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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Extended forty-fifth session  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
10-25 September 2023**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda:  
State of conservation of properties inscribed  
on the of World Heritage List**

**Summary**

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. 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/45COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will 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 World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

**Note:** For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties

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**I. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST INITIALLY FORESEEN TO BE EXAMINED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN 2022**

**NATURAL PROPERTIES**

**LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

**1. Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil) (N 999)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**2. El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1410)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add



## AFRICA

### 3. W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger) (N 749bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 4. Okavango Delta (Botswana) (N 1432)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 5. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 84,700

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 60,000, UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; USD 263,700 from Franz Weber Foundation (2012 to 2017); USD 600,000 in the framework of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) (2017 to 2021); and USD 250,000 from the Government of Norway for the period 2021-2023.

Previous monitoring missions

March 1998: UNESCO monitoring mission; June 2006, December 2009, February-March 2012 and November-December 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2019 and January 2020: UNESCO advisory missions organized in the framework of CAWHFI to evaluate the ESIA of the Hévéa SUDCAM plantation and the Mékin hydroelectric dam.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining exploitation project close to the property
- Lack of implementation and full approval of the management plan (problem resolved)
- Agricultural and forest encroachment
- Industrial agriculture of Hévéa in the contiguous zone
- Threats exerted by commercial hunting and deforestation around the property
- Mékin hydroelectric dam
- Poaching
- Risk of loss of ecological connectivity

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents>, which provides the following information:

- The reinforcement of staff numbers and capacities, and the rehabilitation of management infrastructures made it possible to increase surveillance between 2020 and 2021. Poaching persists in the property but no recorded incident has targeted elephants, large herbivores or great apes;
- An inventory of large fauna using the same methodology as in 2018 was carried out in 2021. The results show a stabilization in the number of elephants and a slight increase in the populations of gorillas and chimpanzees;
- Various actions have been carried out to raise awareness among local communities and strengthen their participation in the management of the property, in particular through the Stakeholder Forum, the development of income-generating activities and the promotion of cultural values;
- The latex production plant of Sud-Cameroun Hévéa (SUDCAM) obtained ISO 9001 certification in 2021. SUDCAM continues its zero deforestation policy and strengthens its actions to reduce its socio-environmental impacts (non-violation of human rights, prohibition of deforestation, non-discharge of effluents, reduction in the use of pesticides);
- The 2020-2024 Development Plan for the Dja Faunal Reserve and its peripheral zone has been in force since September 2021. The buffer zone for the property has not been created but is envisaged in the implementation of the Development Plan;
- Actions to restore to community forests the concession retroceded by SUDCAM to the State Party are underway;
- Actions are taken to maintain ecological connectivity with the other protected areas of the *Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkébé* Landscape (*TRIDOM*), in particular the creation of the Ngoyla Fauna Reserve in 2014 and the allocation of two forest concessions to carbon sequestration projects and the creation of community hunting areas;
- The development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the Regional Land-use and Sustainable Development Scheme for the Southern and Eastern Territory (SRADDT) are being finalized;
- No large-scale project is underway within the framework of the Integrated Planning and Development Programme for the Dja Mining Loop and the Adjacent Border Zone (PADI-DJA);
- The GEOVIC mining concession is located 25 km from the property and is not active due to a lack of technical and financial partners. The State Party undertakes to require a new environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) respecting the requirements of the Convention if the project is reactivated;
- The State Party undertakes to implement the recommendations of the UNESCO advisory mission on the Mékin hydroelectric dam.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts made by the State Party and its partners to improve the management of the property are welcomed. The strengthening of surveillance, ecological monitoring and awareness-raising efforts among local actors, stabilizing the population of large mammals, is encouraging. However, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the detailed report of the faunal inventory for analysis by IUCN.

Noting that the implementation of the Management Plan for the period 2020-2024 has begun, and that an extension of the buffer zone of the Reserve could be envisaged during its implementation, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to create a functional buffer zone around the property that is in line with the recommendations of the International Advisory Council for Biosphere Reserves and that it be officially registered in accordance with Paragraph 107 of the Operational Guidelines.

Efforts to reconvert the reassigned SUDCAM concession into community forests are welcomed, but due to its ecological importance, it is recommended to ensure that this community management will guarantee the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular the biodiversity and the protection of the great ape populations. It is also recommended that efforts to maintain ecological connectivity with the other protected areas of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape (TRIDOM) be strengthened in order to guarantee the integrity of the property and the wider landscape in the long term, in particular through the implementation of the agreement in principle for taking into account the migration corridors of large mammals in the development of the SRADDT. The World Heritage Centre could accompany this process, thanks to funding from the Government of Norway.

ISO 9001 certification of SUDCAM's latex production plant is noted. However, it does not represent an environmental certification and it is important to ensure independent certification of the SUDCAM plant to meet international environmental standards, as recommended by the 2019 UNESCO advisory mission, and repeatedly requested by the Committee in its previous decisions.

The information concerning the current status of the GEOVIC mining project is noted and the commitment of the State Party to require a new ESIA respecting the requirements of the Convention in the event of a relaunch of the project is welcomed. Noting that no large-scale projects are underway in the immediate periphery of the property, it is recommended that the State Party be reminded that any new project must be subject to an ESIA before its approval, including a specific assessment of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property.

Despite positive progress, considerable delays have been observed in the implementation of the various decisions of the World Heritage Committee. It is therefore recommended that the State Party accelerate in particular the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO advisory missions (SUDCAM in 2019 and Mékin in 2020) and ensure the finalization of strategic documents such as the SRADDT as well as the SESA confirmed in the Decision **40 COM 7B.79** and reiterated in Committee Decision **44 COM 7B.173**, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.5**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.1**, **34 COM 7B.1**, **35 COM 7B.1**, **36 COM 7B.1**, **40 COM 7B.79**, **43 COM 7B.29** and **44 COM 7B.173** adopted respectively at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions,*
3. *Commends the State Party for the improvement of surveillance efforts, the continuation of ecological monitoring, the reinforcement of staff numbers and capacities, the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the management team, the application of laws in terms of wildlife crime, raising awareness of local communities and the development of community-based alternatives to poaching, and thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the European Commission and the Government of Norway;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that no incident related to the poaching of elephants, large herbivores and great apes has been recorded since 2020, and that the wildlife inventory carried out in 2021 indicates that the density of large mammals has stabilized since the last inventory carried out in 2018;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit the detailed wildlife inventory report to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN and to continue its surveillance and ecological*

monitoring efforts as well as the coordination of the interventions of the various stakeholders by strengthening the fight against poaching and the involvement of local communities in consultation meetings such as the Stakeholder Forum to improve the effectiveness of the management of the property;

6. *Takes note of the validation of the Development Plan (2020-2024) for the property and its peripheral zone, and reiterates its request to create a functional buffer zone for the property, in consultation with the local communities and the various entities involved, and which is in line with the recommendations of the International Advisory Council on Biosphere Reserves;*
7. *Welcomes the State Party's decision to convert the forest concession retroceded by the SUDCAM company into community forests, requests it to undertake all the actions required to establish a participatory management model for this area with the local communities while ensuring management that will ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including biodiversity and the protection of great ape populations, and further reiterates its request to ensure that SUDCAM continues to implement sustainable and responsible production standards for the rubber sector, including independent certification of the latex processing plant to meet international environmental standards;*
8. *Reiterates the importance of maintaining ecological continuity between the south-eastern part of the property with the other protected areas of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape (TRIDOM) in order to guarantee the long-term integrity of the property, and reminds the State Party of the need to ensure that this wider landscape is taken into account in strategic documents such as the Regional Land-use and Sustainable Development Scheme for the Southern and Eastern Territory (SRADDT), development plans, and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) of private sector operators;*
9. *Regrets that the SRADDT as well as the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) confirmed in Decision **40 COM 7B.79** are not yet finalized and urges the State Party to finalize these documents and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Taking note of the information that the mining project of the GEOVIC Company has not currently restarted, welcomes the commitment of the State Party to require a new Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context , before any decision relating to the project;*
11. *Also notes that no large-scale project is currently under way within the framework of the Integrated Development and Management Programme of the Dja mining loop and its adjacent border area (PADI-DJA) and reiterates that any new project must be subject to an ESIA before its approval, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
12. *Also requests the State Party to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO advisory missions to SUDCAM in 2019 and to the Mékin hydroelectric dam in 2020, and to provide detailed information on the measures taken to mitigate socio-environmental impacts;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## **6. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2021

- Impact due to conflict
- Increased poaching and illegal encroachment affecting the integrity of the site

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1985-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 149,900

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 320,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy and Belgium; USD 250,000 from the Government of Norway (2021-2022)

Previous monitoring missions

2007, 2012 and 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability (issue resolved)
- Poaching by the army and armed groups (issue resolved)
- Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries
- Impact of villages located within the property
- Threat of oil exploitation
- Poaching

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/>

Current conservation issues

On 8 April 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>, which summarizes as follows its response to Decision **44COM 7A.44**:

- A co-management agreement for the property, incorporating the recommendations of the 2020 independent panel report, was signed between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and WWF on 7 October 2021. It notably provides for the creation of the Salonga Foundation, the professionalization of the fight against poaching, the establishment of a framework for the peaceful management of conflicts with village communities, strict respect for human rights in conservation activities and the establishment of a Unit with responsibility for human rights, improving the economic resilience of communities and their involvement in the management of the property. The agreement prescribes not to proceed with the involuntary relocation of the Yaelima and Kitawala communities, and foresees a supervision programme to limit the impacts on the property;
- The European Union and USAID are the main funders of the management of the property over the next three years, and discussions are underway with KfW, WWF and via the Salonga Foundation to complete this funding;

- Management effectiveness decreased slightly in 2020 after the evaluation via the *Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool* in connection with the health crisis and financial constraints;
- The management team (47 executives and 222 eco-guards) has undergone human rights training. In 2021, 160 patrols were carried out, covering 48.9% of the property. These patrols led to arrests and the seizure of equipment used for poaching. A rejuvenation and increase in the number of eco-guards to 650, the creation of operational surveillance posts and the establishment of a Command Centre for surveillance operations are planned;
- The installation of photo traps allowed the observation of many forest elephants and 13 other species;
- The local communities (11,000 people) were briefed on the preservation of the property and the sustainable management of natural resources. Empowerment activities have been undertaken in the areas of education, water, agricultural and forestry production;
- Actions are planned to improve the ecological connectivity between the two blocks of the property, in particular with the establishment of a community forest concession for conservation purposes with funding from the Global Environment Facility;
- The participatory demarcation of the non-natural boundaries of the property has been postponed to 2022;
- The oil concessions overlapping the property are not canceled but the advocacy continues in accordance with the last recommendation of the steering committee on this subject.

On 18 May 2022, UNESCO sent a letter to the State Party, requesting information (especially in terms of location) about an auction approved by the Council of Ministers of 8 April 2022 for new oil concessions in the central basin, as well as on the state of progress on the cancellation of the concessions overlapping the property. At the writing of this report, no response from the State Party has been received.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Following the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2021, the State Party and its partners have continued their efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2020 reactive monitoring mission. These efforts, and in particular the formalization of the new co-management agreement between ICCN and WWF which remained pending since the last session, are welcomed. It is recommended that these efforts be continued and that priority community activities be identified during the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework for the Salonga Landscape to strengthen the involvement of local communities in the management of the property.

The various measures taken in response to the results of the Independent Review of Human Rights Violations by Eco-Guards are also noted with appreciation, in particular the establishment of a functional mechanism for the management of complaints and appeals in response to Decision **44 COM 7A.46**. It is recommended that the implementation of the mechanism as well as other measures taken be evaluated regularly, and that lessons learned be applied and disseminated to other World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Actions aimed at the creation of new surveillance posts, the rejuvenation and increase in the number of eco-guards as well as the setting up of a Command Centre for surveillance operations associated with the pursuit of awareness raising of the communities for the protection of natural resources are noted. These measures should be operationalized as soon as possible in order to increase the surveillance rate of the property from 48.9% to 80% and effectively combat illegal activities. It is also recommended to request to intensify the collection of data on the species present in the property to complement the data shared in the annual report.

The development of a sustainable funding system through the creation of the Salonga Foundation to improve the management efficiency of the property is positive. The State Party should accelerate its operationalization with the support of its partners (European Union, USAID, KfW) to allow the implementation of all the management functions of the property.

The decision not to undertake an involuntary relocation of the Yaelima and Kitawala communities and to create a supervision programme to limit their impacts on the property is noted. However, as requested by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7A.40**), there is an urgent need to initiate a constructive dialogue with these communities to identify possible solutions and assess their socio-economic situation in order

to guide the strategy to be adopted regarding their presence in the property or their voluntary relocation, in accordance with the policies of the *Convention* and international standards. UNESCO and IUCN remain available to provide technical advice on this matter.

The sustainable management of the ecological connectivity between the two blocks of the property remains a conservation priority and it is recommended that the State Party quickly finalize the creation of community forest concessions for conservation purposes by proposing a protection status and a simple management plan. Furthermore, it is recommended that the participatory demarcation of the non-natural boundaries of the property be finalized as soon as possible.

Noting with concern the auctioning approved by the Council of Ministers on 8 April 2022 of new oil concessions in the central basin, and that the oil concessions allocated by presidential order and overlapping the property have still not been cancelled despite Decisions **43 COM 7A.10** and **44 COM 7A.44**, it is recommended that the Committee again urge the State Party to cancel the current oil concessions, while not granting new concessions in the property and its buffer zone which could have negative and irreversible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.6**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7A.40**, **43 COM 7A.10** and **44 COM 7A.44**, adopted respectively at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions, and at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Warmly welcomes the formalization of the co-management agreement between the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and requests the State Party to continue the implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and recommendations made by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the various measures taken in response to the findings of the Independent Review of Human Rights Violations by Eco-Guards, including the establishment of a functional complaints and appeals mechanism in response to Decision **44 COM 7A.46**, and also requests the State Party to ensure and regularly evaluate the implementation of this mechanism and to ensure that the lessons learned are applied and disseminated to other World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;*
5. *Thanks the technical and financial partners (European Union, USAID, KfW, Government of Norway through UNESCO) for their support in the management of the property, recalls the objective of achieving a surveillance rate of 80% of the property to effectively combat illegal activities and urges the State Party to:*
  - a) *Strengthen the human, technical and financial capacities dedicated to the fight against poaching, both in terms of staff and their training, and to accelerate the establishment of a funding mechanism for the implementation of all property management functions,*
  - b) *Intensify the collection of data on species present in the property to complement existing data on populations;*
6. *Welcomes the decision not to undertake an involuntary relocation of the Yaelima and Kitawala communities and urges the State Party to initiate as soon as possible, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a constructive dialogue with*

these communities in accordance with Decision **40 COM 7A.40** in order to assess their socio-economic situation and develop an appropriate strategy relating to their presence in the property or their voluntary relocation and in accordance with the policies of the Convention and the appropriate international standards;

7. Notes with concern the auctioning approved by the Council of Ministers on 8 April 2022 of new oil concessions in the central basin and deeply regrets that the State Party has not yet cancelled the current oil concessions which overlap part of the property, and therefore reiterates its long-standing request to the State Party to cancel its current oil concessions, while not granting new concessions in the property and its periphery which could have negative and irreversible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Recalls that the creation of an operational forest continuum with a view to ensuring ecological functionality between the two blocks of the property remains a conservation priority and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize as soon as possible the creation of forest concessions for local communities with a vocation for conservation, and to provide this space with a protection status and a simple management plan;
9. Requests that the participatory demarcation of the non-natural boundaries of the property be finalized as soon as possible;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 7. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1999-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 45,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 17,283 from UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (2015-2016)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Housing
- Impacts of Climate change/wastewater management
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Renewable energy facilities (issue resolved)



*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/>

### Current conservation issues

On 25 March 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/> and reporting as follows:

- Lake levels continue to rise in all three components of the property. In response, in 2020 a national multi-agency technical team was set up including UNDP, USAID and UNESCO, to conduct a detailed study on the resulting impacts;
- According to the study, available online at [http://www.environment.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MENR\\_Scoping\\_Report\\_Latest-5-07-21.pdf](http://www.environment.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MENR_Scoping_Report_Latest-5-07-21.pdf), the rising water levels are attributed mainly to increased rainfall in the region related to changing weather patterns, exacerbated by land use change and degradation in the water basins. Possible links to geological changes remain poorly understood;
- In addition to socio-economic impacts, loss of lives and livelihoods and infrastructure damage, riparian vegetation is being lost and lake salinity and pH levels are dropping, leading to impacts on biodiversity, including reducing populations of Lesser Flamingo;
- The flooding of the Nakuru sewage facility resulted in untreated sewage leaking into the lake and adversely affecting its water quality;
- The study recommends a list of short, medium and long-term actions, including relocating and rehabilitating sewage treatment plants, mapping and beaconing of the riparian land to reflect the new lake levels, setting up buffer zones as well as putting in place a monitoring system. The study also recommends finalizing the National Lake Basin Management Strategy to guide sustainable and coordinated management of the basin resources, as well as developing climate resilient County Spatial Plans to delineate the new high-water marks and direct land use. Funds are being sought to implement these recommendations;
- The Lake Bogoria National Reserve Management Plan is being implemented by the County government of Baringo, in close collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service. Rising lake levels have impacted the zonation scheme, which will be reviewed once the lake levels subside and as the infrastructure is being rehabilitated;
- The State Party has initiated discussions between the stakeholders, landowners, and rightsholders of the land between Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha to explore the possibilities of securing a corridor between the two lakes. A draft concept was prepared using government land in the form of wayleaves along an existing pipeline and powerline connecting the lakes;
- A meeting held in January 2020 in Naivasha has discussed and agreed upon the coordinated management system for the three components of the property;
- The Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu powerline which was constructed is now energized and the State Party is implementing the monitoring programme as recommended by the Joint multi-agency report.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continuous water level rise in all lakes of the property is of great concern as it has adverse socio-economic impacts, alters the lake boundaries for management, lowers the pH and salinity of the lakes and negatively affects biodiversity. In particular, the decrease in population of Lesser Flamingos, a key attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is of utmost concern. It is recommended that the States Parties of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania are encouraged to undertake a joint survey in the East African Rift and develop a Lesser Flamingo Action Plan for the region, with cooperation of the IUCN/SSC-Flamingo Specialist Group. At the time of inscription, the World Heritage Committee encouraged the States Parties of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as other relevant States Parties, to cooperate regarding the effective conservation of Lake Natron and other lakes in the region, and to consider further potential serial extensions as part of a potential transnational serial property.

It is concerning that the water level scoping report notes that while the cause of the lake level rise appears largely to be due to climate change, the problem is also exacerbated by land use change and practices in the lake basin which cause increasing run off and thus larger volumes of water flowing into

the lakes. The recommendations of the scoping report including the mapping of the riparian zones and relocation or rehabilitation of the sewage treatment plants, raising awareness of the impacts of climate change as well as the establishment of buffer zones should be implemented ; while at the same time urgent action needs to be undertaken to address, in close collaboration with local communities, deforestation and land degradation in the basin and especially in the Mau escarpment, as already recommended at the time of inscription.

The State Party's engagement with stakeholders, landowners and rightsholders on the feasibility of securing a wildlife corridor between Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha is noted, although it is not explicit if this includes the corridor between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita. It is recalled that at the time of inscription, there was an agreement in principle between the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Soysambu Conservancy to open a wildlife corridor between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita, and that this was considered important to protect the ecological connectivity of these components. While proposing a wildlife corridor through existing wayleaves has its benefits, site selection and design should be based on an evaluation of the relevant needs of specific species to allow the potential corridor to accommodate movement of each target species. This should be accompanied by a suitable monitoring programme to assess the effectiveness of the corridor. It is recommended that the State Party provide more information on this proposal and that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to consider the possible extension and formalization of the buffer zone to restore connectivity and further strengthen protection.

Regrettably, no details of the January 2020 meeting on the coordinated management system of the three components of the property are given, such as the main conclusions, decisions or who was consulted.

It is noted that the zonation scheme will be revised once the lake levels subside and as the infrastructure is being rehabilitated, however, the State Party should be reminded of past Committee Decisions (**39 COM 7B.5**, and **41 COM 7B.21**) to develop and implement clear and strict regulations, in collaboration with all stakeholders and rightsholders, to prohibit any development in close proximity to sensitive areas that could affect the OUV of the property.

