



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF  
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES  
(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)**

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

**Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)**

1. Executive Summary of the report

*Like the fourth report on the state of conservation of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage site, this report is primarily focused on the results of the IDB-funded Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP) since the last state of conservation report.*

*For the implementation of certain components of the Program intensive consultations were held with the Advisory Body who provided the necessary feedback with regard to the design of the Waterfront rehabilitation, the reconstruction of the Parliament Building, and the restoration of 3 heritage buildings.*

*At one side clearly progress is being made concerning the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), while at the other side there are still some threats to the OUV that need to be prevented, mitigated or resolved.*

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

**Considering that the Waterfront constitutes one of the main attributes of the World Heritage property, invites the State Party to submit the final designs for the Waterfront, as soon as they become available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.**

**Reaction of the State Party:**

*On 3 December 2021, ICOMOS received via the World Heritage Centre the preliminary proposals with drawings (draft design) of the rehabilitation of the historic Waterfront with the request of the State Party to conduct a technical review (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, ref. no. M-1987). The analysis of the proposals by the Advisory Body was submitted by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party on 22 December 2021 ref. CLT/WHC/LAC/CMT/3124.*

*On 18 February 2022, the State Party submitted by letter (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, ref. no. M-353 to ICOMOS, the design criteria and final design of the rehabilitation of the Waterfront for a 2<sup>nd</sup> technical review by ICOMOS. Based on the feedback received earlier from UNESCO (ICOMOS Technical Review dated 22 December 2022, ref. no. CLT/WHC/LAC/CMT/3124, the draft designs were revised by the consultant. On 3 March 2022, ICOMOS received the revised final designs, dated 26 January 2022, for the Waterkant development. ICOMOS noted "that the revised designs fully respond to the suggestion made in its Technical Review of December 2021, and suggests that these be welcomed. The Advisory Body has no further comments at this point in time".*

As a follow-up to the last submission, the State Party once again submitted on 10 March 2022, ref. no. M-513, the final executive designs of the Waterfront for review by the Advisory Body. ICOMOS observations dated 31 March 2022, ref. no. CLT/WHC/LAC/CMT/3132 were "that the revised designs fully respond to the suggestion made in its Technical Review of December 2021, and suggests that these be welcomed and that the Advisory Body has no further comments at this point in time".

As of 14 October 2022 a contract was signed between the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and a private consultancy company to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA) for the rehabilitation of the historic Waterfront which will be implemented within the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP). The ESIA will provide information whether the rehabilitation project will have a negative impact on the environment and community and how to mitigate these effects.

*The planning with regard to the Waterfront is:*

*Before the end of 2022: contract signing Supervision of Works. The supervising company will need to finalize the design by Jan/Febr. 2023, which will then be submitted again to the World Heritage Centre for a final technical review by the Advisory Body.*

*First quarter 2023: start bid contractors.*

*July/August 2023: contract signing for works.*

*September 2023: Start rehabilitation.*

**Recalls** the importance of the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50 metre strip along the river, as well the extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone, and **urges again** the State Party to proceed with these extensions and to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

**Reaction of the State Party:**

*The extension of the boundaries of the buffer zones has for some time now been prepared in draft, but no final decision or action has yet been taken by the authorities. The need to proceed with the extension of the buffer zones has once again been brought under the attention of the authorities.*

**Also takes note** of the completion of the Updated Management Plan 2020-2024 for the property and **also urges** the State Party to finalize its approval as soon as possible.

**Reaction of the State Party:**

*On 19 May 2021 the "Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage City Management Plan 2020-2024" was approved by the Council of Ministers (Council Decision May 19, 2021, No. 803/RvM). The Plan, which has been prepared in July 2019, replaces the outdated "Paramaribo World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011 – 2015". The Government of Suriname also had approved an amount of about US\$ 230,000.00 for the implementation of the Management Plan for the fiscal year 2021.*

**Regrets** the repeated demolition, destruction by fire and decay of the wooden building stock, both government and privately-owned, and **recommends** that the State Party increase its efforts to raise awareness and promote participation of the population and owners in the recuperation of the historical centre and its individual structures.

**Reaction of the State Party:**

*An increase in the rehabilitation of the historic building stock is apparent. Quite a number (about 15) of historic buildings both public as private have been restored/are being restored or underwent maintenance/are being maintained. However, there are still a number of government owned historic buildings that need urgent rehabilitation. Furthermore, one privately owned dilapidated monumental*

building at Grote Combéweg 13 was partly demolished on 5 August 2022 and completely destroyed between 8 or 10 October 2022. The authorities filed a police report, but no further actions were undertaken against the proprietor. The ministry of Public Works was informed of the illegal demolition and it was requested that no building permit should be issued in case the owner wants to build a new building.



Demolition of Grote Combéweg 13

Different actions have been undertaken by the State Party to raise awareness among the population such as:

- the *Wiki Loves Monuments 2022 Suriname*, an international photo contest that promotes historical places around the world through Wikimedia projects ([Commons:Wiki Loves Monuments 2022 in Suriname/en - Wikimedia Commons](#)) organized by the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation with support of Wikimedia Netherlands;
- *PURP Youth Event (PURP, 1 October 2022)*;
- *Workshop for university students to come up with ideas how to revitalize the historic inner city (PURP, 18 June 2022)*;
- *National Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Strategies for World Heritage Properties in Suriname (19-20 July 2022)*.

