zone was defined.

In 2005, the World Heritage Committee approved a minor modification which defined the buffer zone (Decision 29 COM 8B.56). At the time, the Committee also welcomed the State Party proposal to further examine the choice of the eastern boundary of the buffer zone for the Saint-Sophia component and the existing quality and condition of the urban fabric of central Kyiv both inside and outside the buffer zone.

The World Heritage Committee noted the provision of clearer mapping of the property in response to the Retrospective Inventory in 2008 (Decision 32 COM 8D).

Also in 2008, the State Party sought a minor boundary modification related to an extension for two churches. The World Heritage Committee considered the proposal was not a minor modification, and recommended the State Party be invited to submit a full nomination for the proposed extension (Decision 32 COM 8B.68).

In 2009, the World Heritage Committee considered a State of Conservation report arising from a Reactive Monitoring mission. The Committee recommended extending the eastern boundary of the buffer zone of the Saint-Sophia site to include Maidant Nezalejnosti Square as an important part of the urban structure (Decision 33 COM 7B.125).

In 2010, the Committee considered an extension of the property to include two churches, and decided to defer the examination, partly in relation to proposed boundary and buffer zone issues (Decision 34 COM 8B.36).

In 2012, the Committee considered a revised extension of the property to include the two churches. The Committee decided to defer the examination, partly in relation to proposed boundary and buffer zone issues (Decision 36 COM 8B.41).

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2014 (Decision 38 COM 8E).

The property has been the subject of many State of Conservation reports since inscription, regarding protection and management issues, and sometimes including boundary and buffer zone issues. In March 2017 a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was undertaken, the conclusions and recommendations of which were reported to the Committee in 2017 (41 COM 7B.Add). As a result, a further State of Conservation report was requested by 1 December 2018 (Decision 41 COM 7B.53).

The State Party submitted a minor boundary modification in February 2018. The Committee decided to refer the proposed minor modification to the buffer zone back to the State Party in order to consider creating a single buffer zone for the property to surround all components, to amend the proposed buffer zone in several ways, and to improve legal protection and management in accordance with Decision 41 COM 7B.53 and recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission (Decision 42 COM 8B.43).

Modification

The State Party proposes a single buffer zone for the property which encompasses the three component parts of the property.

The existing buffer zone for the Saint Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings component part to the northwest has been expanded in a minor way to the south and more substantially to the east. This includes buildings on the south side of Prorizna Street, and part of Khreshchatyk Street with Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence) Square. This buffer zone has also been slightly reduced to the west, to accord with the boundaries of existing land plots.

The buffer zone for the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra and Church of the Savior at Berestove component parts to the southeast has been expanded to the west and south. The western expansion includes an area of residential and public buildings. The southern expansion includes the sloping land which effectively rises from closer to the river level up to the elevated level of the component parts, and partly bounded by Staronavodnytska Street and the Druzhby Narodiv Boulevard. This area includes the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War and its parklands.

In addition, the buffer zone has been expanded to the northeast of the three component parts in the form of a corridor generally encompassing the southwest bank of the Dnieper River. This corridor effectively links the two current buffer zones, in order to create a single buffer zone for the whole property. The land in this area rises from the river to the elevated level where the component parts are located. This area also includes the national monument Zamkova Hill – Andriivsky Descent, and Andriivskiy Hill, in the north, and otherwise part of the Historic Landscape of the Kyivan Hills and Dnieper River Valley monument. The buffer zone also includes a 50-metre-wide section of the river itself between Paton Bridge and River Station.

The proposal results in the overall buffer zone area increasing from 220.15 ha to 476.08 ha.

The State Party has justified the proposed buffer zone overall on the basis of improving the protection status and use regimes for this area, in particular to prevent violations that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The proposal responds to various decisions by the World Heritage Committee. A detailed justification is provided for 12 sections of the buffer zone including, for example, that section which protects the panorama including the property along the Dnieper River.

The buffer zone is established in accordance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of Cultural Heritage”, as amended, State Building Regulations and Standards and other instruments. In accordance with the Law, buffer zones and their use regimes are approved by the central executive body in the field of cultural heritage protection.

In addition, this and other laws require the buffer zone boundaries to be plotted on the main drawings of the City Master Plan and other urban planning documents. The use regimes of the buffer zone are taken into account through this documentation when establishing permitted and permissible types of use for urban development needs, conditions and restrictions on their construction. The State Building Regulations require that development activity within the buffer zone shall be carried out in accordance with use regimes and the management plan for the World Heritage property.

A differentiated use regime to enhance protection of the property was developed following Decision 42 COM 8B.43 and the Reactive Monitoring mission.

The Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of Cultural Heritage” requires the management of the property and its buffer zone to be carried out on the basis of a management plan. The management plan is approved by the central executive body in the field of cultural heritage protection. The description of all conditions, restrictions and provisions related to the proposed buffer zone will be included in the relevant sections of the management plan for the property.

ICOMOS considers the proposed modification has been thoroughly prepared and reflects a highly professional approach, detailing the principles and justification for the proposed buffer zone. The description, justification, explanation of aims, as well a comparison with the previous proposals, make the documentation more convincing and clearly suitable for implementation.

The detailed description of the use regimes for the buffer zone is extremely helpful and exemplary in how it establishes fine-tuned regulations for each sub-zone of the buffer zone, and well justifies the buffer zone boundary.

Based on previous consultations and recommendations, as well as sound research, the proposed unified buffer zone should provide a high level of protection for the property with transparent and predictable implementation. The further subdivision of the buffer zone allows fine-tuning of protection and management.

The management plan should be updated as soon as possible, the protection and management provisions should be strictly implemented and enforced, and the effectiveness of the buffer zone monitored.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

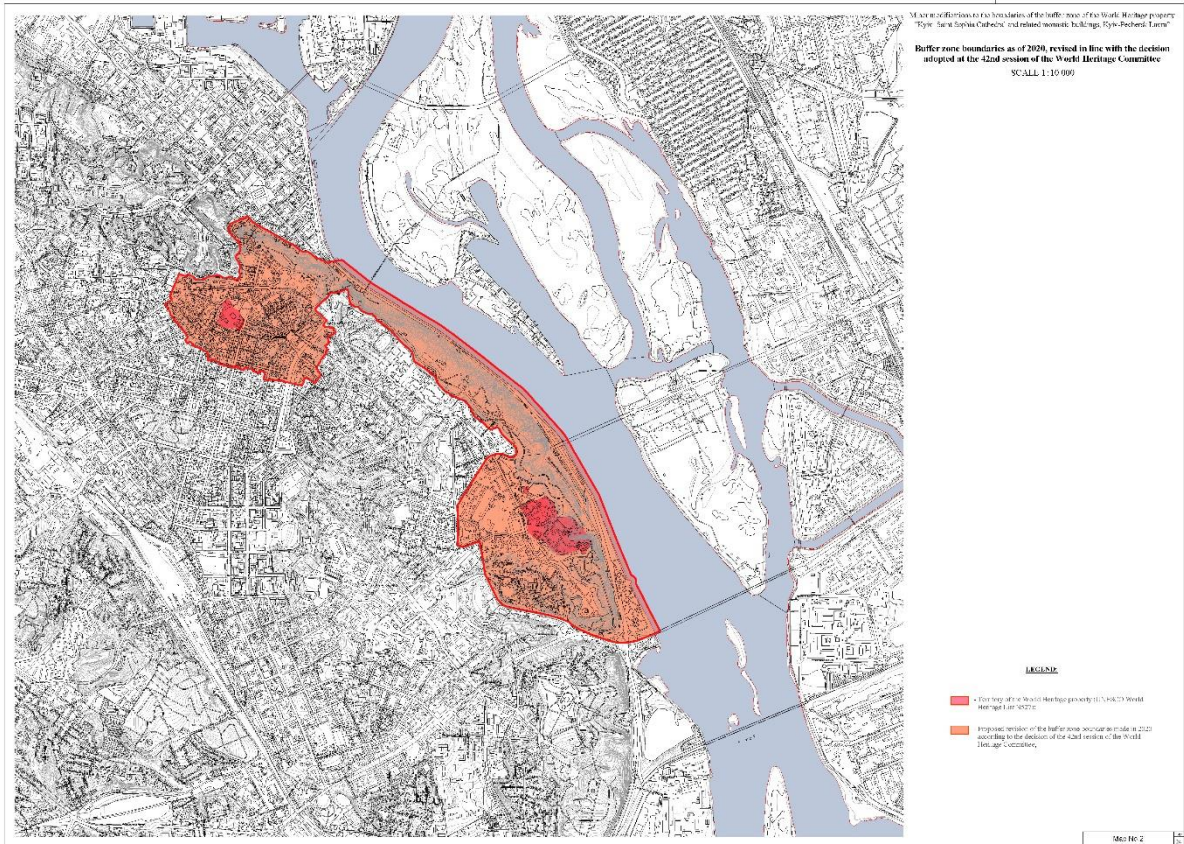
Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, Ukraine, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- a) Updating the management plan as soon as possible, and submitting this to the World Heritage Centre for examination,
- b) Implementing the rules of the buffer zone and ensuring that the protection and management provisions are strictly implemented and enforced,
- c) Ensuring the effectiveness of the buffer zone is monitored;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the buffer zone