It is regrettable that the State Party has provided no information regarding the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) mission planned since 2020 and has instead proceeded with energizing the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu Powerline which passes along Lake Elementaita and which could cause further bird mortalities, including of the Lesser Flamingo. It is recommended that the State Party provides an update on the AEWA mission including its recommendations if available, monitor bird mortalities along the powerline and to report on mitigation measures and their effectiveness to limit bird mortality.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.7**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.5**, **41 COM 7B.21**, **43 COM 7B.33** and **44 COM 7B.175**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the impacts of the continuous water level rise in all the lakes of the property, causing changes in the boundaries, pH and salinity of the lakes and resulting in adverse impacts on biodiversity, in particular the alarming decline of Lesser Flamingo population, a key attribute of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Encourages the State Party of Kenya, with the support of Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania, to undertake a joint survey to better understand changes within the Lesser Flamingo populations in the East African Rift and develop a Lesser Flamingo Action Plan for the region, in cooperation with the IUCN/SSC Flamingo Specialist Group;*

5. Recalls that at the time of inscription, the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **35 COM 8B.6** encouraged the States Parties of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, and other relevant States Parties, to cooperate regarding the effective conservation of Lake Natron and other lakes in the region, and to consider further potential serial extensions as part of a potential transnational serial World Heritage property;
6. Notes the results of the scoping report conducted by the multi-agency team on the impacts of the rising lake water levels, and requests the State Party to implement the study recommendations, including resurveying the riparian zones, beaconing the new boundaries, continued monitoring of the site, relocating or rehabilitating the sewage treatment plants near Lake Nakuru and other lakes, raising awareness on the impacts of climate change as well as establishing buffer zones while at the same time taking urgent actions, in close collaboration with local communities, to address deforestation and land degradation in the basin and especially in the Mau escarpment;
7. Appreciates the State Party's discussions with stakeholders towards securing a wildlife corridor between Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha using wayleaves and creating a task force, developing a concept note and a work plan, but considers that the site selection and design of the wildlife corridor should be based on an evaluation of relevant needs of specific species to allow the potential corridor to accommodate movement of each target species, and therefore also requests the State Party to provide more information on this concept, including how connectivity with Lake Elementaita is considered, and to consider the possible extension and formalization of the buffer zone to restore connectivity and further strengthen protection;
8. Also notes that a meeting was organized in 2020 in Naivasha to agree upon the coordination of the management of the three components of the property, and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the report of that meeting and follow up actions made to implement its decisions;
9. Further noting that the rising lake levels affected the zonation scheme of the property, which will be reviewed once the lake levels subside, reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement strict regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile areas and sensitive buffer zones of the property;
10. Strongly regrets that the State Party did not halt the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu power transmission project, which passes along Lake Elementaita, and has now been energized, notwithstanding concerns remain for the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party to report on the status of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) mission including its recommendations if available, monitor bird mortalities along the powerline and to report on mitigation measures and their effectiveness to limit bird mortality;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 8. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1988, 2000-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1980-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 332,493

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 300,000 from the Government of Norway for the period 2020-2022

### Previous monitoring missions

September 2000: UNESCO/IUCN/Ramsar mission; April 2004: UNESCO and IUCN participation in a multi-stakeholder workshop; May 2005: UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission; 21-26 February 2022: UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Subsistence hunting
- Invasive / alien freshwater species
- Fishing / collecting aquatic resources
- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Management system / management plan (management of hydrological resources and visitors)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Soils salinity;

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/>

### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in February 2022 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/documents>), and on 1 February 2022 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at the same address, providing the following information:

- The proliferation of numerous agricultural and agro-industrial projects located in the buffer zone continues to threaten the integrity of the property. To remedy this, the State Party redefined and established the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and it systematically required any company wishing to set up on the periphery of the property to submit an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with international standards;
- Furthermore, following the studies carried out between 2016 and 2019 to determine the areas of encroachment in the buffer zone, their extent and the flow of agricultural effluents towards the central core of the property, a 36 km channel with a dyke has been built with the support of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the collaboration with OMPO (Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic), to intercept the flow of pollutants in the catchment area, collect and drain the polluted water towards the outfall of the drainage delta and fight against the straying of livestock;
- UNESCO's support, thanks to funds from the Government of Norway, has contributed towards strengthening surveillance activities with watchtowers and to combating the proliferation of invasive species, with in particular the grubbing of 40 hectares of *Typha australis* and the cleaning of 30 km of canals;

- The strengthening of the ecological monitoring system makes it possible to continue monthly observations of ornithological fauna. In addition, thanks to emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund, regular epidemiological surveillance of birds continues in connection with the avian flu epidemic which has been raging in the property since 2021. In this context, the Governorate of the Region of Saint-Louis issued Order No. 059/GRSL/AA supplemented by a memorandum from the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production to coordinate interventions and contain the epizootic;
- The operational capacities of the management team and conservation efforts must be strengthened for the complete eradication of invasive species, the fight against poaching and the straying of animals, revitalizing transborder cooperation and supporting the resilience of local communities;
- The State Party has invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The updated information provided by the State Party is to be welcomed, as many actions requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.83** are underway and should improve the management of the property and the threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Collaboration with OMPO and UNESCO within the framework of funding from the Governments of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Norway is noted.

Regarding the development of rice cultivation and the resulting encroachment, the revision of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone and the legal requirement of an ESIA or SEA for agricultural companies before any new installation likely to impact the OUV are noted. It is recommended that discussions be initiated with the stakeholders concerned to resolve the encroachments observed and restore the territorial integrity of the property.

Noting that existing agricultural and agro-industrial projects continue to pollute the waters of the property, the 36 km long canal coupled with a dyke upstream of the watershed should make it possible to divert agricultural discharges towards the Delta emissary and limit the straying of livestock. However, the mission noted that the construction of the canal remains to be finalized, since it is blocked 2 km from the Delta emissary pending authorization from the authorities and due to a lack of funding. Highly polluted waters continue to accumulate inside the park, thus weakening its ecological integrity. The construction of the canal should therefore be finalized urgently to avoid impacts on the OUV. It is also recommended to reiterate the need for in-depth reflection for an effective water pollution control plan and the urgency of taking appropriate measures as soon as possible to evacuate all pollutant flows to the delta outlet. and to strengthen the monitoring of the physico-chemical parameters of the property's waters.

Considerable efforts have been made to combat the proliferation of invasive species, including *Typha australis*. However, the colonization of waterways by a new invasive *Ludwigia erecta* is worrying. It is imperative to develop a specific plan for the management of invasive plants integrated into the Development and Management Plan (DMP) of the property being finalized. In view of the multiple conservation issues, it is recommended that the DMP be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before its validation.

The regional coordination put in place by the State Party in consultation with the management team of the Diawling National Park in Mauritania to contain the epizootic of avian influenza which is raging in the property is positive. It is recommended to continue efforts in accordance with the guidelines of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds until the eradication of this threat, and to initiate an analysis of the impact of avian influenza on the OUV of the property and implement the recommendations resulting from the said study.

The mission was informed that last August the State Party validated the ESIA of the rehabilitation/construction project of the "rice loop road", financed by the African Development Bank. This is of great concern, as the road would cross the property over approximately 10 km and according to the ESIA, would negatively impact the OUV of the property. It is also regrettable that the management team was not fully involved in the ESIA development and validation process. It is recommended to revise the ESIA to specifically assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property and submit the revised ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before approving this project. It is important to ensure that its implementation will not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property.

Considering the current state of conservation of the property and the management efforts undertaken by the State Party and its partners, the mission concluded that the conditions for a new inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger are not met at this stage, and recommendations have been formulated for the preservation of the OUV of the property. However, the mission considers that if these recommendations are not fully implemented in an urgent and timely manner, the property may soon qualify for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.8**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Takes note of the conclusion of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission that, in view of the considerable management efforts undertaken by the State Party and its partners, the conditions for a new inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger are not met, but the ecological integrity of the property remains threatened by water pollution, the proliferation of invasive species induced by agro-industrial projects located in the buffer zone and the vulnerability of local communities adjacent to the property, and that if the threats are not addressed urgently and quickly, the property could soon meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party and its partners to update the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and the legal requirement for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with international standards before any new agro-industrial installation likely to impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), however once again expresses its concern about the persistence of the negative impacts of existing agricultural and agro-industrial projects on the OUV of the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2022 mission, as follows:*
  - a) *Take urgently, by the end of 2023, all the necessary measures to finalize the construction of the evacuation channel and render effectively operational the polluted water drainage system planned to clean up the waters of the property as well as emergency proactive measures to address the source of pollution from agricultural developments near the property,*
  - b) *Following the efforts undertaken to restore the boundary of the property, initiate discussions with the stakeholders concerned to resolve the encroachments noted and restore the territorial integrity of the property,*
  - c) *Revise the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and the Biodiversity Action Plan for the rice loop road construction project to specifically assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that the revision includes alternatives and a no-project option, and that this be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to any approval of the project,*

*in order to ensure that its implementation will not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,*

- d) Carry out discussions with UNESCO and IUCN as soon as possible to draw up a depollution plan for the DNBS, an action plan to solve the problems linked to the increasing salinization of the soil and progressive sedimentation, and to render operational the water quality monitoring system including the monitoring of heavy metals,*
  - e) Elaborate and implement a development and management plan including actions and a substantial budget on the crucial issues of i) water management, ii) disaster risk management, iii) invasive plants and iv) ecological monitoring,*
  - f) Maintain the level of vigilance regarding land use in the periphery of the DNBS and carefully monitor the impact of the bankruptcy of the largest agro-industrial unit located on the periphery of the DNBS in order to avoid an anarchic resettlement in the spaces that could be left vacant by the closure of “Compagnie Agricole de Saint-Louis (CASL)”,*
  - g) Ensure that no new rice plots can be allocated in the buffer zone of the property and that a noise pollution reduction plan can be drawn up and implemented as soon as possible to limit the impacts linked to the use of bird scaring guns,*
  - h) Continue actions for the control and epidemiological surveillance of avian influenza in a coordinated manner throughout the Senegal River Delta, including the Diawling Park in Mauritania, until eradication of the epizootic is declared, and begin as soon as possible an analysis of the impact of avian influenza on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and implement the recommendations resulting from the study,*
  - i) Strengthen epidemiological surveillance in the villages on the outskirts of the DNBS and the early warning system, through training in the recognition of HPAI [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza] symptoms by breeders in the area,*
  - j) Maintain in post for a reasonable period (at least three years) any Conservator appointed to be responsible for the property and appoint a director with the required qualifications to direct the Biological Research Station, and that this station report hierarchically to the DNBS Conservator who is solely responsible for the state of conservation of the property,*
  - k) Strengthen the management team with around ten additional trained and equipped agents and consider innovative mechanisms for the sustainable financing of the property,*
  - l) Reactivate the Management Committee to make the buffer zone of the property operational, governing it by means of a regulatory text which sets out its role, composition, mode of operation as well as a budget estimate necessary for its operation; this action should include the revitalization of the Inter-village Committees (IVC) and its related bodies (eco-guards and eco-guides);*
6. Thanks all donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the Governments of Luxembourg and Norway for their financial support to improve the state of conservation of the property;
7. Takes note of the limited funding to ensure the sustainable implementation of all management functions of the property and also requests the State Party, with the support of its partners, to continue its efforts towards the development of a sustainable financing system with a view to improving efficiency in the management of the property;

8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, 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 46th session.*

**9. iSimangaliso Wetland Park (South Africa) (N 914)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**10. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add



## ARAB STATES

### 11. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 150,000 in the framework of the World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme

#### Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2003, 2004, 2013: World Heritage Centre missions; 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system/management plan: Lack of adequate management system/management plan (resolved)
- Human Resources/ Financial Resources: Insufficient management capacity and resources
- Illegal fishing/collecting of aquatic resources: Illegal fishing and mechanical shellfish harvesting
- Marine infrastructures
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructures: Tourism and increased accessibility due to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation activities
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Localized utilities
- Mining
- Oil and gas: Oil exploitation
- Renewable energy facilities

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents>, which provides the following information:

- The 2020-2024 development and management plan has been finalized and submitted with this report;
- Faced with the impacts of sea level rise and erosion that threaten several villages, the State Party wishes to reconsider its previous decision not to relocate the villages concerned;
- The prohibition of selachian fishing, the control of boats and the limitation of transformation wells remain objectives. Selachian catches have not exceeded 1,000 t/year since 2014, but fishing is intensifying in the property;

- In accordance with the recommendation of the strategic environmental and social assessment on the development of the city of Chami, an Urban Development Master Plan has been established. The State Party undertakes that any development will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and has relocated the artisanal gold mining site of Chami 30 km to the east;
- A request for support from the International Maritime Organization was renewed to analyze the navigation risks in addition to the feasibility study to list the property as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA);
- Shell has surrendered its exploration permit for offshore oil Block C-19;
- The terms of reference of the EIA for prospecting the Mauritanian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) were revised following the comments of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and it has been carried out according to international standards;
- The State Party monitors the level of the water tables of the Tasiast Tasiast mine catchment and will commission a strategic hydrological study;
- Avian influenza has not been observed in the property and monitoring means were put in place in 2021;
- The potential addition of a criterion through the submission of a new nomination dossier was discussed on 10 February 2022 during a meeting between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
- Given the intensification of its actions to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and address threats, the State Party would like to exit the reactive monitoring process and report on the state of conservation every 5 years, concomitant with the updating of the Development and Management Plan.

Numerous reports, scientific or impact studies are appended to the State Party report.

#### *Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party has made substantial efforts to address the threats affecting the property. In-depth knowledge from numerous studies and the management effectiveness chart make it possible to identify the issues. It is recommended to continue the efforts of developing knowledge, monitoring and actions against threats.

Noting that climate change is a crucial issue for the distribution of ecosystems (in particular seagrasses) and species and therefore for the OUV of the property, as well as for local populations, it is recommended that the State Party prioritize its prospective analysis on the potential impacts of climate change on the OUV and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review. Noting that the ecosystems of the property represent an important reservoir of blue carbon, the State Party is encouraged to explore the eligibility for funds to adapt to the effects of climate change, and to share these experiences with other World Heritage properties.

Any consideration for the relocation of threatened villages should be part of this reflection carried out in consultation with the communities concerned, and the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the importance of the principle of free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with the Convention and the international standards.

It is worrying that fishing in the property has increased tenfold since 1997 and doubled since 2014, even if selachian catches are stagnating thanks to the actions carried out. It is recommended to intensify these actions to end this practice. A reflection seems necessary on the impact of the intensification of fishing on the OUV, even if the annual contribution of artisanal fishing inside the property represents only 1% of the total of this segment at the level of the Mauritanian EEZ.

Significant efforts are being made to oversee the development of Chami and limit the associated threats. The waste produced must be managed sustainably, in line with the recommendations of Chami's sustainable waste management strategy. The relocation of the gold processing centre 30 km to the east seems positive, but clarification is needed concerning the management of mining waste and other environmental aspects of this site. Although the analyses currently show the absence of significant heavy metal contamination in the property, it is important to continue these analyses and install monitoring equipment.

It is recommended to finalize exploration of the technical feasibility of a possible designation of the property as a PSSA (potentially taking into account the planned wind farm), in addition to national efforts to limit the risks. The current abandonment of oil exploration in Block C-19 is welcomed. No information is provided on the status of oil exploration projects in block C-7 located near the property.

Given the concerns of the management authority of the property on the potential impacts of the offshore seismic campaign and the lack of significant consideration of its impacts on the OUV in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), it is recommended not to authorize this campaign before revising the ESIA to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, developed in collaboration between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, and taking into account the recommendations of the property's management authority.

Considering the wind farm development project at the borders of the property (Nour – Hydrogène Vert), it is important that an ESIA is carried out in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, to assess any potential impact on the OUV of the property, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before any decision is taken.

It is also necessary to continue the monitoring of the groundwater harnessed for the Tasiast mine and to complete the strategic regional assessment of the hydrological system.

It is noted that avian influenza has not had an impact on the property, and it is recommended that the State Party be commended for its efforts in dealing with this threat and that it continues monitoring it.

Regarding the potential addition of new criterion(a), as discussed during the meeting of 10 February 2022 between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, it is recommended that the State Party consider whether it wishes to submit a new nomination for inscription of the property, in order to include new criteria or not.

The State Party's request to provide reports on the state of conservation of the property every five years is well noted, however, given the many projects concerning the property, it is preferable that a monitoring report be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2024.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.11**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the significant efforts made and requests it to pursue them, in particular by implementing the 2020-2024 Development and Management Plan, and by continuing to develop knowledge, monitoring and the fight against threats affecting the property;*
4. *Considers that climate change is a crucial issue for the distribution of species and ecosystems, particularly seagrasses, and therefore for the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and for the local populations, and requests the State Party:*
  - a) *to prioritize its prospective analysis on the potential impacts of climate change on the OUV and submit it to the World Heritage Centre,*
  - b) *that any consideration of the relocation of threatened villages be part of this reflection, in consultation with the communities concerned and not be carried out without their free, prior and informed consent and in accordance with the Convention and international standards;*

5. *Noting that the ecosystems of the property represent an important reservoir of blue carbon, encourages the State Party to explore the eligibility of the property for funds to adapt to the effects of climate change, and to share these experiences with other World Heritage properties;*
6. *Considering on the one hand the stagnation of selachian catches, and on the other hand the tenfold increase in fishing in the property since 1997, also requests the State Party to intensify the efforts undertaken to limit the catches of selachians in order to end this practice, and to carry out an analysis of the impact of increased fishing on the OUV of the property;*
7. *Also commends the State Party for the actions taken to oversee the development of Chami and limit its impact on the property, and in particular the relocation of the gold processing centre, and also requests it to continue the analyses on the heavy metal contaminations in the property, to sustainably manage waste at Chami and to provide information on the management of mining waste and other environmental aspects in the new gold processing centre;*
8. *Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to limit maritime risks and, in addition, reiterates its request to finalize the exploration of the technical feasibility of a possible designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, before submitting a final application to the International Maritime Organization;*
9. *Also welcomes the current abandonment of oil exploration in Oil Block C-19 and further requests information regarding the status of exploration activities in Block C-7;*
10. *Considering the concerns about the potential impacts of the offshore seismic campaign and the lack of significant consideration of the property in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), further requests the State Party not to carry out any activity before revising the ESIA to assess potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN, and to take into account the recommendations of the management authority for the property;*
11. *Noting with concern the wind farm development project at the borders of the property (Nour – Hydrogène Vert), urges the State Party to carry out an ESIA to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before any decision is taken;*
12. *Further requests the State Party to continue monitoring the groundwater harnessed for the Tasiast mine and to finalize the strategic regional assessment of the hydrological system;*
13. *Notes with satisfaction that avian influenza has not had an impact on the property, commends the State Party for its efforts in the face of this threat and further requests it to continue the monitoring;*
14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

## **12. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 13. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 14. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 15. Komodo National Park (Indonesia) (N 609)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 16. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 41,400

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2004: IUCN mission; March-April 2008: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January-February 2011: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2014: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Human resources (Security limitations)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Roads)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (Exploitation of marine resources)
- Management systems/management plans (Absence of a coordinating agency; Absence of a finalized strategic management plan, Park boundaries not physically demarcated)
- Financial resources (Inadequate financing)

- Climate change impacts including on fire regimes
- Other climate change impacts (*Nothofagus* dieback);
- Illegal activities (Poaching and logging)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents/> and indicates the following:

- Mitigation measures implemented for the Habema-Kenyam road inside the property include undertaking Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols and biodiversity monitoring, installing retaining walls and drainage channels and planting trees along the roadside. Monitoring of the habitat of priority species in November 2020 detected ten MacGregor's honeyeater (*Macgregoria pulchra*) and one Dingiso tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus mbaiso*);
- The Trans-Papuan Highway is one of Indonesia's strategic infrastructure projects, which is part of the 2020-2024 Medium-Term National Development Plan. The highway passes through the property in two locations: the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment runs approximately 40 km through the north side of the property, and on the east side of the property, the Habema-Kenyam segment transects the property for 209 km. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and its Environmental Management Plan (EMP) dated December 2016 for the road, of which the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment is a part, are annexed in Indonesian. The EIA concluded that the construction of the Highway is "environmentally feasible";
- Creation of the Lorentz National Park Collaborative Management Forum (FKPTNL), made up of national, provincial and regional governments, universities, NGOs and the private sector, has led to a revision of the national park management zonation and the creation of a Long-Term Development Plan of the property. These efforts are stated to be more representative, equitable, participatory, collaborative and transparent in protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Community empowerment programmes have been developed to provide assistance to local communities and their micro-businesses, such as agricultural and livestock farming;
- The Special Use Zone of the property is clarified as areas that are designated as community settlements that predated the creation of the park. The proposed airport will be very small, and usage will be restricted to emergency responses, flight training and charter passenger services;
- *Nothofagus* dieback surveys in 2012 and 2019 show that dieback was likely not caused by either fungus or opening of the access road, and therefore requires further studies, but tree mortality was recorded during fire events. The surveys also indicate that natural regeneration is occurring well in disturbed habitats;
- Fire Safety Management is being implemented in the property under the Long-Term Development Plan.

In a letter dated 9 December 2021, the State Party invited an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in line with past Committee decisions. The mission has been postponed by the State Party for security reasons, and it has not yet taken place at the time of writing the present report.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Some positive efforts are underway at the property, including activities to strengthen the involvement of and assistance to the communities that live inside the property. The park management zonation is stated to have been developed through a collaborative and participatory approach. The clarifications provided with regard to the Special Use Zone, especially in relation to the community settlements and the airport within the property, is noted. However, it is recalled that the Trans-Papuan Highway has been included in the Special Use Zone as a 'life support' facility, according to the 2020 State Party report. The State Party should be reminded that no development project planned within and around a World Heritage property should be justified and carried out without a prior assessment of potential impacts on the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines. In line with Decision **44 COM 7B.94**, the forthcoming mission remains an important opportunity to discuss and assess the effectiveness of the new zoning for the long-term protection of the property's OUV.

The road developments inside the property remain of great concern. The mitigation measures in relation to the Habema-Kenyam Road through SMART patrols and biodiversity monitoring are noted, as the Committee has been expressing concerns regarding the potential increase in illegal logging and poaching associated with road development. Recalling that the road construction was completed a few years ago, the State Party should develop and submit a clear action plan in one of the working languages of the Convention, including a timeline for the rehabilitation of all areas damaged by the road construction as well as a plan to monitor its impacts.

It is worrying that an additional 40 km of road will cross the property as part of the Trans-Papuan Highway, thus leading to further disturbance and habitat fragmentation within the property. It is unclear what the current status of this Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment is, but media articles suggest that works have already been completed and connected. It is regrettable that the EIA has only been shared now, despite the World Heritage Centre's request for clarification on the Trans-Papuan Highway, in its letter on 18 December 2018, and as repeatedly requested in the 2019 and 2021 state of conservation reports. Furthermore, while the EIA reportedly concluded that the construction of the highway is "environmentally feasible", the EIA was only provided in Indonesian, so it was not possible to review it, but the table of contents suggests that no specific assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property was undertaken. If this is the case, there is a pressing need to assess the cumulative impacts of these roads on the OUV of the property and, in particular, to implement a stringent set of measures to mitigate impacts linked to the construction of the roads and their use, including to prevent illegal logging and poaching, and monitor their effects.

The monitoring figures for two important species in the property from 2020 are noted. Considering the importance of the property for its endangered, endemic and range-restricted species of various taxa, there is a need for a robust monitoring mechanism. The State Party should be requested to clarify the objective and details of the biodiversity monitoring plan that is being implemented across the property as part of the park management activities.