**Sustainable Tourism Strategy & Destination Development Plans for the World Heritage Properties in Suriname 2022-2030**  
October 17, 2022

National Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Strategies for World Heritage Properties in Suriname 19 – 20 July 2022

National Archives of Suriname, Paramaribo

From the People of Suriname

unesco  
UNWTO

Central Surinamese Nature Reserve  
World Heritage Natural Site

Anderehavanna Archaeological Site  
Temporary List – Nominated in 2022

Historic Hydraulic Master City of Paramaribo  
World Heritage Cultural Site

Notes with appreciation that the State Party engaged in constructive consultations with ICOMOS regarding the reconstruction of the former National Assembly Building, and emphasizes that the reconstruction as agreed upon is an exceptional case due to exceptional circumstances and should not be seen as a precedent for other cases.

**Reaction of the State Party:**

*The result of the consultations with ICOMOS is shown in below images. On 14 April 2022 the reconstructed former National Assembly Building was delivered and as of June 2022 the building is in use by the National Assembly.*



*Newly reconstructed Parliament Building*

Also welcomes that three government-owned buildings will be restored in the framework of PURP, and requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible their architectural designs as well as the guidelines that are included in the Retrofit Manual for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

**Reaction of the State Party:**

*By letter dated 9 September 2021, ref. no. M-1646, the minister of Education, Science and Culture requested through the World Heritage Centre a technical review by ICOMOS of the three government-owned heritage buildings Mirandastraat 10 and Waterkant 30 & 32. Architectural designs were attached to the letter.*

*In November 2022, the Advisory Body presented its technical review. Concerning Waterkant 30 & 32, the observations were "ICOMOS suggests that the restoration of two important buildings at the Waterkant be welcomed, including the full repair of their main volumes and the reconstruction of the entrance and balcony of Waterkant 32". However, the Advisory Body made a number of remarks and suggestions concerning the design and the connecting structure between the two buildings and also requested additional information about certain elements. Based on the comments of ICOMOS the designs were revised.*



Restoration Waterkant 32



Restoration Mirandastraat 10

*With regard to Mirandastraat 10, the observations of the Advisory Body were that “the project takes into account the original elements such as the masonry basement, the wooden façades and windows and wooden floors as far as they exist. A full reconstruction of the exterior and the roof is foreseen”. Furthermore, ICOMOS concluded “that this project proposal be welcomed and advises the State Party to proceed with its execution. The project will upgrade and restore a historic protected monument that also plays an important role in the urban context of the inner city of Paramaribo”.*

**3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value**

*Under the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP) a consultancy will be conducted to improve the management of parking in the historic city center. The study aims at developing a Parking Management Policy and Strategy (PMPS) for the Paramaribo Inner City and to propose amendments to the existing legislation and identify a new institution or select an existing institution that can be adjusted to function as the National Parking Authority. Another consultancy will focus on the institutional strengthening of the National Parking Authority. Both consultancies will commence at the beginning of 2023 and need to be completed before the end of the third quarter of 2023.*

*Another consultancy which is presently being implemented under the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP) aims at reviewing and revising the legal framework and functioning of both the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission and how the legal framework can be aligned to create a coherent legal framework for the protection of the historic inner city. Within this consultancy also four user friendly manuals are being developed to be used by both the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission as well as monument owners or persons who want to build within the world heritage site.*

*The State Party together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) are planning to start in 2023 with the preparation to design a second Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program (PURP II), which is scheduled for 2024.*

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

The planned construction of a **new State Council building** at the Zeelandiaweg (Fort Zeelandia), behind the existing heritage building. On 12 October 2022, ref.no. M-1875 (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture) a request for technical review has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Body. As of December 2022, no reply received yet.



The proposed construction of a **multi-storey hotel** at Nassylaan within the buffer zone (18<sup>th</sup> century city expansion). The owners presented 3 options to the Building Committee: a four, seven or ten storey hotel, but they preferred a seven to ten storey building based on their economic feasibility. The site management authority stated that the design does not comply to the special building codes for

interventions within the world heritage site and also referred to par. 172 of the operational guidelines. It was advised to request a technical review by the Advisory body by submitting the design with accompanying street views. In the meantime, the owners have refrained from their initial plan to build the hotel.



Proposed multi-storey hotel in buffer zone (Nassylaan)

The proposed construction of a multi-storey apartment building at the Kleine Combéweg in the core of the world heritage site, adjacent to the historic Palm Garden. The owner of the parcel requested a building permit which was in first instance granted by the ministry of Public Works, but later suspended because the design needed revision to comply to the special building codes. No revision of the plans has been submitted yet.



Proposed design for apartments Kleine Combéweg 65

## 5. Public access to the state of conservation report

### **Reaction of the State Party:**

*The State Party hereby agrees that the full report may be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).*

## 6. Signature of the Authority

H.E. Ms. Marie Levens  
Minister of Education, Science and Culture  
November 2022