

**Report on the state of conservation of the Royal Building of Mafra
and status of implementation of recommendations in World
Heritage Committee Decision 44 COM 7B.54**

October 2022

Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (PORTUGAL) (C 1573)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The Palace of Mafra and its landscape were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2019 on the basis of criterion (iv) (“being an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history”). The Inscription is based on attributes that give the property its Outstanding Universal Value as expressed in the SOUV.

This report conveys both the State Party’s and site manager’s endeavors to meet all the recommendations, namely by setting up an Advisory Unit in support of the Cooperation Unit. The latter is an organization that provides a common platform for the various organizations that manage the property fostering the integration and coordination of their activity plans.

The organization managing the National Tapada de Mafra has developed the requested strategic and management plans which include a research programme in an effort to bring together research advancements and management approaches and develop an integrated management strategy for the whole property, namely through the development of R&D, innovation and scientific activities in collaboration with strategic reference partners such as universities and the National Institute of Agricultural and Veterinary Research, I.P. (INIAV)

The School of Arms is carrying out the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) celebrated with City Council with the aim of establishing an Equestrian Project in Mafra and improving the conditions of the Military Parade grounds by means of the demolition of derelict buildings, relocation of tactical vehicles parking spaces, development of archaeological research and reconversion of certain grounds to equestrian use.

Regarding the conservation of the Cerco Garden, a maintenance plan that includes a phytosanitary study has been carried out since 2019. This phytosanitary study is of significant importance to the five year management plan that is being developed and is due to be implemented from 2025 to 2030.

Funds have been allocated to the archaeological research project “Ancient Landscapes of the Tapada de Mafra: Archaeological Chart and Paleoenvironmental Characterization 2022-2030 “with the objective of studying landscape evolution in terms of geomorphology and vegetation cover. The project includes a communication plan aimed at different audiences.

Finally this report reiterates information previously communicated to the WHC and ICOMOS regarding the installation project of the National Museum of Music in part of the north wing of the Palace, as well as information concerning the creation of an exhibition centre and a research centre in the south tower of the building where otherwise vacant rooms are now opened to the public in an effort to strengthen the cultural programme on offer by the World Heritage Royal Building of Mafra.