The preliminary results of the *Nothofagus* tree dieback were reported again as being inconclusive. While noting the positive signs that *Nothofagus* is regenerating well naturally, even in disturbed habitats, the State Party should be encouraged to continue their survey to further their understanding of the causes of the dieback, define suitable management interventions and consider seeking international collaboration, as was recommended by the 2014 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

It is regrettable that the overdue IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, pending since 2017, continues to be postponed. Recalling that the Committee had previously raised illegal fishing and poaching as threats that have not been followed up in recent years, it is recommended that the mission take the opportunity to also review these matters, in addition to the mission's scope as set out in Decision **44 COM 7B.94**.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.16**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Appreciates the activities undertaken to strengthen community engagement and the establishment of a Lorentz National Park Collaborative Management Forum, which has led to a revised national park management zonation and a Long-Term Development Plan for the property, and requests the State Party to submit both the revised zonation and the Development Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
4. *Notes that a Special Use Zone under the property's new zoning plan is intended for community settlements that predated the creation of the park, but also noting that other projects are proposed in this zone, reminds the State Party that any development should firstly be compatible with the property's World Heritage status and secondly no*



development project planned within and around a World Heritage property should proceed without a prior assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Expresses its utmost concern about the road developments in the property, in particular the two different parts of Trans-Papuan Highway, which are of significant length, the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment and the Habema-Kenyam segment, which will lead to fragmentation of its habitats and could negatively impact its OUV, and deeply regrets that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the former segment of the Trans-Papuan Highway was not submitted in one of the working languages of the Convention prior to construction, and furthermore appears not to have assessed the potential impacts of the development on the OUV of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to submit a clear assessment of the cumulative impacts of road developments on the OUV of the property;
7. Also notes that Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols and biodiversity monitoring are being undertaken around the Habema-Kenyam Road, and also requests the State Party to report on the mitigation and monitoring measures being implemented for the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia road, and for both segments to develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre, a clear action plan, including a timeline for the rehabilitation of all areas inside the property damaged by the road construction;
8. Further requests the State Party to provide details of the biodiversity monitoring plan that is being implemented across the property;
9. Further notes that the cause of the Nothofagus dieback is inconclusive, but that natural regeneration is occurring well even in disturbed habitats, and encourages the State Party to seek international collaboration to further investigate and conclude on the causes of the Nothofagus dieback to inform long-term conservation planning;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide all of the above requested submissions in one of the working languages of the Convention;
11. Regrets that the overdue IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission continues to be postponed due to security concerns and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite the mission as soon as feasible to assess the state of road projects in the property, their impacts on the OUV and the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, the effectiveness of new zoning of the property to ensure the long-term conservation of the property's OUV, and any other threats that may concern the OUV of the property, including illegal fishing, logging and poaching, as previously raised by the Committee;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

## 17. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati) (N 1325)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2010

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 13,864 in 2008 through the Stakeholder Workshop for the Phoenix Islands nomination organized by the UNESCO Office in Apia with funding from the France/UNESCO Cooperation and UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 20,943 in 2008 to support the finalization of the nomination document.

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal fishing and overfishing by licensed and unlicensed vessels
- Degradation of seamounts

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/>

### Current conservation issues

On 15 November 2021, the State Party issued a press release announcing its decision to lift the closure of the property for commercial fisheries and replace it with a Marine Spatial Planning Programme to sustainably develop the natural resources of the World Heritage property.

On 19 November 2021, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party expressing concern about the announcement and requesting details about the decision made. The letter also announced that the state of conservation of the property would be examined at the present session of the World Heritage Committee and requested the State Party to submit a report by 1 February 2022, including: details about the decision made; an assessment of possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; mapping of the changes in protection resulting from the decision, including which no-take zones will remain; and the measures foreseen to enforce sustainable fishing practices outside the no-take zones under the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning Programme.

On 24 March 2022, a meeting was held between representatives of the State Party, UNESCO and IUCN. At the time of writing this report, the World Heritage Centre is still awaiting a formal response to its letter and the report on the state of conservation of the property.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

At the time of inscription of the property in 2010, IUCN considered in its evaluation that the property did not meet the conditions for integrity because of the very limited extent of no-take zones in relation to the area of the property as a whole. Following the evaluation, the State Party made commitments to extend the no-take zone; as a result, the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List and highly commended the State Party's proposal to progressively expand the no-take zones over time (Decision **34 COM 8B.2**). In 2015, the Committee highly commended the State Party for its landmark decision to fully close the entire area of the property for commercial fishing. The Committee further noted the concern expressed by the State Party that surveillance and enforcement of the full closure remained a challenge due to the size and remoteness of the property, and encouraged it to strengthen its collaboration with other countries and organizations.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge that the State Party's decision to establish the property as a 100% no-take zone, making it fully off-limits for commercial fisheries, was made based on assurances that a 'reversed fishing license' regime through the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) Trust would compensate foregone revenue that otherwise would have been gained from fishing activities. It is also noted that an independent advisory expert panel, composed of representatives from the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, concluded that significant loss of revenue has occurred due to the closure of commercial fisheries in the property. The State Party's subsequent statement that, however innovative and well-intended, the arrangement to compensate foregone fishing revenues through the reversed fishing license regime and the PIPA Trust is not sufficient to meet the present needs of the people of Kiribati, and the development needs of the country for the future, and thus its decision to replace the full no-take zone with a Marine Spatial Planning Programme that strikes a balance between natural resource use to benefit the Kiribati people's livelihoods and the protection of the property's OUV, is further noted.

Recalling the importance of no-take zones to protect the integrity of the property, it is noted with deep regret that the reversed fishing license regime, which aimed to guarantee livelihoods for communities while establishing a no-take zone across the entire property was unsuccessful. Moreover, it is of serious concern that the State Party has not provided any details on the analyses it took on the potential impacts on the OUV of the property of reopening the property to commercial fisheries, and what measures it is taking to protect the OUV. Satellite data indicates that commercial fishing activity has already resumed in the property. A thorough assessment of the potential impacts on the OUV is urgently needed together with careful marine spatial planning that incorporates no-take zonation in key areas of the property, underpinned by scientific evidence. Furthermore, the State Party should ensure best practices are applied and strictly adhered to by all commercial fishing vessels, and closely monitor the impacts on the OUV, fishing activities and fish stocks. Legal enforcement of any illegal fishing activity must also be effectively implemented immediately.

Therefore, the State Party should be urgently requested to provide details on the above to ensure the effective protection of the OUV. This should include details on the alternative options considered by the State Party that reconciles economic development and the needs for local livelihoods with the long-term protection needs for the property. Details should also be provided on the financial and technical arrangements, including specific proposals on future monitoring and surveillance of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that opening up the property to commercial fisheries has resulted in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property. In case urgent action is not taken, including developing a marine spatial plan that incorporates a no-take zone based on the effective protection of the OUV, and the implementation of best practices by all fishing vessels cannot be assumed, the property may be faced with potential danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, with a view to assessing the state of conservation of the property, assess if the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and providing recommendations for a Marine Spatial Planning Programme.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.17**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2** and **39 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 34th (Brasília, 2010) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Centre;*
4. *Expresses its deep regret that the State Party decided to lift the 2015 landmark closure of the property for commercial fisheries, and that the reversed fishing license designed*

to compensate foregone fishing revenue appears not to have sufficiently benefited the livelihoods of the people of Kiribati to ensure its sustainability;

5. Also recalling the importance to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones, requests the State Party to ensure that any management decision related to the property, such as removing the protection status of the no-take zone and allowing commercial fishing operations, is science-based and ensures the protection of the OUV of the property;
6. Expresses serious concern about the lack of details and clarity concerning the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Programme and other measures being developed by the State Party to replace the no-take zone, including details on the financial resources and technical arrangements that will ensure the ongoing protection of the property's OUV, and that commercial fishing activity within the property has already resumed, and therefore urgently requests the State Party to provide the following to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN:
  - a) The assessments, which were undertaken to forecast any impact on the OUV of the property as a result of the reported decision,
  - b) Maps indicating changes in protection under the envisaged MSP, including areas which will remain as no-take zones,
  - c) The measures it is taking and foreseen to monitor, survey and enforce sustainable best fishing practices within and outside of the no-take zones under the envisaged MSP;
7. Calls upon the international community to refrain from any unsustainable fishing practices that could negatively impact on the OUV of the property and to assist the State Party with the necessary financial and technical support to assess the implications of removing the no-take protection status;
8. Expresses its utmost concern that opening up the property to commercial fisheries has resulted in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property and considers that in case no urgent action is taken to ensure the effective protection of the OUV, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review its state of conservation, assess the status and implications of any decision to change the no-take regime within the property, assess if the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of the property's marine resources in such a way that serves the needs of the people of Kiribati;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**18. Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia, Russian Federation) (N 1448rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**19. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- 20. Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine) (N 1133quater)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

- 21. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

- 22. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

- 23. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) (N 1314ter)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

- 24. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

- 25. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

- 26. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**27. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **28. Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad) (C/N 1475)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Need to strengthen the legal protection status of the property and to extend the property to include all attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
- Inadequate management plan and lack of management authority
- Need for a zonation which allows full protection of the key areas for biodiversity
- Need to guarantee the full participation of the local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The Directorate of Classified Sites was established in the Ministry of Culture and Promotion of Diversity (MCPD). Management entities for the property were improved. A Site Manager now leads the recently created Site Management Unit, which is overseen by the Local Site Management Committee. A National Inter-Ministerial Committee for World Heritage Sites provides coordination between different national ministries;
- Operational management of the property by the African Parks Network (APN) continues based on a 5-year business plan. Monitoring of animal populations informs conservation strategies and a team of 40 eco-guards ensures surveillance of the property and counters poaching. The arrangement between APN and the State Party is coordinated by a Board of Directors, composed of representatives of APN, the MCDP, the Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Tourism Development and Handicrafts. A Governing Council is chaired alternately by the governors of the two provinces in which the property is located;
- Meetings commenced in 2022 between government ministries, technical and financial partners, the site management team and local communities to revise the management plan;



- In February 2020, 11 red-necked ostriches were translocated to the property;
- During 2021, an archaeological and an environmental anthropology studies were initiated to establish a plan for the protection and enhancement of the rock art of the Ennedi Massif, and to gain a socio-ecological understanding of pastoral life within a 60 km radius of the Guelta d'Archei;
- A collaborative APN and Department of Archaeology technical field mission investigated about 200 rock art, iron and steel, prehistoric, necropolis and settlement sites, reporting on their state of conservation, including any damage caused by vandalism, climatic factors and the activities of animals. No vandalism of rock art sites has occurred since 2017;
- Awareness-raising and training sessions for local communities have been carried out and a local convention will be adopted to reinforce existing measures.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party report regrettably once more provides little new information on the state of conservation of the property or on the actions taken to implement the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription (Decision **40 COM 8B.15**). In this regard, it is important to recall again that the 2016 Advisory Bodies' evaluation of the nomination considered the inscription of the property to be premature since it did not meet the protection and management requirements of the Operational Guidelines, the need to further document attributes under criterion (ix) and the fact that the proposed boundaries were considered inadequate to protect all attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The actions taken by the State Party and its partner APN are noted, especially the efforts to put in place basic surveillance and resourcing for the property, undertaking field visits and ecological monitoring, implementing studies, and working with local communities who live in and around the property. However, little or no information is provided on the following key issues raised in the aforementioned Committee Decision at the time of inscription:

- While the establishment of a management unit is noted, it is unclear if the legal protection status of the property has been strengthened. The report refers to the 2016 legislation, which was considered not to meet the requirements of the Operational Guidelines at the time of inscription. The report also refers to a 2019 Decree, however no details are provided on whether this replaces the 2016 Decree and how it strengthens the legal protection;
- No information on a zonation system for the property is provided. It needs to be recalled that the Reserve is a multiple use area, where the use of natural resources by local communities is allowed. Therefore, it is important to establish zonation in order to ensure that sensitive areas protecting key attributes of the OUV are given a more robust protection status. In this respect, the importance of the establishment of a detailed botanical inventory of the site, to identify all important refugia and areas for relict flora that directly inform the zoning of the property and ensure adequate levels of protection should be reiterated;
- There is a further need to clarify the institutional management regime of the property and the responsibilities of the ministries in charge of culture and environment, as well as the role of the management unit and the operational partner APN;
- No concrete information is provided on the specific measures taken to address the various threats identified at the time of inscription nor on the measures taken to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the management of the property. While it is noted that the recruited staff is from the region, further empowerment of local communities in the formal management of the site including the responsibility for conservation activities is needed, particularly given the emphasis on the importance of traditional management practices. No further details are provided regarding the preparation of a "local convention";
- No cartographic documentation and mapping of the sites so far inventoried has been submitted. This information is important as a baseline for protection, conservation and management purposes;

It is important that the aforementioned points are addressed and clearly integrated in a revised management plan for the whole property that meets the requirements of the Operational Guidelines. Whilst the reported business plan is noted, no details of its content were provided. The requested management plan should be finalised as a matter of priority to ensure a cohesive management framework for the property going forward.

No information is provided on the request to extend the northern boundaries of the property to include all attributes of OUV including the rock art sites. Recalling the fact that the boundaries as inscribed were considered not appropriate to protect the full range of attributes of OUV, the State Party should again be requested to revise and extend the boundaries as per previous decisions. It is recommended that the State Party consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before finalizing the proposal for the boundaries of the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi to guarantee that all important areas are included and that an appropriate buffer zone is foreseen and to submit a request for boundary modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee as requested in Decisions **42 COM 7B.64** and **44 COM 7B.71**.

The information that no vandalism of rock art has occurred since 2017 is welcomed. However, the requested detailed report of the extent of the damage and measures taken to rehabilitate vandalized rock art sites was not provided. The reported field visits to sites of cultural heritage in the property are noted but it is unclear if these missions are recent or the same as those already reported. The State Party should be requested to present more details on the status of biodiversity, including flagship species such as the relic crocodile population, as well as on the planned species reintroductions.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.28**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.15**, **42 COM 7B.64**, and **44 COM 7B.71** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses concern that once again the State Party has provided little new information on the state of conservation of the property or on the actions taken to implement the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription and in subsequent decisions;*
4. *Welcomes the actions of the State Party and its partner, the African Parks Network (APN), to strengthen the protection and management of the property, especially the efforts to put in place basic surveillance and resourcing for the property, undertaking field visits and ecological monitoring, implementing studies, and working with local communities who live in and around the property;*
5. *Also welcomes the initiation of archaeological and environmental anthropology studies on the property and requests the State Party to submit the initiated studies and others to the World Heritage Centre;*
6. *Notes with further concern however that several of its previous requests and recommendations, including those made at the time of inscription of the property, are yet to be addressed, and therefore urges the State Party to:*
  - a) *Strengthen the legal protection status of the property with a regime of protection adequate to the values of the property and meeting the protection requirements of the Convention,*
  - b) *Finalize a revised Management Plan to provide continuity of management and conservation for the whole property, which meets international standards and includes an operational implementation calendar for all steps needed to achieve this goal and, which clarifies how the responsibilities of the new management system will be integrated with the established traditional management systems. The Management Plan should clearly:*

- (i) *Detail the measures foreseen to address the main potential threats and spell out management operations to conserve World Heritage values,*
  - (ii) *Include zonation which supports strict protection of the key areas for biodiversity,*
  - (iii) *Specify the institutional, staffing and budget regime to ensure effective management of the property,*
  - (iv) *Guarantee the full participation of local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property,*
- c) *Establish a detailed botanical inventory of the site, to identify all important refugia and areas for relict flora to further document the attributes of the property supporting criterion (ix),*
  - d) *Develop cartographic documentation and mapping of the sites so far inventoried in order to have a baseline for protection, conservation and management purposes,*
  - e) *Provide to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report on the extent of the damage and measures taken to rehabilitate the rock art sites affected by recent past vandalism;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit the revised Management Plan and relevant updated legislation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
  8. *Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to extend the northern boundaries of the property to include all attributes bearing the OUV, including the rock art sites, and urges again the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before finalizing the proposal for the boundaries of the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi so as to guarantee that all important areas are included and that an appropriate buffer zone is foreseen, and to submit a request for boundary modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
  9. *Also requests the State Party to present more details on the status of biodiversity, including flagship species such as the relic crocodile population, as well as on the planned species reintroductions;*
  10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

## **29. Bandiagara Cliffs (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **30. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **ARAB STATES**

### **31. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 32. Laponian Area (Sweden) (C/N 774)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)(viii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/774/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/774/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Necessity to continue the work with local Sámi people
- Extend the inventories on species
- Consolidate the Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/774/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 November 2020, the State Party submitted information on the proposed Kallak (Gállok) mine project in the vicinity of the property, including a document titled *Kallak and the Laponian Area World Heritage Site In-depth Impact Assessment* (2017) (IDIA). Following the submission of further information by the State Party on 26 January 2021, a joint ICOMOS and IUCN Technical Review was transmitted to the State Party in May 2021, raising concerns regarding the IDIA. It was recommended that a revised impact assessment be completed in line with IUCN and ICOMOS impact assessment guidance documents to adequately assess the potential impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), prior to any approval of the mining project.

On 3 February 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, wrote to the State Party (Reference: AL SWE 2/2022) expressing their 'concerns over the lack of good faith consultations and the failure to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the Sámi, and over the significant and irreversible damage that the Gállok project poses to Sámi lands, resources, culture, and livelihoods and to the environmental impact it would have on the UNESCO World Heritage site of Laponia' (p. 7 of AL SWE 2/2022).

On 4 April 2022, the State Party responded to the UN Special Rapporteurs (Reference: UD20022/01693/FMR) that under an amendment of the Minerals Act (2018) there was a formal legal requirement for consultation in accordance with the Swedish Environmental Code. A specific Act on consultation in matters of special importance to the Sámi people was also issued on 1 March 2022. The above-mentioned correspondence was received by UNESCO through the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on 'Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations', which was submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2022, further

*“welcomes the fact that UNESCO has raised concerns about the negative impact of planned extractive activities on indigenous peoples’ rights [...] in the vicinity of Lapponia” (Para 51 of A/77/238).*

On 24 February 2022, following concerns expressed in the above-mentioned joint ICOMOS and IUCN Technical Review and by third parties, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to submit a state of conservation report for the property which would be considered by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session.

On 17 March 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/774/>, which reports the following:

- Regarding the recommendation of the joint ICOMOS and IUCN Technical Review to conduct a revised and expanded impact assessment, since the mining exploitation concession is subject to a forthcoming government decision, it is not possible to pre-empt the decision that may be taken, nor comment on the specific circumstances under review, however the government has taken careful note of the recommendations;
- An exploitation licence does not equate to general approval, and any exploitation would require further permits and exemptions to be granted under the Swedish Environmental Code;
- Following receipt of the Technical Review, the authorities referred the report to relevant stakeholders including the Sámi Parliament and reindeer herding communities for comment, and in February 2022 provided the applicant the opportunity to respond to such comments.

On 22 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre learned through media that the State Party had granted an exploitation concession for the right to extraction and utilisation of iron ore, valid for 25 years and subject to 12 conditions (Regeringsbeslut N2017/04553), which the State Party did not notify UNESCO of in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The decision sets out the background, including consideration of the ICOMOS and IUCN Technical Review and subsequent consultation, and the justification of the approval. On 25 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide a translation of the decision as well as information on the impacts of this decision on the state of conservation of the property. On 17 May 2022, the State Party provided an English translation of the Regeringsbeslut, which includes both the decision and underlying justification. According to the State Party, considering the distance of the planned concession area from the property, the activities are not likely to have a direct negative impact on the OUV of the property but that they may have an indirect impact. In a letter dated 22 October 2022, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that it was not aware of any ongoing environmental permit application procedure by the company and that, should the company subsequently decide to apply for an environmental permit, this should include an IDIA according to the principles in the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. In a letter to the State Party dated 20 December 2022, the World Heritage Centre clarified that the IDIA should be based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, rather than on tools that have become obsolete. No further updates have been provided by the State Party since.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies*

Kallak is located 34 km to the southwest of the nearest boundary of the property. In February 2013, the iron ore deposit, located between Randijaur and Bjorkholmen, was designated an area of national interest for deposits of valuable substances. Trial mining was undertaken under permit in 2013, after which an application was made for an exploitation concession for the northern part of the deposit, covering 1,360K ha. Although the proposed mining area would be located outside the boundaries of the property, there is a clear relationship between the area and the attributes that comprise its OUV. Specifically, it is important to recall that the authenticity of the property is expressed and maintained through the continuing practice of reindeer herding by the indigenous Sámi community, and the seasonal movement of herds to summer mountain grazing pastures. In 2017, a new national interest in reindeer husbandry was designated by the Sámi Parliament for an area between Randijaur and Bjorkholmen as a key area within the Jahkagasska Tjiellde Sámi village year-round grazing land. Seasonal reindeer husbandry is dependent on widespread grazing on land outside the property (especially in winter). The mining concession could therefore directly impact on the reindeer husbandry of one of the nine Sámi villages, and possibly others.

The State Party notified the World Heritage Centre in June 2013 regarding the application for an exploitation concession to which ICOMOS provided comments in 2014 in the form of a Technical Review. In particular, the State Party was requested to confirm that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

included a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that focused on the potential impact of the mining on the cultural attributes of the World Heritage property and its setting, in accordance with ICOMOS 2011 Guidance. The EIA developed as part of the 2013 mining concession application was considered by the Swedish National Heritage Board and Environmental Protection Agency to not fully assess the impact of the proposed activity on the property. The subsequent 2016 joint ICOMOS/IUCN Technical Review advised the State Party to conduct a HIA and a revised EIA with a specific assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development on the OUV of the property, including its integrity. In response, the mining company commissioned the above-mentioned IDIA in 2017, which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre only in 2020 for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The IDIA concluded that the overall impact of the project on the cultural values would be minor and would probably not affect the natural heritage values, provided measures were taken to reduce the barrier effect on reindeer migration. However, the 2021 joint ICOMOS/IUCN Technical Review highlighted that the document did not specifically refer to the OUV of the property in line with both the IUCN and ICOMOS impact assessment guidance documents and did not address potential impacts of important factors such as water, energy and land use requirements related to the project.

The State Party's decision in March 2022 approved the 2017 IDIA and granted an exploitation concession based on the consideration that, in view of the distance between the planned concession area and the property, the activities are not likely to have a direct negative impact on the OUV of the property. However, neither the IDIA nor the State Party's decision adequately recognise the direct functional and landscape relationship between reindeer husbandry in the mining concession area and the property, and the need to consider consequent impacts of the proposal on the attributes of the OUV arising from disruption to traditional reindeer herding practice and migration routes. The decision notes conditions regarding potential impacts on areas outside the concession, particularly in relation to reindeer migration and grazing. However, the lack of criteria for assessing the fulfilment of these conditions suggests that they are not sufficiently precise or binding. It is important to highlight that condition 12 of the exploitation concession requires the proponent to undertake a revised IDIA in accordance with the principles of the IUCN Advice Note and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre prior to applying for a permit to use the concession. While this is appreciated, it should be stressed that such a revised IDIA should have been conducted before granting the exploitation concession. It is recommended the State Party be urged to ensure that the revised IDIA is undertaken which fully assesses the direct, indirect, short- and long-term potential impacts on the OUV, especially the cultural values of reindeer migration and husbandry and aforementioned activities associated with the property. This should be completed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, which replaces previous IUCN and ICOMOS guidance documents, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Furthermore, the significant concerns raised by the SRs regarding a lack of consultation with relevant indigenous peoples including the Sámi village which would be directly impacted by the proposed development, are of deep concern. Noting also the objections expressed by indigenous peoples and local communities in the State Party's decision, it is important to reiterate that any decision taken in relation to cultural practices relating to World Heritage values should ensure appropriate consultation and clear evidence that free, prior and informed consent has been obtained, in line with the United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Operational Guidelines.

In view of the longstanding nature of the potential threats to OUV, concerns about the adequacy of the impact assessment process to date, and the State Party's decision in March 2022 to grant the exploitation concession for the Kallak mine project, it is recommended for the Committee to request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to ascertain the present condition of the property, the nature and extent of the threats to the property, and to provide guidance on the IDIA revision process including the efficacy of the criteria defined for the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed mining and ancillary activities, and to propose measures to facilitate the conservation of attributes which support the OUV of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.32**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,

2. *Recalling Decision **CONF 201 VIII.B** adopted at its 20th session (Merida, 1996) by which the Committee “recommended that the Swedish authorities continue to work with local Sámi people”, and Decision **37 COM 7 (Part III)** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) which urges all States Parties and leading industry stakeholders to respect the International Council on Mining and Metals “No-go” commitment by not permitting extractive activities within World Heritage properties and by making every effort to ensure that extractive companies located in their territory cause no damage to World Heritage properties, in line with Article 6 of the Convention,*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern that the State Party approved an exploitation concession for the proposed Kallak mining development in the vicinity of the property, which could potentially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property which is dependent on wider cultural practices of reindeer husbandry that are important to the integrity and authenticity of the property, and the attributes that underpin criteria (iii) and (v);*
4. *Notes the concerns raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on the failure to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the Sámi for this project and the threats to the rights of the Sámi as indigenous people and to the protection of their environmental and cultural heritage rights, and urges the State Party to:*
  - a) *Ensure that the practice of reindeer husbandry outside the boundaries of the property and directly related to reindeer husbandry within the property is adequately protected,*
  - b) *Ensure that any further consideration of the proposed Kallak mining development guarantees the free, prior and informed consent of the Sámi indigenous people, consistent with international legal obligations, including under the Convention;*
5. *Considers that the 2017 In-depth Impact Assessment (IDIA) commissioned by the mining company, which underpins the approval of the exploitation concession issued by the State Party in March 2022, does not adequately assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the OUV of the property, and deeply regrets that the exploitation concession was granted before the assessment was revised to address the issues raised in the 2021 joint ICOMOS/IUCN Technical Review of the IDIA;*
6. *Notes the requirement in the concession conditions to revise the IDIA prior to an application for a mining operation in the concession area, and requests the State Party to ensure that a revised integrated IDIA is completed to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, specifically addressing the Statement of OUV for the property and the attributes which support it, and to submit the assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to taking any decision regarding the potential issuing of a permit for a mining operation;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to ascertain the present condition of the property, the nature and extent of the threats to the property, and to provide guidance on the IDIA revision process including the efficacy of the criteria defined for the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed mining and ancillary activities, and to propose measures to facilitate the conservation of attributes which support the OUV of the property;*



8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

#### **33. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti) (C 180)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **AFRICA**

### **34. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **35. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **36. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **37. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **ARAB STATES**

### **38. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **39. Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage (Morocco) (C 1401)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **40. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 41. Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India) (C 1605)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Development pressures, in particular public infrastructure projects
- Develop the Special Area Heritage Plan under Jaipur Master Plan 2025
- Complete the detailed heritage inventory for the property
- Improve legal protection by introducing architectural control guidelines and by controlling demolitions
- Extend the management system
- Develop a detailed monitoring programme
- Establish an overall interpretation and presentation policy and program for the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/documents/> and addresses recommendations made at the time of inscription of the property in 2019 (Decision **43 COM 8B.16**). While some delays have been experienced due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has been achieved in the following areas:

- A Special Area Heritage Plan is being developed by Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage (NNJH), and six online workshops have been held on heritage management and planning in close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, which undertook a mission in April 2022;
- The high number of elements to be surveyed poses significant challenges. The detailed base map is under preparation using a GIS platform and high-resolution drone imagery. Physical surveys are in progress, including an architectural survey of the approximately 40,000 buildings in the property. The basic infrastructure for two chowkris has been completed, and two more are in progress. A draft inventory of 600 structures is being conducted by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for heritage-graded structures in six chowkris. Elevation drawings of the current condition of all main bazaar facades have been updated;
- Social infrastructure surveys have been completed for all chowkris, and there is ongoing work to survey physical infrastructure (such as water supply, drainage, sewage and electrical lines);

- A consultant has developed a Detailed Project Report for the conservation of Parkota Wall, and the tender for Phase 1 Priority Works will open soon;
- Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage (Walled City) Heritage Conservation and Protection Bylaws were established in 2020, addressing gaps identified when the property was inscribed, including the composition and roles of the State Heritage Committee, Technical Heritage Committee and Heritage Cell. Architectural Control Guidelines have been drafted by the Heritage Cell and released for public comment. When completed, these will be annexed to the city bylaws;
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been conducted by the Heritage Cell for 15 listed projects being implemented by Jaipur Smart City Ltd, and HIA Guidelines have been developed for future public projects;
- A list of ongoing and completed conservation projects (2020-2021) and the nine planned projects for which HIAs are currently being conducted is provided;
- A detailed monitoring framework has been developed by the Heritage Cell.
- The Development and Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage (DRONAH) has prepared a draft Interpretation and Tourism Plan in collaboration with relevant stakeholder organisations. Stone plaques signifying Jaipur's World Heritage status have been installed, and the design for new interpretive signs has been prepared by the Heritage Cell.

On 7 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party, in line with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, following third-party reports of a demolition notice within the property. At the time of writing this report, the State Party has not yet responded to this request.

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

Progress has occurred with several recommendations made at the time of the property's inscription in 2019. Continued progress toward the detailed base map and an integrated inventory of attributes are important ongoing priorities, along with further developing the capacity of the Heritage Cell of Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage. The improvements to the monitoring system are noted; however, it is considered that these require further elaboration to function effectively for this property. Capacity building discussions have highlighted the need to mobilise local communities and residents of the walled city for monitoring.

The application of HIA for a range of conservation, infrastructure and development projects is noted, and the State Party has recognised the need to further improve the HIA processes by developing additional guidelines. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to update this guidance in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, developed in collaboration between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. Several projects are listed in the State Party's report; however, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies cannot provide comments without accompanying information. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide this information to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, at its earliest convenience.

Additionally, the Committee may request the State Party to submit detailed information on the status of projects indicated in the Advisory Body Evaluation report, such as the multi-storeyed car park at Chaugan stadium complex and the Jaleb Chowk redevelopment projects, and on any ongoing and planned works within the property or its buffer zone that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies. In addition, the State Party is yet to provide any clarification in response to reports of demolition activities within the property.

Completing the Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage (Walled City) Heritage Conservation and Protection Bylaws, drafting Architectural Control Guidelines, and greater control over demolitions should strengthen the protection and management of the property. Therefore, the Committee may request that the State Party improve and finalise the legal protection of the property by introducing architectural control guidelines, including control over demolitions, and ensure that these planning documents align with the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL).

The UNESCO Office in New Delhi organised, together with key stakeholders, a training workshop on Special Area Heritage Plan in Jaipur (1-9 April 2022) and emphasised the required capacity building for site managers of the property. The Committee may therefore request the State Party to enhance the technical and management capacities of the Heritage Cell within the Jaipur Municipality.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B.16**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the progress made to improve the frameworks for legal protection and management of the property and the ongoing efforts to establish a detailed base plan and inventory of the property's attributes;
4. Notes that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been undertaken for a range of conservation, infrastructure and development projects and that the State Party has developed additional guidance for public projects to strengthen the effectiveness of its HIA processes, and encourages the State Party to update this guidance, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, developed in collaboration between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre;
5. Also notes that there are several projects under consideration pending the completion of HIAs, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:
  - a) Detailed information on the projects currently under consideration,
  - b) Information on the status of projects listed in the 2019 Advisory Body Evaluation report, such as the multi-storeyed car park at Chaugan stadium complex and the Jaleb Chowk Redevelopment projects, and
  - c) Information about any ongoing or planned works within the property or its buffer zone that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has initiated work in response to its previous decision, and encourages continued progress on the following actions:
  - a) Develop and implement the Special Area Heritage Plan under the Jaipur Master Plan 2025 to enhance the state of conservation of the property with regard to development impacts, including those affecting the city wall and craft streets, in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL),
  - b) Complete the detailed base plan and inventory of the attributes of OUV,
  - c) Finalise the Architectural Control Guidelines and control over demolitions, following stakeholder and public consultations,
  - d) Continue to improve the monitoring system, ensuring that it provides adequate information about the state of conservation of the property,
  - e) Complete the draft interpretation strategy and tourism plans, including elements such as parking lots;
7. Also requests the State Party to strengthen the enforcement of the Jaipur Nagar Nigam Heritage (Walled City) Heritage Conservation and Protection Bylaws 2020 to improve the legal protection of the property and to enhance the technical and management capacity and human resources of the Heritage Cell within Jaipur Municipality;

8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

## **42. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan) (C 1103)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2018: USD 47,111 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project 'Technical support to the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in Turkestan, Kazakhstan, by introducing Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in Central Asia'

### Previous monitoring missions

December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; May 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management System/Management Plan (Newly developed Master Plan; Conservation and Management Plan)
- Buildings and Development (Urban high rise/changes to skyline; Construction of a new mosque)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>. This report addresses several issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The International Institute of Central Asian Studies (IICAS) conducted six visits to the property in 2020-2021. In January-February 2022, IICAS visited the site with international and local experts and reported that the state of conservation of the Mausoleum remains satisfactory and the new tiling on the dome shows positive results, although concerns remain over the movement of the masonry structure of the dome. In addition, IICAS and the expert team report a number of issues requiring further monitoring and amendment, including structural and moisture monitoring, improving construction details, and amending the new landscape installation, as well as the need for a Disaster Risk Management component for the Management Plan;
- Technical monitoring was implemented by Kazrestoration SRE and the Kazakh Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences (KAACS) in 2020;
- The Scientific-Methodological Council is functioning and has met six times since 2020;



- The ticketing and access system has been upgraded and landscaping around the Mausoleum has been completed.
- With regard to the buffer zone, the landscaping of the Azret Sultan Museum reserve, which will be monitored for any impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, has been completed. Continuous archaeological excavations, stabilization and interpretation of the Kultobe Archaeological Park were carried out by Kazakh Research Institute of Culture LLP in 2019-2021, with financial support from the Eurasian Resources Group;
- Brief information is provided on the development of the Spiritual and Cultural Centre in the wider setting. The Caravanserai and the Hampton Hotel and Drama Theatre projects all complied with their project design, and the State Party's evaluation concluded that no negative visual impact could be detected. The size of the Presidential Park was reduced due to the potential for archaeological remains;
- Three new projects in the wider setting and the buffer zone related to the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre project are noted, for which Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- Extensive presentation, interpretation and awareness raising programmes have been implemented, with the Museum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, which was to be opened to the public in 2022;
- The State Party commits to updating the Management Plan and submitting this to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- Brief information on the Master Plan for the city of Turkestan is annexed to the report, comprising a short translation and two drawings: the 'Historical and Architectural basic plan' and 'Master plan with the marked visual access protection zone'.

Following the receipt of third-party reports, on 13 December 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide further information on developments in the landscape in front of the Mausoleum, the construction of an "ethnic village" and a commercial zone, which raise concerns on the state of conservation of the Mausoleum and the balance of tourism and the spiritual dimensions and sacral use of the property. The State Party replied on 13 January 2023, reporting that:

- The Committee's decisions recorded in its Decision **43 COM 7B.67** have been implemented;
- Humidity has historically been a problem at the Mausoleum, and recent actions have reduced the humidity, which is constantly monitored;
- Metal ties and scaffolding are also historical;
- Tourists visit the Mausoleum primarily for pilgrimage and worship;
- Two international meetings on the technical condition of the Mausoleum were held in 2022.

Seven Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) on projects in the buffer zone and the immediate setting of the property were appended to the State Party's reply, all dated 30 April 2022. The majority of these HIAs were undertaken only after completion of construction projects. A brief report on the monitoring of the Kazandyk (main hall) and Askhana (kitchen) was also appended.

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

The continued monitoring of the Mausoleum by the experts engaged by the State Party is welcome. Their conclusions show that the state of conservation of the Mausoleum receives appropriate attention, but also highlight areas of concern, notably the structural integrity of the dome, including its timber beams; moisture penetration and associated salt efflorescence; unresolved electrical and fire security installation issues; and new inappropriate landscape installations adjacent to the Mausoleum, which the experts recommend removing or relocating 100 m away from the Mausoleum. The experts also highlight the need for a Disaster Risk Management Plan as part of the updated Management Plan, improved detailing and amended paving.

These recommendations by the State Party's advisors are supported, bearing in mind that irrigation of the green landscaping may exacerbate the humidity problems that affect the Mausoleum. Further details on the functioning and scope of work of the Scientific-Methodological Council, constituted in 2019, would nonetheless be welcome.

The investigations and stabilization of the archaeological remains located in the buffer zone are welcome, as is the State Party's commitment to monitor new landscape interventions in the buffer zone for their potential impact on the property's OUV. However, this requires a clear definition of the attributes of the OUV and identified monitoring indicators. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to develop a full list of attributes of the OUV and a complete framework of monitoring indicators and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. This would also assist the State Party in fully assessing the general and project-specific impacts of changes within the property, its buffer zones and wider setting, which remain of concern. It is noted that the State Party's report on the visual impact of the Presidential Park and Memorial Complex of Khans, the Caravanserai and the Hampton Hotel and Drama Theatre only assesses views from the entrance of the Mausoleum towards the projects and not from the setting towards the property.

The State Party's adoption of impact assessments is welcome. The Yassi Garden and the Ethno Village projects are in the buffer zone, and the First President Park, Memorial Complex of Kazakh Khans, improvement of Arbat Pedestrian Alley and the Medina Palace Hotel, are in the immediate setting of the property. The seventh HIA concerns a proposal for Phase II of the Improvement of the Territory of the Azret-Sultan Reserve-Museum, located in the buffer zone of the property, which was not yet carried out. All seven HIAs submitted in 2023 take a defined set of attributes of the property into consideration. These attributes, identified in 2019, are limited to tangible aspects of the OUV. Wider values are also included in these assessments but provide a limited understanding of the contribution of the buffer zone and setting to the integrity and authenticity of the property. While it is welcome that HIAs were undertaken, it is regrettable that six of them were undertaken only after the projects had been finalised, and therefore should be considered as post-project analyses. The reports are all limited in their scope and their assessment of the impact on OUV. The State Party has not provided any timeline for the implementation of Phase II of the Improvement of the Territory of the Azret-Sultan Reserve-Museum project, which includes large, new domes constructions over the Kultobe archaeological site. It is recommended that the project should not be implemented, nor any decision made on its implementation until the HIA has been improved, based on a better analysis of the contribution of the buffer zone and setting to the integrity and authenticity of the property's OUV. The new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context should be of use to the State Party in improving impact assessments for the property. It is also suggested that an on-site training course on impact assessments by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM could assist the State Party in improving future impact assessments for World Heritage properties in Kazakhstan.

The information provided by the State Party on the Master Plan is limited in scope and detail. The drawings are reproduced at a low resolution, while the textual translation includes only two pages of the adopted Master Plan and does not provide an explanation of the Plan's intentions. The transmitted pages note that a standard construction height of 2-3 storeys (7-10 m) is allowed in the protected view axes, which exceeds the maximum 7 m height limit within the view axes requested by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.31**. The four-storey Medina Palace Hotel, located in the view axis limiting building heights to 7 m, was approved in 2019. While the HIA states that it was approved before the 7 m limitation was adopted into the Master Plan, the height limitations in place at the time of inscription of the property should nonetheless have been adhered to.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently amend the Master Plan to take into account its previous requests, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre high-resolution copies of the 'Historical and Architectural basic plan' and 'Master plan with the marked visual access protection zone' with the accompanying written regulations and any other relevant documents, presented in one of the working languages of the Convention, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to include a Disaster Risk Management Plan in the update of the Management Plan of the property and submit the Plan in one of the working languages of the Convention to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.42**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the continued monitoring of the Mausoleum by the State Party's advisors, and requests that the recommendations of the February 2022 report by the International Institute of Central Asian Studies (IICAS) be implemented;
4. Also requests that the State Party provide an update report on the functioning and effect of the Scientific-Methodological Council constituted in 2019;
5. Also welcomes the extensive presentation, interpretation and awareness-raising programmes, the installation of interpretative signage in the buffer zone, and the investigations and stabilization of the archaeological remains located in the buffer zone, along with the State Party's commitment to monitor the new landscape interventions in the buffer zone for their potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Further requests the State Party to develop a full list of the attributes bearing the OUV and the contribution of the buffer zone and wider setting to the authenticity and integrity of the property, along with a complete framework of monitoring indicators, and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Acknowledges the State Party's submission of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for seven projects in the property's buffer zone and setting, but regrets that six of these were only undertaken after the projects had been completed, and therefore can only be considered as post-project analysis documents;
8. Requests furthermore that no decision be made nor any implementation begin for the project 'Phase II of the Improvement of the Territory of the Azret-Sultan Reserve-Museum' until an improved HIA has been undertaken and conclusively shows that the project will not have any negative impact on the OUV of the property, and until full details of the project have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Encourages the State Party to request the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to provide onsite training and capacity building on the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context and assist it in improving its impact assessment practice;
10. Reminds the State Party to inform it in due course, via the World Heritage Centre, about any projects that may affect the property's OUV, with necessary documentation based on rigorous independent impact assessment procedures before they are approved or implemented, and before any irreversible decision is made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;
11. Notes that the Turkestan Master Plan allows for construction heights in the protected view cones exceeding the 7-metre height limit previously requested by this Committee, and reiterates its request to the State Party that it ensure that the Master Plan:
  - a) Recognises the OUV of the property,
  - b) Includes the View Axis Protection Area that prohibits any new development within the area from exceeding the 7-metre height limit;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the amended Master Plan, including high-resolution copies of the 'Historical and Architectural basic plan' and the 'Master plan with the marked visual access protection zone', along with the relevant written regulations and any other relevant documentation, in one of the working languages of the Convention;

13. Requests the State Party to finalise its revision of the Management Plan by extending its scope and including:
- Clearly articulated attributes of OUV that need to be protected and managed, developed in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - Principles and operationalization measures for future development,
  - A Disaster Risk Management Plan,
  - A Visitor Management Plan for the property;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

### **43. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/479/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1994 to 2021)

Total amount approved: USD 154,442

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/479/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 200,000 (France / UNESCO Cooperation Agreement).

#### Previous monitoring missions

September–October 2007: UNESCO/Region Centre/Ville de Chinon international co-operation project mission; November 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2009: UNESCO/Ville de Chinon/ADUC cooperation program mission; April 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of enforcement of the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan (PSMV) and illegal constructions
- Public works (proposed hydropower construction, proposed new town, airport extension, pedestrian bridge) which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/479/>

#### Current conservation issues

The State Party provided a report on the state of conservation of the property on 28 January 2022, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/479/documents> and indicates the following:

- The development plan of Luang Prabang World Heritage Site and the provincial development strategy guide the implementation of major projects within the property and its buffer zones, and projects are being implemented to improve infrastructure and promote the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in accordance with the regulations;
- The management authority of Luang Prabang is undertaking feasibility studies to improve infrastructure and aimed at preserving the OUV, noting that funding is needed for conducting

heritage impact assessments for seeking the World Heritage Centre's recommendations prior to projects' implementation;

- Concerning the state of conservation of attributes which support OUV, the State Party reports that 611 significant buildings are inventoried in the property, and that it has been reaching out to various stakeholders, including through educational activities and the implementation of the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan ("Plan de sauvegarde et mise en valeur", hereafter PSMV).
- Since 1995, 339 inventoried buildings (55% of the total) have been renovated, 257 buildings (42%) have not been renovated, and 15 uninhabited buildings (2%) were demolished due to their poor condition and must be rebuilt according to their original characteristics. 32 buildings (5%) remain dilapidated and in need of being urgently repaired;
- With regard to the Integrated Tourism Management plan, the State Party recognizes the need to align the current tourism activities with the preservation needs of the property and requests financial and technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Fund in conducting necessary studies and activities for this purpose;
- The Nam Khan Riverbank project, an emergency operation following the natural disaster in 2016, prevents erosion of the riverbanks and damage to buildings in the area. Operations on two points were implemented from 2018 to 2020, allowing the natural growth of vegetation and contributing to the safety and security of the Town;
- For the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project (LPHPP), the authorities have instructed the project developer to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in accordance with the regulations and World Heritage Centre's guidelines;
- The report 'State of Conservation of Luang Prabang: 2014-2020' provides an overview of the activities conducted by the authorities in a variety of the fields for the preservation of the property.

The State Party submitted the Nam Khan Bridge Project in November 2021 for review by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The ICOMOS technical review recommended that a full HIA be carried out and that the design be revised. The State Party resubmitted documentation for the Mekong and Nam Khan Riverbank Protection project in October 2022 and a further ICOMOS technical review was provided in January 2023. The State Party responded in May 2023.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.32**, the State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which took place from 4 to 9 April 2022.

On 8 December 2022, referring to the recommendations of the final report of the abovementioned mission and other elements provided by various sources including civil society in neighbouring countries, the United Nations in Lao PDR addressed a letter to the President of National Assembly expressing its concern over the LPHPP's possible impacts on cultural, social and economic situations of the property and in a wider zone.

Revised sets of the HIA on the LPHPP were sent to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in December 2022 and January 2023, but the State Party announced with a new letter of 9 March 2023 its intention to commission a new HIA to comply with the previous requests from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, by engaging an independent group of experts including heritage professionals.

The Luang Prabang World Heritage Office was merged as of May 2023 into the provincial office of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

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

The State Party has implemented a range of activities in preservation, education and monitoring, as reported in the state of conservation report and in its Annex 'State of Conservation of Luang Prabang: 2014-2020'.

The April 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission conducted in-depth analysis of the property's preservation, governance and development projects. Although the mission recognized that the physical attributes, such as townscape and architectural features, are substantively intact, they remain fragile and at risk, and other attributes of OUV, in particular natural, environmental and intangible features of the property and its setting are threatened by numerous factors and require strong measures to address potential threats.

Out of a total of 611, 142 buildings within the property should be given immediate priority, and a contingency plan is needed for buildings that are beyond repair. Affordable materials and traditional repair and maintenance techniques are essential, and a mechanism is needed to guarantee their availability. Ecological attributes of OUV, such as ponds and wetlands in urban spaces, should be rehabilitated and maintained. Beyond the physical conservation, the integration of intangible attributes into the management policies and practices is necessary to maintain the town's urban fabric as a living entity.

The PSMV provides, through the services of the Luang Prabang World Heritage Office (LPWHO), the primary framework to regulate the built assets within the property and its buffer zones, and its integration with the Provincial Strategic Plan and Urban Plan is effective. However, the PSMV framework and its provisions require updating. Such a revision should engage comprehensively with all of the attributes supporting OUV, including the sub-categories of 'Civil Buildings', as well as the principles of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including reflection on the notion of authenticity in the context of living heritage town, where replacement of defective historic fabric is a necessary maintenance activity.

The proposed regular updating of the inventories of attributes based on GIS should support this revision process, allowing an understanding of the evolution of major attributes, including modern buildings, river embankments and water levels, and thereby informing appropriate policy formulation. In addition, the mission suggested adjustments to the sub-categories of recognised architecture to include modern forms of architecture previously excluded or not itemized in the inventory, and the monitoring and active management of landscapes, particularly the riverbank morphology and water-related information. New funding from France through the World Heritage Centre as well as assistance from the Asian Development Bank has contributed to the updating of PSMV and GIS data and the organization of several workshops in 2022 and 2023 associating the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS experts.

The State Party is strongly advised to proceed carefully with ongoing and future development and international cooperation projects by considering their direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the attributes supporting OUV and their consistency with and degree of contribution to the objectives of preservation of the property and its buffer zones. This approach requires proactive planning with in-depth understanding of cultural, social and environmental attributes of the OUV to make heritage preservation and development initiatives compatible and mutually sustaining. In this regard, the mission has suggested adjustments to the riverbank protection projects and identified options for changes to the Nam Kham River bridge project, having regard to the ICOMOS technical advice.

Decision **44 COM 7B.32** recommended that the State Party halt construction activities for the LPHPP until the completion of technical studies and their review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. It would therefore be appropriate for the Committee to express deep concern about the progress made with the site preparation for the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project (LPHPP) without a clear assessment that there would be no threats to the property's OUV, a satisfactory HIA or defined mitigation measures. The HIA submitted by the State Party in November 2021 was reviewed by both ICOMOS and IUCN, informed by the views of independent experts commissioned under the International Assistance Programme. The review concluded that the HIA does not provide an appropriate analysis on crucial points, including suspected cumulative impacts of numerous dams upstream and downstream the site, combined with climate change effects, the modification or collapse of geomorphology and terrestrial and aquatic environment of the property and its surroundings, and longer impacts on spiritual practices, beliefs, culinary traditions and other immaterial but integral parts of the property's OUV. The Reactive Monitoring mission of April 2022 concluded that there is no firm evidence that the LPHPP will not impact the OUV of the property. The new set of HIA documents provided in December 2022 and January 2023, led by the same group of experts who carried out the hydropower development planning, does not provide definitive answers to the recommendations of the mission and the previous ICOMOS/IUCN review nor provide an independent assessment. The State Party's recent move to commission a neutral HIA by a group of cultural heritage experts, is welcome. Pending the submission of the new HIAs, in the absence of definitive evidence that cumulative negative impacts will not alter the physical, ecological and intangible attributes supporting the property's OUV, the Committee should recommend that the State Party does not pursue any further advancement of the LPHPP or any other new hydropower or dam structures in areas where there could be potential impacts on World Heritage properties.

The mission identified other areas in which intervention is needed to preserve attributes which support the OUV. The visual coherence of infrastructure and materials proposed as part of development projects should not conflict with the town's atmosphere nor with town and streetscape qualities because of their generic design. Governance needs to be enhanced across all layers, starting from the integration of the

World Heritage Convention's principles into relevant laws and management guidelines of territorial development, in particular by operationalizing the application of the impact assessments. The Tourism Management Plan, which was urgently requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.32**, should be elaborated as soon as possible, in view of the post-COVID-19 return of mass tourism and the full operation of the new high-speed train linking Luang Prabang with Vientiane and Chinese cities. The long-term concern of the Committee to provide a solid, autonomous financial base for the preservation of the Town of Luang Prabang (including high-cost repair and maintenance of traditional architecture), might be addressed by resumption of the Heritage Funds, following the return of tourists, and complementary financial arrangement to compensate for the absence of public subsidies.

Since 2021, the Mekong and Nam Khan Riverbank protection project has been subject to two phases of ICOMOS technical review, the most recent of which advised that the project should be modified so that the hard, engineered appearance of the proposed system will not adversely affect the contribution of the river to the OUV of the property. The State Party is pursuing such modifications and has been further encouraged to investigate bio-engineered solutions to maintain the natural appearance of the riverbank slopes, using endemic species, and based on hydraulic principles supported by rigorous testing at source, preferably under extreme conditions, over an appropriate period of time. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to follow the ICOMOS advice.

To ensure the preservation of the property and its diverse attributes, the Committee may wish to recommend that the site management unit, recently undergone a restructuring, remains the unified and multidisciplinary management entity responsible for supervision of the inscribed zones, supported by essential reinforcement of human and financial resources. Finally, the roles of the Provincial and National Committees for World Heritage should be reinforced, especially to bring a more robust coordination mechanism for decision-making relating to national-level development projects (e.g., hydropower projects).

While appreciating the State Party's efforts to enhance the protection of the property's OUV and make multiple revisions to the HIA, the ongoing pursuit of the LPHPP, without definitive evidence that there is no direct, indirect, and or cumulative impacts to the OUV of the property, constitutes a significant threat to the property. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee review, at its 46th session, whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.43**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.32** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to implement activities for preservation, education and monitoring, but reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the Infrastructure Development Plan for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its final approval and implementation;*
4. *Welcomes and endorses the findings and recommendations of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and invites the State Party to continue implementing all mission recommendations, and in particular to:*
  - a) *Address the preservation of attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by:*
    - (i) *Affording priority to the 142 remaining buildings, especially those entirely constructed of wood, as part of a contingency plan for cases of advance decay, including possible public allocations,*

- (ii) *Ensuring access to affordable materials for construction and repair, as well as traditional conservation skills to sustain the authenticity of the property,*
  - (iii) *Pursuing the rehabilitation programme for wetlands and ponds, highly valued ecological attributes of OUV,*
  - (iv) *Considering public outreach projects to valorise intangible aspects that sustain the Town of Luang Prabang's urban fabric as a living entity,*
- b) *Pursue its work updating the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan (PSMV), with technical and financial support by various partners by:*
- (i) *Including the appropriate sub-categories such as 'Civil Buildings' and regularly updating GIS inventories of attributes of OUV and adding the contour levels of the embankments, water levels and depth soundings of the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, to enable chronological tracking,*
  - (ii) *Elaborating policies as part of the PSMV to embrace all elements that support the property's OUV (built heritage, natural, environmental and intangible attributes), and referring to the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs), and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape,*
  - (iii) *Reflecting on authenticity as it is applicable to the Asian context, including reference to the Nara Document on Authenticity and the Hoi An Protocols,*
- c) *Address ongoing and future development initiatives to safeguard the full set of attributes of OUV through proactive planning efforts and a deeper understanding of the social, natural and cultural attributes of the property's OUV and their interconnection, and notably to:*
- (i) *Prioritise the studies suggested by the 2019 Technical Review to inform the concept of future actions relating to the riverbank protection, and consider a hybrid system to suit different riverbank landscapes when applicable, in the interest of sustainable development,*
  - (ii) *Consider alternative approaches to the proposed replacement of the Nam Khan River Bridge in light of the ICOMOS technical review, and the option proposed by the Reactive Monitoring mission of a like-for-like replacement,*
  - (iii) *Establish and apply Urban Design Guidelines to preserve streetscapes and materials to be used in future development projects in and around the inscribed and buffer zones;*
5. *Requests the State Party not to pursue the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project (LPHPP) and to relocate the project and other future and similar projects to locations that pose no threat to the World Heritage properties, their associated values or their environmental setting, noting in particular that previous studies and the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) submitted in November 2021, December 2022 and January 2023 have not provided a satisfactory analysis nor sufficient evidence that the LPHPP would not further affect the attributes of OUV, including the natural environment of the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, the associated religious and cultural practices and the living conditions of local communities;*
6. *Also notes that the State Party will further elaborate the proposed Mekong and Nam Khan Riverbank Protection project in accordance with the most-recent ICOMOS technical advice, and encourages the State Party to further explore bio-engineered solutions which will ensure protection against disasters as well as maintaining attributes which support the OUV of the property;*



7. Invites the State Party to strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms relating to the management of the property by:
  - a) *Elaborating an Integrated Tourism Management Plan, in line with the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism guidelines and the ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage and other relevant guidelines, based on a carrying capacity study, to inform the measures to regulate tourism-related activities and infrastructure development, to prioritise the actions, including those to ensure safety and security of visitors (e.g., Mount Phousi),*
  - b) *Resuming the operationalisation of the Heritage Fund with the return of tourists and possible complementary financial support to assist necessary repair and maintenance works for the most significant traditional architecture,*
  - c) *Maintaining the former Luang Prabang World Heritage Office (LPWHO) under restructuring as the unified technical entity overlooking the various aspects of the management of the property with necessary human and financial reinforcement,*
  - d) *Strengthening the role of National and Provincial Committees for National Heritage to ensure the proactive and informed coordination for major development projects;*
8. Requests the State Party to integrate the World Heritage Convention's principles within the broader context of territorial and developmental planning for World Heritage properties in Lao PDR, including for the properties' buffer zones and wider settings, and to widen the recognition of heritage-related impact assessments and of the obligations of States Parties to the Convention among national and international development stakeholders, to ensure the coherence of the management framework;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **44. Bagan (Myanmar) (C 1588)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## 45. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-2007

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1979 to 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 417,619

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10 million (1979-2001) from the International Safeguarding Campaign launched by UNESCO; USD 45,000 (2005) and USD 20,000 (2011) from UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. Several UNESCO extra-budgetary projects have been approved in 2015-2016 for the emergency safeguarding, conservation and rehabilitation process of the Kathmandu Valley after the 2015 earthquake. They include USD 1 million from the Chinese Hainan Airlines Group (Cihang Foundation), USD 250,000 from the Hong Kong based Fok Foundation, USD 145,000 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, USD 100,000 from the Nepal Investment Bank, USD 26,804 from French Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance and USD 18,000 from voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund.

### Previous monitoring missions

February 2003: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; April 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2011: UNESCO Advisory Mission with international experts; November 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October-November 2015: joint World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake (Severe earthquake of 25 April 2015)
- Housing (Uncontrolled urban development resulting in the loss of traditional urban fabric, in particular privately-owned houses)
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a coordinated management mechanism)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction of a forest road)
- Underground transport infrastructure (Project for tunnel road in Pashupati Monument Zone)
- Air transport infrastructure (Project for the extension of the Kathmandu International Airport)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/>

### Current conservation issues

In July 2021 the State Party submitted an amended version of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property, one section of the Master Plan for the Pashupati Monument Zone, a plan for the Palace Museum of the Hanumandhoka Monument Zone, and the draft procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in Nepal. On 31 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and on 1 March 2023, the State Party submitted an update report. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/documents/>. The State Party reports on conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions as follows:

- The State Party acknowledges support from the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the period since the 2015 Gorkha earthquake and seeks more proactive support, rather than inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- The main focus, in all seven monument zones of the property, remains the completion of post-earthquake reconstruction, restoration and recovery activities;

- The International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley (ISC-KV) has been established, the Terms of Reference and a List of Members have been provided, several pre-meetings have been held, and the first ISC-KV meeting organised in Kathmandu in March 2023. The ISC-KV's role is to facilitate collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and international experts and to assist with the implementation of the Committee's decisions, workshops and research, the development of a digital database, a better understanding of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), and the overall socio-economic revitalization of urban communities. The State Party proposes to fund local participation but seeks support from the international community to ensure the contributions of international expert to the ISC-KV. The recommendations from the ISC-KV meeting in March 2023 were submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Owing to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, detailed reports were not provided by all site managers, but restoration and reconstruction of monuments has progressed in accordance with the Post-Disaster Recovery Framework. Completion of post-earthquake recovery remains the main focus in all seven monument zones, but there is also a need to transition from post-earthquake rehabilitation to regular long-term management of the property, in accordance with the amended IMF;
- The overall co-ordination and planning for each of the seven monument zones requires improvement. Addressing issues arising from the Recovery Master Plan (RMP), including longer-term concerns beyond earthquake recovery, will be a priority for the ISC-KV.
- The Master Plan for the Pashupati Monument Zone has been revised and now recognises its status as part of the property. Similar plans are required for each monument zone;
- The Lal Baithak wing of the National Art Museum, in Bhaktapur, will not be demolished and rebuilt, and further proposals will be evaluated through an HIA. The Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project continues; archaeologists are monitoring progress, and a final report will be prepared. Expansion of the Ring Road at Swayambhu is on hold, pending discussions and completion of an HIA. The procedures and format for HIA in Nepal are to be adopted by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and implemented through the Department of Archaeology.

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

The ongoing efforts of the State Party to pursue recovery, restoration and reconstruction following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake are acknowledged. The World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and successive missions have consistently advised that both the impacts of the earthquake and the inadequacy of the response threaten the property's integrity, authenticity and other attributes that support its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It was previously reported to the Committee, including in previous Reactive Monitoring mission reports (2017 and 2019), that the threats to the property meet the conditions set out in Paragraph 179 (a) of the Operational Guidelines. However, neither the State Party nor recent Committee decisions support inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The establishment of the ISC-KV and the submitted list of members are welcome, and the Terms of Reference are appropriate to its stated roles. The first ISC-KV has recently provided recommendations that respond to previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring missions, setting out a path for transition from post-disaster recovery to standard management. The Committee may wish to express its support for the State Party's request that the international community provide the resources needed to enable the active participation of international experts.

Although many previously identified issues and Committee decisions have been addressed, authenticity has been adversely affected by the introduction of new materials (e.g., the addition of lime to mud mortar) and by the reconstruction of some buildings based on conjecture instead of evidence. Continuing threats to the property include the ongoing deterioration of structures that are yet to be repaired, the lack of attention to urban and ancient settlements, the loss of traditional housing, unsympathetic or uncontrolled development within monument buffer zones, the impacts of new urban infrastructure, and the need for cyclical maintenance programmes and disaster risk management planning.

The 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission acknowledged that there has been progress towards the recovery of the property and its OUV and made important recommendations that the Committee subsequently requested the State Party to implement. The State Party has not reported

comprehensively on all the recommendations from the 2019 mission, and the Committee may wish to remind the State Party of the full scope of its previous requests. In particular, the establishment of a Recovery Master Plan for each Protective Monument Zone of the property, as previously requested by the Committee on multiple occasions, remains incomplete, and it is regrettable that specific guidance has not informed the ongoing recovery works in the seven Monument Zones. It is also noted that the need for an updated Recovery Plan is the first recommendation of the ISC-KV.

The amended IMF for the property is welcome and should be subject to a technical review by the Advisory Bodies. It is also welcome that the Master Plan for the Pashupati Monument Zone has been revised, and it would be appropriate to request that the entirety of the revised New Master Plan be submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The Committee should remind the State Party of its previous request that details of major projects, including HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse. It is also recommended that the Committee specifically request that further proposals for the Lal Baithak wing of the National Art Museum, Bhaktapur, including the proposed HIA, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The previously requested documentation of the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project, showing amendments made in response to the ICOMOS Technical Review, has not been submitted prior to work proceeding. On the other hand, it is welcome that the proposed expansion of the Ring Road at Swayambhu is on hold pending further consideration.

The Committee should request that the draft procedures and format for HIA in Nepal be reviewed prior to adoption, to ensure consistency with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee support the process established through the ISC-KV and defer consideration of the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Pending further progress with the implementation of its previous requests and the recommendations of the 2017 and 2019 Reactive Monitoring missions, in accordance with the recent recommendations of the ISC-KV, the Committee may wish to request the State Party to adopt and implement the recommendations of the first ISC-KV from March 2023, particularly the following overarching tasks and programmes:

- Finalize post-disaster recovery phase,
- Review and revise, if necessary, the Integrated Management Plan,
- Review and revise, if necessary, the effectiveness of essential management procedures and tools,
- Establish a comprehensive information management system,
- Provide capacity strengthening and training,
- Establish regular ISC-KV and Coordinative Working Committee (CWC) meetings.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.45**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts towards the recovery of the property following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake and the establishment of the International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley (ISC-KV);*

4. *Calls upon the international community to continue supporting the State Party's recovery work through financial, technical or expert assistance, including support for local communities and their housing and social needs, and in particular to contribute the resources needed to enable the active participation of international experts in the newly-established ISC-KV;*
5. *Notes the submission of the revised Integrated Management Framework (IMF), which will be subject to a Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies and subsequently become part of the New Master Plan for Pashupati Protected Monument Zone, and requests the State Party to submit the entirety of the New Master Plan document and the revised IMF to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to formal government approval;*
6. *Urges the State Party to update the Recovery Master Plan (RMP), including revisions to the six-year plan and timetable, and to establish RMPs for each Protective Monument Zone of the property that is in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), and reiterates its request to the State Party to integrate the RMPs for each Protective Monument Zone of the property within the overall socio-economic revitalization programme for urban communities;*
7. *Recalls the conclusions and recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, especially the mission's findings regarding adverse effects on the authenticity of the property and the focus on monuments at the expense of other attributes, with the resulting consequences for traditional urban housing and ancient settlements, and therefore reiterates its request that the State Party fully implement all of the Reactive Monitoring mission's recommendations and report on its progress;*
8. *Notes the information provided regarding the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project, the Lal Baithak wing of the National Art Museum, Bhaktapur, and the proposed expansion of the Ring Road at Swayambhu, reminds the State Party of its previous request that the revised documentation of the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and also reminds the State Party that details of these projects and any other major projects, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Requests the State Party to ensure that the draft procedures and format for HIAs in Nepal are reviewed to be consistent with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, prior to being adopted;*
10. *Requests the State Party to adopt and implement the recommendations of the first ISC-KV from March 2023, and particularly the following overarching tasks and programmes:*
  - a) *Finalize post-disaster recovery phase,*
  - b) *Review and revise, if necessary, the Integrated Management Plan,*
  - c) *Review and revise, if necessary, the effectiveness of essential management procedures and tools,*
  - d) *Establish a comprehensive information management system,*
  - e) *Provide capacity strengthening and training,*
  - f) *Establish regular ISC-KV and Coordinative Working Committee (CWC) meetings;*

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

#### **46. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000 to 2007)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amounts provided: 2006: USD 7,200 from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; 2008-2020: 49,376 EUR and USD 105,000 from the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance; 2009-2024: USD 2,831,237 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust

##### Previous monitoring missions

May 2004, November 2005 and March 2022: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and September 2008: UNESCO Advisory missions; UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2009 in the context of the implementation of specific projects

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan
- Management activities
- Legal framework
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Commercial Development (Impact of the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple constructed in 2002 on the archaeological remains and the main sight lines of the property)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Air pollution
- Housing
- Industrial areas

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and an update report on 1 March 2023. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/> and provide the following information:

- The Integrated Management Framework (IMF), which was developed with support from the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFiT) Project, was adopted by the Government of Nepal in May 2022;
- Site managers are committed to undertaking comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prior to implementing significant development projects, none of which are currently planned. Procedures and a format for HIA in Nepal are to be adopted by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and implemented through the Department of Archaeology;

- A range of conservation and development activities has taken place, including treatment of fungi that has affected the brickwork of the marker stone, removal of intrusive vegetation, and improvement of drainage within the buffer zone;
- The Lumbini World Peace City Master Plan has been approved in principle by the Government of Nepal. The Lumbini Development Trust organized an initial implementation discussion with central and local stakeholders. The International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall was inaugurated during the Buddha Jayanti in May 2022. The project was subject to an HIA which concluded that there would be no significant impact to the property;
- The Lumbini Development Trust, in close coordination with the Department of Archaeology, is working with the Department of Environment of Nepal, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Nepal to reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
- International meetings have been organised to facilitate conservation and management of the property, including an Interdisciplinary Technical Meeting (ITM) and a management meeting focused on priority actions, held in November 2022. The International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the UNESCO/JFiT project is playing an instrumental role in the protection and management of the Greater Lumbini Area and the State Party is committed to using this forum to support the holistic conservation of the property, its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and wider setting.
- The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in Decisions **43 COM 7B.71** (Baku, 2019) and **44 COM 7B.148** (Fuzhou/online, 2021) took place from 21 to 28 March 2022.

The Lumbini 2023 ISC met in March 2023 and has provided detailed recommendations to the State Party and the property managers.

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

The formal adoption of the IMF is a welcome step, and its implementation, including allocation of necessary resources, should now be a major priority. The commitment to comprehensive HIAs as a precursor to significant development projects is welcome, as are the maintenance and repair works that have been reported. In view of the recent practice of proceeding with projects without prior notification, both within and in the vicinity of the property, the Committee may wish to remind the State Party that details of major projects, including HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse. The Committee may also wish to request that the draft procedures and format for HIA in Nepal be reviewed prior to adoption, to ensure consistency with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

The 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission found that the State Party and Site Manager have undertaken considerable work to improve the state of conservation, protection and management of the property. However, the mission noted that the property is facing deterioration of its significant attributes, which potentially puts its integrity, authenticity, and thus its OUV at risk. The mission report sets out helpful findings and specific recommendations regarding governance, site management, regulations and supporting documents, the submission of information to the World Heritage Centre, and specific projects, including the World Peace City initiative, the Mayadevi shelter, and the Buddhist Meditation Hall. These findings are consistent with and supplemented by recommendations from the recent meeting of 2023 ISC. It is recommended that the Committee endorse the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission and 2023 ISC meeting.

As previously reported to the Committee, the Lumbini World Peace City initiative was approved by the National Government prior to the submission of details and the HIA for the project, and despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Although the reported engagement with local stakeholders is welcome, the previously expressed concerns about potential adverse impacts on the OUV of the property remain. A comprehensive HIA should be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation.

The 2022 mission noted the need for practical and effective measures to prevent more damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around Mayadevi shelter. The mission has recommended that interdisciplinary surveys and associated discussions should proceed immediately to decide how to further ensure the adequate management of

the property, how a better shelter could be created as a mid- to long-term goal, using the latest surveys and technologies, and noted that facilities for pilgrims and visitors in and around the shelter should be improved. These concerns are also addressed in the recommendations of the March 2023 ISC meeting.

The establishment of the ISC is welcome, as is Phase IV of the UNESCO/JFiT project in Lumbini (3 years, USD 512,017), launched in March 2022. The ISC and the project should contribute to the protection and management of the Greater Lumbini Area and the conservation of the property and its wider setting. However, the State Party is yet to respond to the Committee's previous request that it outline a clear strategy encompassing a holistic approach and specific actions for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama. Nevertheless, the commitment by several agencies to work to reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property is a welcome initiative, and the Committee may wish to request more information from the State Party on this point.

Finally, as recommended by the mission, the Committee may wish to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 46th session, with a view to considering its possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in the absence of significant progress with the implementation of the Committee's previous requests and the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, including mitigation measures to address the ascertained threats to the property's OUV.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.46**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.148**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property and its adoption by the Government of Nepal, and urges the State Party to facilitate and provide the necessary resources for its swift implementation;*
4. *Also welcomes advice from the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will be completed for any proposed project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, requests the State Party to ensure that the draft procedures and format for HIAs in Nepal are reviewed to be consistent with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context prior to being adopted, and reiterates its request that HIAs be carried out before any further work occurs within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and that these HIAs and relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;*
5. *Further welcomes advice from the State Party regarding the International Scientific Committee (ISC) established as part of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project for the protection and management of the Greater Lumbini Area, along with the State Party's expressed commitment to using this forum and other international and technical meetings to support holistic conservation of the property, its OUV and wider setting;*
6. *Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and also urges the State Party to instigate a programme for the progressive implementation of the mission recommendations, particularly with respect to:*
  - a) *Governance, site management, regulations and supporting documents,*



- b) *Submission of information to the World Heritage Centre,*
  - c) *Interdisciplinary surveys and associated discussions regarding the Mayadevi shelter and improvements to facilities for pilgrims and visitors,*
  - d) *Implementation of preventive measures to reduce any negative impact to the property and its OUV, the surrounding landscape and the environment from the Buddhist Meditation Hall, located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area;*
7. *Also requests* *the State Party to implement the recommendations of the March 2023 meeting of the ISC, particularly with respect to:*
- a) *Declaration of the property as a Protected Monument Zone in accordance with the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956,*
  - b) *Sector strategies on: Archaeology, Local Development, Disaster Risk Management, Visitor Management, Environment and Buddhist Organisations, as outlined in the IMF,*
  - c) *A Visitor Management Plan/Physical Plan for the entire Sacred Garden of Lumbini,*
  - d) *Conservation and monitoring measures for the Mayadevi Temple Shelter,*
  - e) *Investigations, conservation and management of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu and the Greater Lumbini area,*
  - f) *Sustainable development and tourism;*
8. *Further requests* *the State Party to keep the World Heritage Committee informed about the updated details of the Lumbini World Peace City initiative and to prepare a comprehensive HIA as outlined above and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation;*
9. *Further notes* *the proposal to reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit further information about this initiative to the World Heritage Centre;*
10. *Also requests* *the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## 47. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2000-2012

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1981 to 2000)

Total amount approved: USD 121,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000 from the UNESCO/Norway Funds-in-Trust, the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, the Getty Foundation, and the Embassy of the United States of America in Pakistan

### Previous monitoring missions

October 2000: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2001 and June 2003: UNESCO Advisory missions; November 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: joint UNESCO Tehran Office/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April/May 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing; Land conversion (Encroachments and urban pressure)
- Management systems/management plan (Inadequate management mechanisms; lack of definition of boundaries of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens)
- Legal framework (Incomplete legislation)
- Financial resources (Lack of sufficient financial resources to implement management mechanisms)
- Underground transport infrastructure
- Ground transport infrastructure (Development of the Orange Line Metro - aerial portion of the line)
- Demolition of two of the tanks and partial demolition of a third tank of the hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/documents/>. The report provides the following information in response to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee:

- The State Party indicates that it is committed to working in close cooperation with, and taking advice from, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies and to implementing the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as far as possible. To this end, the Directorate General of Archaeology established a framework with an approved budget. A consultant has prepared eight feasibility studies: Traffic, Environmental, Socio-Economic Baseline, Buffer Zone Management, Conservation, Visitor Management, Stakeholder Engagement and Compliance. The actions arising from these studies will be implemented following consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
- Works undertaken on the Shalamar Gardens include the conservation and preservation of the perimeter wall, the Moor Craft building, stairways, ramps and walkways, as well as works on the Mughal hydraulic system and other drainage systems, the provision of public facilities and illumination, and the revival of horticulture works. The State Party has planted trees to form a natural 'mask' for the newly constructed Orange Metro Line, and the operation of the metro train has been modified to address vibration and noise;

- The State Party provided summary information about works undertaken at the Lahore Fort on Diwan-e-Khas, Shah Jahani Khawabgah, Paen Bagh Quadrangle, Khilwat Khana, Laal Burj, Kala Burj, Moti Masjid and Makatib Khana, Arz Gah, Akbari Hammam, Alamgiri Gate, Loh Mandir, Diwan-e-Aam, Daulat Khana Khas-o-Aam, Haveli Kharak Singh and adaptive re-use of the corner bastion of Lahore Fort. The State Party highlights restoration works to the Picture Wall, noting that works to the western façade are already completed, but that conservation activities at the northern segment of the wall are in progress and are scheduled to be completed in June 2023. Completed conservation works at the Royal Kitchen of the Fort, and its adaptive re-use as a multifunctional space, were approved by the Government of Punjab and informed by appropriate investigations and documentation;
- The 'Lahore Fort Precincts and Buffer Zone Master Plan' was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. This Plan considers the settings of the property components and is mindful of potential boundary modification to include Badshahi Masjid, the Hazoori Bagh and the Sikh Funerary complex within the property boundaries;
- The State Party commits to submitting proposed future projects at both components of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

In May 2022, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre an 'Inception Report' on the Consultancy Services for studies to implement the recommendations of the 2018 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission for Shalamar Gardens.

On 22 February 2022, following a Technical Review by ICOMOS, the State Party submitted a revised, final version of 'Lahore Fort Precincts and Buffer Zone Master Plan' to the World Heritage Centre, including a detailed matrix of the heritage values of components of the property.

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

The State Party has reported that it will address the Committee's previous decisions and implement the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission. However, despite these assurances, it has regrettably not engaged actively with the World Heritage Centre nor ICOMOS, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and the Committee's specific previous requests. Neither the state of conservation report nor other documents submitted by the State Party, nor the presentations made by the State Party during a meeting with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in March 2022 demonstrate actual delivery of outcomes on the ground. The 'Inception Report' submitted in May 2022 provides eight 'feasibility studies', but as yet there is no progress reported with the delivery of these projects.

Despite the absence of active consultation with World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, some projects have proceeded. While the completed projects at the Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort, listed above, appear to include both routine conservation activities and major new initiatives, none of the works were preceded by comprehensive referral and review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, contrary to the specific requests made by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.34**. Nevertheless, it is recognised that some conservation works are necessary, and the State Party reports that these were informed by appropriate investigations and documentation. The conservation of the western façade of the Picture Wall is a positive step, yet some actions, such as the adaptive re-use of the corner bastion or the conversion of the Royal Kitchen of the Fort for use as a multifunctional space, may not be consistent with the protection of attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The works on the Royal Kitchen proceeded despite the Committee's request that the State Party submit technical proposals ahead of time.

Although the State Party commits to submitting all proposed projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, this has not actually occurred to date. Tasks such as the architectural survey of Lahore Fort by electronic means are needed to inform future conservation/rehabilitation work. Other recommended conservation work, such as restoration work on the courtyard, outdoor terrace and surrounding buildings of Khilwat Khana, is yet to occur. No specific information has been provided about one of the most important monuments of the Fort, the Sheesh Mahal, at which the 2018 mission identified serious conservation problems.

The Committee may wish to note the inception report, but express concern on overall lack of progress in implementing the full set of recommendations of the 2018 mission and other projects proceeding without review potentially threatens the OUV of the property. It would be appropriate for the Committee

to request a further Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as possible to assess the state of conservation of the property, evaluate the effect of recent works on its OUV, study possible proposals for technical interventions in the future, as well as the actual progress in achieving the recommendations of the 2018 mission, and provide appropriate advice to the State Party and to the Committee. In the meantime, the State Party should again be reminded of its obligations under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines requested to avoid actions or decisions that may affect the OUV of the property and be difficult to reverse, and to complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in accordance with the new Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

The February 2023 ICOMOS Technical Review of the 'Lahore Fort Precincts and Buffer Zone Master Plan' concluded that it provides clear guidelines for the forthcoming interventions on the monument and its surrounding area, but nevertheless recommended changes prior to finalisation and implementation. The Technical Review also recommended that the State Party be invited to submit revised property and buffer zone proposals. The study relating to a proposed boundary modification for inclusion of Badshahi Masjid, the Hazoori Bagh and the Sikh Funerary complex within the property boundaries and for an expanded buffer zone should be prepared as a separate document, which should also consider the previously contemplated potential adjustments to the buffer zone of the Shalamar Gardens. This separate study should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and any resulting proposal for a boundary modification should follow the processes outlined in paragraphs 163 to 165 of the Operational Guidelines.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.47**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Takes note of the advice and the reports provided by the State Party regarding its response to the Committee's previous requests and the recommendations formulated by the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, including the preparation of eight feasibility studies and the May 2022 'Inception Report', but expresses its regret that the State Party has not actively engaged with the World Heritage Centre nor with ICOMOS during this process as requested;*
4. *Notes that technically detailed information on the actions proposed by the State Party at the property is provided by the abovementioned reports, but reiterates its request that the outcomes of the feasibility studies and the 'Inception Report' for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Reiterates its previous request that the State Party work in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to develop and implement mitigation measures and recommendations concerning all Orange Line Metro-related operations and future projects, in order to prevent any damage to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Welcomes the completion of the 'Lahore Fort Precincts and Buffer Zone Master Plan' following a Technical Review by ICOMOS;*
7. *Notes that additional restoration, conservation and/or adaptation projects have been undertaken at both component sites of the property, but regrets that the State Party has not provided sufficient technical information about these projects prior to their implementation to ensure the technical relevance of these works, contrary to the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and of its requests in previous decisions;*

8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre complete technical details of the interventions implemented in and around the Royal Kitchen, and proposals for the conservation of the Sheesh Mahal for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Reminds the State Party that full details of all significant projects at the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the new Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before a project is implemented or any irreversible decision is made, and that such projects should only proceed once positive feedback has been received from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
10. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation, evaluate the effect of recent works on its OUV, consider future technical proposals, and to assess the efficacy of the 'Inception Report', as well as actual progress accomplished in implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission;*
11. *Requests the State Party to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a separate study related to the possible boundary modification to include Badshahi Masjid, the Hazoori Bagh and the Sikh Funerary complex within the property boundaries, including a visual analysis and potential adjustments to the buffer zone of the Shalamar Gardens, and reiterates its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a boundary modification based on the outcomes of the aforementioned study, prepared in accordance with Paragraphs 163 to 165 of the Operational Guidelines and including the revision of the buffer zones, after having considered all appropriate social measures, especially if any action would involve the displacement of people residing in the neighbouring areas of the property;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

#### **48. Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea) (C 1319bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

#### **49. Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan) (C 543)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## 50. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1999 to 2018)

Total amount approved: USD 44,800

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO/Spain Funds-in-Trust; 2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties of the Historic Centre of Bukhara and Samarkand; 2019: USD 43,115 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for Building capacity in managing WH properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan

### Previous monitoring missions

April 2005: UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS expert mission; March 2006: UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; December 2007: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2020: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Large-scale development projects such as road building) (issue resolved)
- Housing (Traditional housing and proposed demolition of mahalla residential areas)
- Commercial development (Intrusive developments within the property and buffer zone)
- Management deficiency (Impact of urban landscaping programme on the authenticity and integrity of the property)
- Management Systems/Management Plan (Lack of strategic approach to urban conservation; Lack of implementation of the management plan and need to integrate the Master Plan with the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Recommendation)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Proposed 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone') (issue resolved)
- Other (Conservation of urban fabric)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/>

### Current conservation issues

On 10 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The President and Cabinet of Ministers have adopted resolutions to improve conservation and management of the property, preventing inappropriate development and promoting cultural, spiritual and historical heritage. A roadmap has been developed to facilitate conservation and implement Committee Decisions. An International Advisory Committee (IAC) was established, with an opening ceremony in September 2021 and the first technical hybrid session held in July 2022. A Scientific-Expert Council of the Agency for Cultural Heritage has been appointed;
- Seminars and conferences involving international and local experts occurred in Shakhriyabz and Khiva in 2021, including on the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, the Operational Guidelines and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL);

- Construction and demolition work within the property and its buffer zone must be approved by the Agency for Cultural Heritage, while those within the property must also be agreed through the National Commission for UNESCO;
- As means to strengthen communication and awareness of local communities, guidelines have been prepared for the protection of neighbourhoods, the introduction of infrastructure and modifications to residences. The implications of the moratorium on the demolition of residences are under consideration. The property has been promoted on social networks and in the media, with an emphasis on preventing unauthorized works. Information signs and desks have been established;
- Conservation works for the Bibi Khanoum ensemble are planned in 2022-2023. A conservation plan is being prepared and international experts from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, the National Commission, and Ministry of Tourism are involved. The project proposal will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The proposed astronomical complex will not be built near the Mirzo Ulughbek Observatory, but instead at the 'Samarkand Tourism Center', 4 km outside the buffer zone. Demolition of the intrusive Imari building is under consideration. Changes to the Hilton Hotel, as requested by the Committee, are not reported, as the hotel is located outside the boundaries and buffer zone of the property;
- The revised traffic scheme for the city no longer proposes expansion of the main transport routes within the property and buffer zone;
- A proposal is being developed for the property's buffer zone, which will be formally submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

On 9 May 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a request for clarification to the State Party concerning the third-party information reporting many new demolition and renovation projects and ensuing protests by local inhabitants.

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

The State Party and its agencies continue to address previously identified threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through regulatory change, capacity building, preparation of additional guidance documents, proposed conservation works and other initiatives. This progress should be supported through the IAC for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan. The Committee may wish to welcome the launch of the IAC in September 2021 and the organisation of its first technical session in July 2022, for which the contribution of the late leading expert Dr Michael Jansen, should be deeply thanked, and emphasize that this mechanism should advise the national authorities on the conservation of cultural heritage properties and the implementation of Committee decisions and previous mission recommendations. The IAC has expressed support for revision of the buffer zone of the property and the proposed Urban Design Guidelines.

A draft Management Plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by ICOMOS but requires substantial revisions to incorporate the outcomes of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and previous Committee decisions. The State Party is yet to submit the revised Master Plan integrating the HUL approach and the new Urban Design Guidelines for the protection of neighbourhoods, the introduction of new infrastructure and modifications of existing residences, as requested by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.40**. The Urban Design Guidelines should include a public realm design code, as recommended by the 2020 mission. The overall moratorium on demolition and new development should remain until the integrated Master Plan for the city and further revised Management Plan are finalised and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed positively by the Advisory Bodies. The revision of the traffic scheme for the city, which no longer proposes the expansion of the main transport routes within the property and buffer zone, will reduce traffic impacts. The reported training initiatives are noted, but further capacity building on HUL is needed for those directly involved in the management of the property.

The relocation of the astronomical complex proposed near the observatory Mirzo Ulughbek to 4 km outside the buffer zone, following technical review by ICOMOS, is welcome, as is progress towards modification or removal of the Imari building. However, the property remains adversely affected by other intrusive urban development, and changes to the Hilton Hotel, which is within the setting of the property in an area that may form part of the proposed buffer zone, should be reconsidered in line with the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission.

Public awareness activities undertaken by the authorities are appreciated, including those contributing to the understanding of rules and regulations within the property and its buffer zones, notably by the Presidential Resolution of June 2021.

Physical conservation of the Bibi Khanoum Ensemble and Mosque remains pressing but should proceed in logical stages, guided by expert advice, with priority given to urgent stabilisation works. The Committee may wish to express support for the progress achieved but also remind the State Party to submit the proposed conservation plan and details of the proposed works to the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party has submitted information about intended conservation projects, including restoration and repair works at Chorsu Trade Dome, Koshhovuz, Shah-i-Zinda, Gori Amir, Registan, Samarq and Sherdor, Tillaqori and the Ulugbek complex, which has been subject to initial review and comment by ICOMOS. Some of the proposed works affect significant monuments and may involve the replacement of considerable fabric, some of which may be original. The State Party has been asked to submit detailed project documentation, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to enable a technical review by the Advisory Bodies. ICOMOS has also provided a technical review of a proposed Samarkand Hotel Concept Design in the northern part of the so-called 'New Russian (European) city', concluding that the proposed use of the site is appropriate, but that in its present form the project would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the OUV of the property and advising that the design should be revised.

As proposed by the State Party, the proposed minor boundary modification to adjust the buffer zone so that it aligns with *mahalla* boundaries should reflect the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, have regard to the advice of the IAC, and be prepared and submitted in accordance with Paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.50**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the progress made to address previously identified threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through regulatory change, capacity building, preparation of additional guidance documents, proposed conservation works, the revision of the traffic scheme, which no longer includes any expansion of the main transport routes within the property and buffer zone, and the relocation of the proposed new astronomical complex outside of the property and its buffer zone;
4. Also welcomes the establishment of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan and emphasizes that such a mechanism should continue, with the support of its experts, advising the national authorities on the conservation of the cultural heritage properties and implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions and previous missions recommendations;
5. Notes that the State Party has prepared Urban Design Guidelines and submitted a Management Plan for the property, also notes that substantial revisions are required to incorporate the outcomes of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission into the Management Plan and integrate the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) within the Master Plan,
6. Requests that the overall moratorium on demolition and new development remain until the integrated Master Plan for the city, the further revised Management Plan for the property and the Urban Design Guidelines are finalised, submitted to the World Heritage Centre and positively reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;



7. *Noting the progress accomplished to date, reiterates its previous request to the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies and in accordance with the Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines:*
  - a) *Detailed project documentation for proposed works to Chorsu Trade Dome, Koshhovuz, Shah-i-Zinda, Gori Amir, Registan, Samarqand Sherdor, Tillaqori and the Ulugbek complex,*
  - b) *Details of proposed works to remove or modify the Imari building and to address the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission regarding the Hilton Hotel,*
  - c) *The conservation plan and details of the proposed physical conservation programme for the Bibi Khanoum Ensemble and Mosque,*
  - d) *Revised Samarkand Hotel Concept Design, which address the recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review;*
9. *Further notes the State Party's advice that it will submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to adjust the buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, and further requests that the proposal follows the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission and advice from the IAC, and aligns the buffer zone with the mahalla boundaries;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 51. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 52. Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria, Hungary) (C 772rev)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 53. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France) (C 600)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 54. Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 55. Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (Germany) (C 1614)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Buildings and development (proposed visitor centre)

- Transportation infrastructure (impact of vehicular traffic on sightlines)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/documents/>. The report shows some progress towards implementing the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription, as follows:

- The new location of the visitor centre will be outside the boundaries of the property, in the buffer zone, and is to be defined through the ongoing process of the amendment of Building Plan O32. No specific timeframe or details are given in the report;
- The new design specifications for the visitor centre have been issued by the architectural company, which is preparing a new design. The specifications follow ICOMOS' recommendations, by reducing the building mass, respecting the sightlines and visual connections from and to the property, ensuring that the new building does not impact on the integrity of the property and its attributes, and strengthening the visual connections to the Studio Building with the Studio Garden. Coordination and on-site meetings have been held and further updates will be sent to UNESCO once concrete plans are available;
- The pressure from vehicular traffic on the property has been reduced thanks to a series of measures. Public parking spaces within the property have been eliminated and controlled parking with ticket machines and high parking fees introduced in the entire area around Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt. Alexandraweg has been turned into a pedestrian zone. A new shuttle bus service connects the property with the city centre, the Main Station and the East Station, and a drop-off area for coaches has been designated at the East Station. The new location of the visitor centre means that it should have no impact on vehicular traffic, nor should it be possible to access it directly by motorised private transport or coaches;
- The State Party assures that no measures are planned that could have a negative impact on the state of conservation or the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and states that the City of Darmstadt and the State of Hesse have taken note of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations and consider them in their daily work.

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

The State Party has undertaken some steps towards resolving the major issues highlighted by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription: the relocation of the planned visitor centre and the need for vehicular traffic reduction. The new design specifications are based on ICOMOS' recommendations to ensure the harmonious integration of the forthcoming visitor centre in the buffer zone, outside the property's boundaries. The new design parameters should guide the selection of an appropriate new location for the visitor centre. This process implies the amendment of Building Plan O32. No timeframe has been provided for the amendment and approval of the revised Building Plan, based on which the new visitor centre shall be designed, nor for the submission of the new visitor centre designs and location.

The State Party reports on the introduction of further measures for the reduction of vehicular traffic in the area of the property by encouraging pedestrian access with the help of shuttle buses, pedestrianising Alexandraweg and removing parking within the property while increasing fees and tightening regulations for parking in the buffer zone. While these measures could positively impact the perception of the property and eliminate risks associated with the vehicular traffic pressure linked to increasing visitation, no specific illustrative material has been submitted to demonstrate their positive impact on the sightlines to and from the property.

No specific information has been submitted on the implementation of the recommendations specified by the World Heritage Committee in paragraph 4 of Decision **44 COM 8B.18**. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide updates on the implementation of these measures.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.18**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),
3. Acknowledges the positive steps undertaken by the State Party to resolve the issues raised by the Committee at the time of inscription;
4. Requests the State Party to provide updates on the implementation of its recommendations with regard to the following:
  - a) Developing a conservation management plan to guarantee a consistent conservation approach and strategy for all buildings of the property,
  - b) Strengthening the link between the private owners and conservation services,
  - c) Ensuring an appropriate balance between development and conservation activities in budget allocations,
  - d) Including in the interpretation and presentation of the different buildings of the property, the history of their conservation;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the new project developed for the relocation of the visitor centre, the amended Building Plan O32, and detailed information on the impact of vehicular traffic on sightlines to and from the property, including illustrative materials;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

**56. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**57. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) (C 1488)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**58. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye) (C 356bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**59. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527ter)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**60. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**61. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1030)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1030/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1030/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Buildings and development: Urban high rise/urban sprawl/Commercial development
- Poor state of conservation of Belper Mills complex
- Legal framework and management system
- Governance

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1030/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 December 2021 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of the property in response to a request from the World Heritage Centre related to concerns about approved development projects and the functioning of the management system of the property. On 1 March 2023, the State

Party issued an update to its previous report. Both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1030/documents/>.

With regard to development projects, the State Party reports that:

- The 'Landmark' high-rise housing project located adjacent to the buffer zone of the property in Derby was approved in August 2020, despite the negative recommendation of the Development Management Officer. Construction has not yet commenced;
- A proposal for the 'Belper Lane' development of 118 houses in the buffer zone was denied by the local authority but approved on appeal by the Secretary of State despite opposition by Historic England and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Partnership. Construction is ongoing;
- A proposal for 114 homes at Derwent Street in Belper was amended following the advice of the DVMWHS Partnership while another was not approved on the advice of Historic England.

The reports note the following in relation to actions to strengthen the protection and management:

- Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership trained administrators and councillors of the four local authorities mandated with the protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and are exploring appropriate models for the provision of further training;
- Regular meetings are being held between the Derby Conservation Officer and the Validation Team to look at applications so they can be flagged and the DVMWHS Partnership and Historic England can be consulted;
- Historic England provides conservation and planning support to the Amber Valley local authority until 2024;
- All local planning authorities responsible for the property commenced reviews of their respective local plans in 2019. Local plans are required to be reviewed every five years:
  - The Amber Valley Plan Alternative Spatial Strategy Options for Housing and Economic Growth has been published for public comment. The target date for adoption of the new Local Plan is September 2023,
  - The Belper 2021 Neighbourhood Plan presents project evaluation criteria, including criteria that address the need to protect and conserve the World Heritage property, and identifies brownfield sites for development,
  - Derby, in collaboration with Historic England, commissioned a Skyline and Significant Views Study, which informed a Tall Buildings Study. A masterplan for this city centre is under preparation. These studies and plans will inform the new Local Plan,
  - The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan is in the early stages of evidence gathering and a 'Climate Change' Supplementary Planning Document was adopted in July 2021;
- Sensitivity mapping has been implemented, for instance, in the Derby Skyline and Significant Views Study.

Other conservation issues reported include:

- Attempts to address the poor state of conservation of the Belper Mills complex, which is in private ownership;
- Actions to counter illegal development activities;
- Conservation and restoration work at several components of the property.

During 2022 and 2023, the State Party submitted notifications under the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for:

- The 'Amber Rock Resort' proposal for a hotel/waterpark/accommodation in the disused Cliff Quarry, Crich, directly adjacent the buffer zone of the property. An ICOMOS Technical Review concluded that the proposal was not aligned with the maintenance of the OUV of the property;

- The adaptive reuse of the Belper Mills complex as mixed-use development with predominantly housing. This proposal was assessed by Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership who have both advised that the proposals would lead to negative impacts on the OUV of the property;
- Two new high-rise development proposals in Derby (Bradshaw Way and Eagle Quarter), located in the setting of the property. In both cases Historic England, the DVMWHS Partnership and the Derby Urban Design and Conservation Team have advised that the proposals would lead to negative impacts on the OUV of the property;
- The structural integrity of the Darley Abbey Bridge, Darley Abbey, has led to its closure. A permanent proposal for its rehabilitation is being developed.

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

Development pressure within this property, its buffer zone and setting are cause for great concern. The State Party submitted details of the Belper Lane and 54-metre-tall Landmark developments to the World Heritage Centre, which were reviewed by ICOMOS in December 2018 and August 2019, respectively. In both cases, ICOMOS concluded that the proposals would negatively impact the OUV of the property and should not proceed. In the case of the Belper Lane proposal, ICOMOS concluded that the proposal would have a 'significantly negative impact'. The proposal submitted to the World Heritage Centre for the Belper Land project foresaw the construction of 65 houses, whereas the approved project foresees 118. The impact can consequently be expected to be larger than that noted in the ICOMOS Technical Review. The approval of both these projects, against the recommendations of the DVMWHS Partnership and Historic England, amongst others, creates a problematic situation and precedent. The visualisations provided by the State Party of the new high-rise developments proposal in Derby indicate a large negative visual impact on the rural landscape quality of the property. They are not yet approved, and thus are not expected to proceed, but the development of such proposals highlights the critical misalignment between the development ambitions and the protection of the OUV of the property.

Other projects reported by the State Party, such as the approved project for 114 homes at Derwent Street in Belper, are located within the boundaries of the property. However, no notification was transmitted to the World Heritage Centre as per Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The refusal of several projects on the basis of the harm that they would cause to the property's OUV and the reported legal proceedings against illegal developments are positive. The State Party's engagement on the state of conservation of the large Belper Mills complex is noted, but the proposals submitted to the World Heritage Centre are considered not to be compatible with the OUV and should therefore not proceed and be reconsidered.

The management system for this property does not function adequately to safeguard its OUV and allows for damaging proposals to be approved and implemented. It is mandated to four authorities, all of which are developing new local plans. These are not coordinated and do not provide for cumulative impacts assessments on OUV. The new Belper 2021 Neighbourhood Plan includes areas for development inside the property. This Plan was however not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, despite there being a distinct possibility that it may impact on the OUV of the property.

Despite the exemplary action of the DVMWHS Partnership, the protection and management system is fragmented. The DVMWHS Partnership and Historic England have a non-binding advisory management role. The new Management Plan for the property, developed by the DVMWHS Partnership, has no legal status. The Plan itself states that there is no national core legislative protection for World Heritage properties. World Heritage is managed through the National Planning Policy Framework, which states that 'substantial harm' to OUV should be 'wholly exceptional' (Paragraph 200) but allows for 'less than substantial harm' to be weighed up against public benefit per project (Paragraph 202). This system does not adequately protect OUV and leads to its erosion through individual and cumulative impacts. While the new Management Plan recommends the use of Heritage Impact Assessments as a mechanism to assess potential projects, this has no legal standing within the national planning regime.

The State Party should be requested to halt all new developments, including those already approved, that may have a negative impact on the property's OUV, and restructure its management to create a single coordinated management authority with legal jurisdiction and agency. This may require a review of the entire management system and a revision of the current Management Plan, which should likewise be given a legal status.

Development pressures on the property, coupled with the inability of the management system to safeguard its OUV, are reaching such proportions that, if not addressed as a matter of urgency, ascertained or potential threat, as defined in paragraphs 179 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, could be confirmed.

The Committee may thus wish to remind the State Party of the provisions contained in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and strongly encourage the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to the property to provide guidance on revising and strengthening the management system, in particular to curb development pressure.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.61**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Notes that development proposals in the buffer zone and the setting of the property have been approved against ICOMOS' advice that these projects would have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that development areas have been identified within the property boundaries in the Belper 2021 Neighbourhood Plan, which may have a similar impact on its OUV, and requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Reconsider the approval of the Landmark project in Derby and not approve the implementation of the Amber Rock Resort, Bradshaw Way and Eagle Quarter proposals in their current form to avoid the negative impact they will have on the OUV of the property,*
  - b) *Halt the further execution of already approved projects that may have a negative impact of the OUV of the property but whose implementation has not yet commenced in the property, its buffer zone and setting and submit details of these projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
3. *Notes with concern the poor state of conservation of the large Belper Mills complex, one of the key attributes of the property, and that current proposals for the adaptive reuse of the complex would lead to an erosion of the OUV of the property and urges the State Party to define a rescue plan for the way forward with appropriate uses that support the property's OUV and to submit details of such a proposal to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any approvals are given that may be difficult to reverse;*
4. *Also notes that the various local and regional authorities tasked with the management of the property are currently developing new local plans, but that these do not seem to be coordinated nor their potential impact on the OUV of the property assessed cumulatively, and also requests the State Party to ensure that, prior to their adoption, all new local plans and policies that affect the property, its buffer zone and its setting are assessed through integrated Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in conformity with the Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, that analyse their cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, and that these HIAs are submitted to the World Heritage Centre in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Welcomes the updating of the Management Plan for the property but further notes with great concern that the management system for the property is fragmented, that negative impacts can be accommodated within the national policy system leading to a cumulative erosion of the property's OUV, that the Management Plan does not have any legal*



*jurisdiction and that consequently the requirements for HIAs for development proposals as outlined in the Operational Guidelines are not met;*

6. *Further requests the State Party to initiate a review of the management system of the property, with the aim of establishing a fully functioning management system that:*
  - a) *Guarantees the safeguarding and transmission of the OUV of the property,*
  - b) *Provides a management authority with the legal jurisdiction and agency to ensure the OUV of the property is safeguarded, also in coordinating the spatial and other plans of the various authorities with spatial mandates over the various sections of the property and its buffer zone and setting,*
  - c) *Provides legal status to the Management Plan of the property,*
  - d) *Provides a legal mandate for the execution of HIAs as prescribed by the Operational Guidelines in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, developed in collaboration between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre;*
7. *Expresses concern that development pressures on the property, coupled with the inability of the management system to safeguard its OUV, are reaching such proportions that, if not addressed as a matter of urgency, ascertained or potential threat, as defined in paragraphs 179 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, could be confirmed and strongly recommends to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property to provide guidance on revising and strengthening the management system;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad and urgent mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value.*

**62. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**63. The English Lake District (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)  
(C 422rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(v)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Quarrying activities
- Energy transportation
- Viability of the shepherding tradition
- Risk preparedness
- Depopulation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 December 2021, at the request of the World Heritage Centre to address concerns about potential adverse impacts of practices and planned projects and the Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, to which an update has been provided on 1 March 2023. Both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/422/documents> and report the following:

- In December 2021, the revised joint World Heritage Site and National Park Management Plan (2020-2025) was adopted as a statutory management plan. The Plan contains strategies and actions to address concern about the property and the Committee's recommendations;
- Indicators are being developed for monitoring attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including those related to the traditional farming and shepherding practices;
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Lake District National Park Partnership (LDNPP) are developing policies to continue to support farming communities and the traditional farming system both in the property and at the national level, within the framework of the Agricultural Transition Plan 2021-2024. The LDNPP's Post-CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) group was established in 2017 and an Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) Test has been completed within the property, whilst other projects concerning Common Land and agri-environment schemes are continuing;
- Interim funding of 3 million GBP (approx. USD 3.75 million) over three years from a Farming in Protected Landscape project is under implementation and has so far delivered 88 projects. Natural England and Historic England are working to enhance the relevance of cultural capital in management and funding from other sources have been deployed for landscape improvement;
- The Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership works to ensure that community knowledge and concerns are used to increase flood resilience. The next Cumbria Local Flood Risk Management

Strategy was to be published in 2021. 200 million GBP (approx. USD 250 million) are allocated for the period 2021-2027 for flood and climate resilience programmes. Trials for Natural Flood Management (NFM) are being carried out, though results so far are modest and a change in scale is needed, also to address drought. NFM measures that can address both recovery of some attributes of OUV and flood prevention are underway, and their potential impacts on the landscape are being assessed through Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) checklists and processes. Following NFM Trials additional 6 million GBP (approx. USD 7.5 million) were allocated to Cumbria County Council;

- The need for affordable housing dedicated to local people is addressed through the Housing Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which establishes that all new housing is either for local occupancy or affordable housing. Participatory processes are applied throughout the planning system and a variety of impacts, including on landscape, are considered. Over the period 2010-2018, new housing construction exceeded the minimum target, and 39 completions were recorded in 2021-2022. The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) controls several actions requiring planning consent but cannot prevent existing permanent dwellings from being turned into holiday homes;
- The preparation of an interpretation strategy is planned to be completed by the end of 2023. A toolkit was prepared providing guidelines for branding assets.

The State Party reports the following updates on planning issues since inscription:

- Local Plan policies do not support a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for radioactive waste located in or under the Lake District National Park and areas within the park have been excluded from initial considerations. In case of a decision for possible future development consents for hazardous material waste infrastructure, any impact reports will be considered by the Secretary of State as per the Planning Act 2008;
- The Honister Zip Wire project was approved after the conditions requested by Natural England were satisfied. The related ICOMOS Technical Review was received after consent was granted. However, planning permission expired on 3 September 2022 unless work started beforehand. No update has been provided in 2023;
- The LDNPA is not actively considering a gondola/cable car at Whinlatter and the Local Plan, adopted in 2021, does not include a policy in this regard. No update has been provided in 2023;
- The conservation of landscape character-defining features is addressed through several means: Local Plans, the Management Plan, the establishment of a Design Code, the extension of the Keswick Conservation Area, the establishment of a new Conservation Area at Windermere recognising the villa movement, and the delivery of funds through the DEFRA's Historic Building Restoration Grant Scheme Pilot to repair 11 buildings.
- Vehicular access to unsealed roads is an issue that continues to be reported by third parties and has been subject to ICOMOS Technical Reviews. The LDNPA's Right of Way Committee established the Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group to monitor the usage and condition of unsealed roads. In 2021, the LDNPA did not consider that sufficient evidence of harm to OUV had emerged from the use of the Tilberthwaite road to justify a ban on the activity. In 2022, LDNPA's Position Statement on unsealed roads was adopted. It aims at sustainable and responsible use of unsealed roads and provides a context for management and decision-making in this regard. No update has been provided in 2023.

In October 2022 and May 2023, the State Party provided information about the issue of eutrophication of Lake Windemere causing increases in surface algal blooms and the decline of the water quality of the lake. The State Party also acknowledged the role of climate change and its impact on water temperature which can trigger formation of algal blooms. To address the nutrient input to Lake Windemere and thus the frequency and intensity of cyanobacterial blooms, which have the potential to impact on various attributes that underpin the OUV of the property, the State Party launched the 'Love Windemere Partnership', which reports to the LDNPP. A roadmap for environmental protection of the lake is reported, which includes tackling the sources of the lake pollution, namely public and private sewage systems and land management practices.

In February 2023, the State Party informed about a heritage tourism attraction to be inserted within a historic working quarry at Elterwater in the Great Langdale valley. An ICOMOS Technical Review of the documentation provided has been transmitted to the State Party in May 2023.

A new notification and consultation process for project proposals has been set up by the LDNPA and Historic England, according to which the LDNPA prepares a briefing note for any proposal that may need a notification as per Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

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

While some progress has been made in response to the Committee's recommendations at the time of the property's inscription, crucial issues remain to be fully addressed. Adequate support for traditional farming practices, which are essential to sustain the landscape, is yet to be secured and these practices have become more vulnerable since inscription. Other important issues yet to be resolved include flood resilience, local housing, regulating off-road vehicular traffic, and local interpretation.

At the time of inscription, the Committee recognized the vulnerability of the Lake District's agro-pastoral traditions and recommended that the State Party develop farm-supporting policies and funding schemes to sustain and compensate the farming community for its heritage services in producing and caring for this outstanding cultural landscape. Six years after inscription, only a few steps seem to have been taken, with largely insufficient funding allocated compared to the scale of support received by farmers before the departure of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the EU. A clear strategy, measures or sufficient funding sources for the medium- and long-term are yet to emerge to address this crucial issue affecting the property's key intangible attribute, which underpins the whole landscape and its OUV. Meanwhile, vulnerabilities are increasing. The existing national agricultural and nature conservation policies do not seem tailored to tackle the challenges of traditional farming, which relies on a specific sociocultural system and practices: ad-hoc mechanisms over and above what might be available in other areas need to be sought with the farming community to protect the OUV of the property.

Planning and policies have been set out following the Committee's recommendation to address affordable houses and services for residents to support the farming community. However, the LDNPA has no tool to prevent permanent dwellings from being turned into holiday homes. Therefore, no measures seem to be envisaged to tackle the phenomenon of the conversion of permanent houses into holiday homes. The imbalance between second homes and resident houses can thus only increase as new housing developments are built. Measures to discourage this practice need to be considered urgently, such as those being considered in other parts of the State Party. Equally urgent is the establishment of a functional public transportation network that can serve both residents and visitors, to reduce private vehicular traffic.

It is welcome that the State Party has started to act on the Committee's recommendation to develop an interpretation strategy and programmes to ensure that local residents and tourists alike can become familiar with the attributes of the property that convey its OUV and with related protection and management needs. The strategy will be fundamental in defining how the property is understood and presented, what kind of future should be pursued for it and what would be the preferred uses compatible with sustaining its OUV. Adequate programmes are considered indispensable to redress certain developments and use trends and shape management priorities and mechanisms more in line with the OUV of the property.

Several third-party communications since 2017 have raised the issue of unsealed roads and off-road access by motor vehicles for tourists. ICOMOS' Technical Reviews noted the dramatic increase of this non-traditional activity, the related negative impacts on certain road sections, and the feasibility of using existing and tested measures, such as Traffic Regulation Orders, applied elsewhere in protected areas in the State Party. The recognised capacity of this cultural landscape 'to uplift imagination, creativity, and spirit' can only be sustained if tranquillity and quietness remain a trait of the property. Hence, increasing vehicular traffic for leisure purposes along unsealed roads erodes the sense of place and undermines the inspirational dimension of the cultural landscape, another key attribute of the property. It is advised that the State Party be strongly encouraged to harness the available instruments to redress this issue and prevent leisure vehicular access from highly sensitive and emblematic valleys and places. Furthermore, systematic monitoring of this activity within the property is urgently needed as a basis for a comprehensive regulatory policy focused on safeguarding the attributes of OUV, rather than the present uneven approach, which does not appear to be based on a clear understanding of OUV-based visitor management.

Regarding the reported decline in water quality of Lake Windermere, it is recommended that the Committee encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to control nutrient input to the lake through a multi-stakeholder approach including public, private and community partners and to secure its long-term funding.

The proposed project at Elterwater Quarry was assessed at the national level as having no impact on the OUV. However, the ICOMOS Technical Review (May 2023) found that the planned attraction is of a type that would transform the quarry or part of it into a theme park and would trivialise the experience of an important aspect of the Lake District's heritage, and one of its attributes, drawing traffic to the Great Langdale valley and a type of audience that will contribute to the disruption of its tranquil and contemplative character. As explained in the nomination dossier, Great Langdale has preserved a distinctive and almost intact agro-pastoral character and the valley's secluded appearance has inspired artists and writers, as well as benefactors who have purchased land to preserve this landscape. Therefore, the proposed tourism development appears alien to the character of the valley and not compatible with the attributes of OUV. The property is already facing negative consequences of mass tourism and since projects of this type are not a first and will continue to occur, it is advisable that the Committee requests that such proposals for tourist attractions be suspended until an OUV-based interpretation strategy for the property is finalised and becomes a reference also for tourism development initiatives.

Regarding the Committee's recommendation to strengthen flood risk preparedness strategies by incorporating local knowledge, it is noted that some individual NFM trial projects are being implemented on a case-by-case basis without the benefit of an overarching strategy that considers the impacts of flood-defence measures on the attributes of OUV. As the Cumbria Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, understood to have been approved in 2022, does not mention World Heritage and a change of scale in NFM projects is being envisaged, the Committee may wish to recommend that the State Party set out an overall strategic approach to define how both natural flood management and protection of the attributes of OUV might be achieved.

The information that no GDF for hazardous waste is currently being planned within the property is welcome. It is highly advisable that no such facility is considered in the future within the property. The information that no project for a gondola/cable car at Whinlatter is currently being considered is equally welcome. However, it is noted that policy 09 from LDNPA Local Plan envisages the redevelopment and expansion of the Whinlatter Centre for recreation, leisure, and new visitor accommodation. Any future project for Whinlatter will have to be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. It is regrettable that planning consent has been issued for the Honister Zip Wire contrary to ICOMOS' advice, considering the objections to this project from many organisations. The World Heritage Committee may wish to recommend the State Party to pursue all possible ways to resolve this issue and avoid the construction of the zip wire.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.63**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.30**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to address the recommendations adopted at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List but notes that progress in the implementation of those recommendations is very slow;*
4. *Also welcomes the State Party's confirmation that no projects for a gondola/cable car at Whinlatter and a Geological Disposal Facility for hazardous waste within the property are currently being considered, recommends that no such project be considered in the future and requests that timely information and documentation on the possible redevelopment and expansion of the Whinlatter Centre of recreation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken on the future of this facility;*
5. *Welcomes furthermore the information concerning the approval of the update of the revised joint World Heritage and National Park Management Plan;*

6. *Regrets that the planning consent for Honister Zip Wire was issued, despite objections of several preservation organisations and contrary to the advice contained in ICOMOS' Technical Review and encourages the State Party to pursue all possible ways to resolve this issue and to avoid the construction of this infrastructure;*
7. *Expresses concern at the lack of a clear strategy to address the vulnerability of the property's agro-pastoral traditions and urges the State Party to devise and implement, in consultation with the Lake District's farming communities, appropriate policies and adequately resourced funding schemes to support and compensate them for their heritage services in order to sustain in the medium to long term the key attributes of this landscape that underpin its integrity and authenticity;*
8. *Notes the growing imbalance between houses for residents and holiday homes, despite efforts to provide affordable housing for residents, and further requests the State Party to establish measures that discourage the conversion of residential houses to second or holiday homes to guarantee affordable housing for residents and at the same time reduce urban development pressures on the landscape;*
9. *Recommends to the State Party to address the issue of excessive private vehicular traffic by enhancing the public transportation system within the property and discouraging access to the property by non-resident private vehicles;*
10. *Also notes the concerns raised in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews regarding the use of off-road motorised vehicles on green lanes within the property, urges the State Party to harness the already available instruments to prevent vehicular access to unsealed roads in highly sensitive and emblematic valleys, and also requests the State Party to ensure as a matter of urgency that systematic monitoring is carried out on all unsealed roads open to vehicular access to assess the status of this activity and its impacts on the tangible and intangible attributes of the property, as a basis for a comprehensive regulatory policy focused on safeguarding the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
11. *Notes furthermore that the Cumbria Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, approved in 2022, makes no mention of World Heritage and, as a change of scale in the Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects is envisaged within the property, recommends the State Party to promptly set out an overall place-based strategic approach to demonstrate how both natural flood management and protection of the attributes of the OUV might be achieved;*
12. *Welcomes that an interpretation strategy for the property is under preparation and requests that this strategy be developed around the OUV of the property, finalised as soon as possible, submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and used as a reference to determine, which tourism uses are compatible with sustaining the property's OUV;*
13. *Requests furthermore the State Party to suspend the approval process of the tourist attraction at Elterwater Quarry in Great Langdale, and any other such project proposals, and to reconsider it in light of its potential negative impacts on the attributes of Langdale underpinning the OUV of the property, until an OUV-based interpretation strategy is approved;*
14. *Notes furthermore the declining water quality of Lake Windermere caused by public and private sewage systems and land management practices, as well as by the impacts of climate change, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to tackle the*

*sources of the lake's pollution through a multi-stakeholder approach including public, private and community partners and to secure its long-term funding;*

15. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## II. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST INITIALLY FORESEEN TO BE EXAMINED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN 2023

### NATURAL PROPERTIES

#### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

##### 64. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 1986

*Criteria* (vii)(x)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* 1999-2001

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>

##### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/assistance/>

##### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount granted to the property: USD 50,000 under the Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for firefighting planning

##### *Previous monitoring missions*

March 1999: IUCN mission; April 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

##### *Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Water infrastructure(construction of a hydropower dam)
- Ground transport infrastructure (draft law and pressure to re-open an illegal road)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging and hunting) (issue resolved)
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation; uncoordinated development)
- Financial resources (Lack of sustainable financing) (issue resolved)
- Management System/Management Plan (issues associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/>

##### *Current conservation issues*

On 13 January 2023, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/> and reports the following:

- The Baixo Iguaçu hydropower plant (HPP) continues in operation. An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was undertaken for the project, including an evaluation of impacts on the property. The project was authorised following the study, with mitigating measures and ongoing monitoring of the impacts of the dam operation on the property;



- The implementation of monitoring programmes instituted by Baixo Iguaçu HPP has continued, including flow rate, hydro-sedimentological, limnological and water quality, ichthyological programmes;
- According to the monitoring reports, the dam operation is being conducted in accordance with conditions imposed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and the Environmental Institute of Paraná (IAP);
- The minimum flow rate of 350 m<sup>3</sup>/s has generally been met since the end of 2018, in line with the regulations, with the exception of a period of severe drought when the lowest outflow recorded to date was observed (287 m<sup>3</sup>/s);
- The Ichthyofauna Monitoring subprogramme aims to detect changes in ichthyofauna communities; to assess spawning areas and the initial development of fish species, covering the Iguaçu River and tributaries, including data from the Iguaçu surubim (*Steindachneridion sp.*), as well as 21 other endemic species that together represent 40% of the local diversity;
- A number of programmes are underway to promote protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including a Plan for the Conservation of Aquatic Fauna in the Lower Iguaçu River Basin, Natural Resources Protection Programme, and Biodiversity Corridor Consolidation Programme;
- The old Colono Road that used to cut through the property has been closed since 2001 and the forest in this area is in an advanced stage of regeneration. However, two bills are pending in the National Congress that propose to reopen the road;
- The reopening of the road would not be compatible with the national law that protects the Atlantic Forest (Law n° 11.428, of 22 December 2006) and the current Management Plan for the property;
- The Public Use Plan (PUP) was published in 2020 and is included in the license contract for public use of the property. The PUP establishes the strategy to create visitor poles, focusing on improving the visitor experience, expanding the public use areas to other neighbouring municipalities, expanding the inclusion policy, encouraging the incorporation of local production chains and monitoring the impacts of visitation to guide management;
- The National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme ('Monitora' Programme), in operation since 2016, continues after an interruption in 2020. There are currently two sampling stations, and monitoring of mammals, birds and frugivorous butterflies has taken place;
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cooperation with the Argentine authorities of Iguazu National Park was suspended. Contact has since been resumed;
- Since 2009, biannual censuses of jaguars have been carried out simultaneously in Brazil and Argentina under the Onças do Iguaçu Project in partnership with Proyecto Yaguareté (Argentina).

On 28 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted information received regarding tourism development in the property, including a proposal to construct a cable car.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

It is regrettable that the operation of the HPP proceeded without the submission of a specific assessment of its impacts on the OUV of the property in spite of the clear recommendations on this by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission and Decision **40 COM 7B.70**, which requested the State Party to not proceed with the further development of the project prior to the submission of the specific assessment to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN. The information that impacts to the property were considered during the EIS process for the project and that extensive conditions were imposed by the relevant authorities (ICMBio and IAP) is noted, and it is essential these conditions are strictly complied with. The additional monitoring programmes and the assurances that the ichthyological surveys are sufficiently representative of the aquatic species assemblage are also noted.

Notwithstanding these assurances, it is noted that in multiple instances, results presented in the State Party report from the various monitoring programmes are based on data, which was collected several years ago. It is essential that the monitoring programmes are continued to inform adaptive management of the HPP with up-to-date information. Moreover, it remains unclear whether the monitoring programmes were developed in cooperation with the State Party of Argentina, as requested by the World Heritage Committee. Noting that collaboration between the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil was reinitiated following the COVID-19 pandemic, the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil should be

requested to develop a comprehensive monitoring, assessment and action plan to identify and address potential negative impacts from the Baixo Iguazu on the OUV of the two contiguous properties of Iguazu National Park (Brazil) and Iguazu National Park (Argentina), including effective participation of relevant authorities in the respective countries. The results of the monitoring programme should be used to address all negative impacts on the properties by informing action plans for mitigation, adaptive management and the operation of the HPP.

While it is noted that the Colono Road which crosses the property remains closed, it remains of grave concern that two legislative bills (new PL 984/2019 and unarchived PLC 61/2013) are still being considered, which could allow the re-opening of the road as a Park-Highway. It should be recalled that the World Heritage Committee concluded in several Decisions that a situation which could allow the re-opening of the road continues to represent a potential threat to the property's OUV and create the conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines. The State Party should therefore be urged again to ensure the continued closure of Colono Road, including through appropriate legislative mechanisms.

The completion of the PUP is welcomed, and the State Party should be encouraged to implement the strategy outlined in the Plan to ensure the sustainable use and development of tourism in the property. The submission of results from the National Programme for Monitoring Biodiversity ('Monitora') programme in the property and the continued implementation of other programmes are welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue these. The State Party should be urged to collaborate with the State Party of Argentina in developing an action plan for joint patrolling activities and ensure that these activities are undertaken on a regular basis, as well as establish a monitoring programme for key species, in cooperation with the Iguazu National Park for the property and the broader region, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, and report on their outcomes.

The reported plans to further develop tourism in the property, specifically the proposal to construct a cable car and further expand other tourism-related infrastructure is of concern. Given the potential impacts of proposed projects on the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to ensure all the projects are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context before a final decision is made.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.64**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.112**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Regrets that no specific assessment of the impacts of the Baixo Iguazu hydropower plant (HPP) on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property was submitted prior to construction and operation of the HPP, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **40 COM 7B.70** and takes note that impacts to the property were considered during the Environmental Impact Study process for the project and extensive conditions were imposed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio) and the Environmental Institute of Paraná (IAP), and considers it essential to comply strictly with the conditions imposed;*
4. *Notes the information provided that the dam is operating in accordance with the standards required under its licensing, according to monitoring results, however requests the State Party to ensure that monitoring programmes continue to provide up-to-date information to inform adaptive management of the HPP;*

5. Also notes that collaboration between the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil was reinitiated following the COVID-19 pandemic and reiterates its request to the two States Parties to develop of a comprehensive monitoring, assessment and action plan to identify and address potential negative impacts from the HPP on the OUV of the two contiguous properties of Iguaçu National Park and Iguazu National Park;
6. Expresses again grave concern regarding the potential legislative implication of the two Bills under consideration, which propose the reopening of the Colono Road, and which could, if approved, create the conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and urges again the State Party to ensure the continued closure of Colono Road;
7. Welcomes the completion of the Public Use Plan (PUP) and encourages the State Party to implement the strategy outlined in the Plan to ensure the sustainable use and development of tourism in the property;
8. Notes with appreciation the results from the National Programme for Monitoring Biodiversity ('Monitora') programme in the property and the continued implementation of other programmes, including the Onças do Iguaçu project, Biodiversity Corridor Consolidation programme and the Natural Resource Protection programme;
9. Also encourages the State Party to collaborate with the State Party of Argentina and report on the outcomes of the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission to:
  - a) Develop an action plan for joint patrolling activities and ensure that these activities are undertaken on a regular basis;
  - b) Establish a monitoring programme for key species within the property and, in cooperation with the Iguazu National Park, within the broader region;
10. Notes with concern the reported plans to further develop tourism in the property, including a proposed cable car project and also requests the State Party to ensure that all proposed projects will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before a decision to implement them is made;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 65. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica) (N 928bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (weak control over commercial and artisanal fishing)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Pan-American Highway that bisects the property)
- Human resources
- Illegal activities
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
- Renewable energy facilities (Las Pailas I and II geothermal and windpower projects development adjacent to the property)
- Water extraction
- Other factors (fire: intentional and accidental fires, particularly affecting the dry forests); longstanding subsistence and commercial use of land and resources, prior to inscription on the World Heritage List, with impacts stemming from farming, ranching, logging, pesticide use, introduction of exotic species, sulphur mining, amongst others
- Water infrastructure (dry canal)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/document/197161> and reports the following:

- No active or approved infrastructure, energy or agricultural projects exist within the property or its buffer zone;
- Following formal rejection of the Interoceanic Dry Canal project, the company CANSEC S.A. continues to promote the project, described by the State Party as irresponsible, lacking technical and financial support, showing incomplete documentation and inconsistencies, and therefore not viable;
- The concept of an Atlantic Mega Transshipment Terminal is being promoted by AMEGA Ltd. Following an initial focus on the Caribbean coast. A future project phase could encompass a Mega Pacific Terminal and a coast-to-coast high-speed cargo train connection. No formal proposal has been submitted and full commitment to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is expressed;
- Geothermal projects (Las Pailas I/II and Borinquen I/II) and wind power projects (Orosi and Alisios) near the property are compliant with national standards and regulations, and accompanied by cooperation with management authorities of the property and wildlife research.

The World Heritage Centre will be informed of possible future projects in the vicinity of the property;

- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for new project proposals in the wider conservation area are to consider fully the OUV and the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, including the proposed Playa Santo Tomás hotel development during its pre-feasibility phase;
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be undertaken prior to considering further renewable energy projects within applicable regulations;
- While the local government supports road impact mitigation, including through the Green and Living Tunnel approach, efforts were hampered by a serious case of corruption involving the National Roads Council (CONAVI);
- The Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area (AMMBSE), recommended for inclusion in the property, still lacks the necessary administrative conditions to guarantee its adequate conservation and management, especially due to the lack of personnel and economic resources for marine management;
- Climate change adaptation programmes are underway, including land acquisition (more than 500 ha) to add to the 'conservation portfolio' outside the property, educational programmes and development of a local (Canton La Cruz) climate adaptation action plan;
- The financial crisis and reduced tourism revenues negatively impacted the overall management capacity.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmed absence of any existing or proposed infrastructure, agricultural or renewable energy projects in the property is welcomed. Continued private sector interest in the formally rejected Dry Canal project and promotion of another large-scale port project, which may affect the property's OUV are noted with appreciation, along with the State Party assurance to keep the Committee informed and renewed commitment to the protection of the property. The proactive development of initiatives to address the impacts of climate change on the property are also appreciated.

The explicit integration of the OUV of World Heritage properties into EIA processes and growing SEA capacities are welcome developments. The State Party confirmation that the Playa Santo Tomás hotel project is to be assessed in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment is reassuring, however it is recommended that the State Party be made aware of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, which should be applied to impact assessments going forward.

In the context of the repeated Committee requests for an SEA, the State Party's confirmation to undertake an SEA is appreciated. Taking note that the State Party recently concluded an SEA for the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park World Heritage property (Costa Rica/Panama), national level exchanges to learn and build on the experience will be highly valuable. The SEA should address cumulative effects on the OUV of the property, taking into account existing geothermal development and wind energy projects in the immediate vicinity of the property. This would be critical to understand and develop a strategy for future development projects in the wider setting of the property, whilst ensuring the conservation of the OUV of the property.

It is of concern that options to mitigate road impacts were limited given that the Inter-American Highway bisects part of the property, reportedly due to corruption and impacts of the financial crisis. The financial crisis also impeded further development of the National Ecological Route 918 and the State Party again provides no information on National Road 4 as an alternative route to bypass the property. The local government commitment to the Green and Living Tunnel is therefore important. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to continue monitoring and mitigating all impacts from roads.

AMMBSE is important as a highly valuable and vulnerable marine area, as well as part of the growing conservation area based on an innovative, more participatory approach. The State Party insistence to establish adequate management and stakeholder involvement prior to the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) proposal to include AMMBSE is encouraging. Eventually, an MBM is strongly recommended and should consider not only the inclusion of AMMBSE, but also address the wider discrepancy between the Conservation Area/"protected block" as nationally defined (163,000 ha

of land and 43,000 ha of sea) and the smaller World Heritage property (147,000 ha of land and sea) so as to fully harmonise the configuration of the property with the boundaries of existing management units.

Despite the development of agro-landscape zones and regional conservation areas surrounding the property to consolidate the protection of the OUV, it is recalled that no formal buffer zone has been determined. The formalisation of a terrestrial and marine buffer zone via an MBM should be further pursued, in line with the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.65**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.24** and **44 COM 7B.196**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the confirmation that the authorization for the proposed Interoceanic Dry Canal project was not approved and the firm State Party position communicated in this regard, and that the property continues to remain off-limits to industrial development infrastructure;
4. Remains concerned that that the project proponent as well as other companies continue to promote the proposals for an interoceanic dry canal, including as part of a proposed Mega Pacific Terminal and coast-to-coast high-speed cargo train connection and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about any further developments on these proposals;
5. Notes with appreciation the progress in the implementation of climate change adaptation programmes to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Takes note of the State Party's confirmation that the proposed Santo Tomás hotel development will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and also requests the State Party to ensure the EIA is completed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) before approving any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonise renewable energy initiatives and the conservation of the property's OUV, considering the multiple existing and proposed projects and development pressures near the property;
8. Regrets that measures to mitigate the effects of the Inter-American Highway and other roads have been limited, and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to ensure the best possible management of all road infrastructure within and bordering the property and potentially impacting on the OUV of the property, including, but not limited to, the upgrading of Ecological National Route 918, the Inter-American Highway, and the exploration of the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;
9. Also takes note of the State Party's view that the management of the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area requires consolidation as a precondition for submitting a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) and encourages the State Party to submit the corresponding MBM once the necessary conditions to ensure the effective protection and management requirements are in place;

10. Also notes with appreciation that a particularly valuable area could be added to the conservation area and reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to consider the wider “protected block” for inclusion in the property in order to harmonise the boundary of the property with other existing management units across the terrestrial and marine environment through the procedure of an MBM;
11. Recalling Decision 44 COM 7.2, which reaffirmed the increasing importance of effective buffer zones to support the protection and management of OUV and building greater resilience of properties to external threats, also encourages the State Party to establish a buffer zone for both the marine and terrestrial units of the property in line with the recommendations by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission building on the existing protection through the agro-landscape zones and regional conservation areas in place at the national level;
12. Acknowledging the continued human and financial capacity limitations, also reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2018 mission to the property and further encourages the continuation of the diversification of sources of conservation financing to further reduce the vulnerability to economic cycles;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

**66. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama) (N 205bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1982-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 276,350

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure - Construction of hydroelectric dams near the property in Panama and associated effects (greater human presence near the property, interruption of aquatic species migratory corridor) - Approval of a new hydropower project (Changuinola II or CHAN 140) without prior finalization of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property
- Lack of a long-term biological monitoring program to implement mitigation measures that minimize the negative impacts on the property caused by hydroelectric projects

- Land conversion (Encroachment) and Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals (settlements, cattle ranching)
- Planned road construction, which would traverse the property on the side of Panama (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2022, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/> and reports the following:

- Despite resource constraints, the park authorities continued with training, environmental education and patrolling within the property to monitor and control poaching, illegal logging, settlements and encroachment; budgetary challenges in Costa Rica were partially supported by partnering with a non-governmental organization;
- The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) is used in Costa Rica to systematize data and identify hotspots of threats;
- Costa Rican authorities are cooperating with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in environmental education activities, accompaniment in patrols, waste collection campaigns, among other activities;
- A Participation Strategy for the Caribbean sector of the property (ACLAC) was produced to ensure participation of the eight indigenous territories that surround the property in the Caribbean sector into the governance of the property;
- Binational patrolling was limited due to the COVID-19-related temporary border closure; regular binational coordination meetings through the Binational Technical Executing Unit for the management of La Amistad International Park (UTEB-PILA) resumed in 2022;
- Following delays due to COVID-19, a draft management plan for the Panamanian side was approved. Finalization, approval and submission to the World Heritage Centre are foreseen within the first half of 2023;
- After submitting the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property to the World Heritage Centre in early 2022, adjustments were made to ensure consistency between the two States Parties. A revised and approved SEA is submitted for IUCN review. The SEA will allow, through a participatory process, the definition of the best development options, accounting for environmental and sustainability issues related to development plans;
- The Changuinola II hydropower project (CHAN II) has not been resumed, despite the fact that it is recognized as a State necessity, and Panama reaffirms its commitment to prior consultations with the World Heritage Centre should it be resumed, as well as the consideration of the IUCN review of the SEA;
- Monitoring reports on aquatic biodiversity from Palo Seco Protected Forest adjacent to the property produced under concession contracts with the operators of the CHAN I and Bonyic hydropower projects are shared by Panama; for CHAN I further related activities include capture and relocation of species and environmental education;
- The property is one of five transboundary priorities of a major regional project (Linking the Central American Landscape) funded by the Government of Germany; the focus is on land between protected areas; further project support includes SMART training.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The States Parties' efforts to continue patrols despite resource constraints is welcomed, as is the establishment of partnerships and projects to fill the gaps created by the ongoing budgetary challenges. Costa Rica's efforts to engage in increasingly participatory approaches are welcomed to facilitate diverse and resilient management and governance going forward. The States Parties should be encouraged to continue to ensure indigenous communities have a meaningful role in management and governance throughout the property.



It is also encouraging that the UTEB-PILA resumed its regular meetings after temporary border closure due to COVID-19. SMART patrolling is welcomed and encouraged as a tool to further systematize and harmonize monitoring and data management on both sides of the border. The planned finalization, approval and submission of the management plan by Panama in the first half of 2023 are noted, and the State Party should be encouraged to complete this process as soon as possible.

It is once more welcomed that the CHAN II hydropower project has not been re-activated, noting Panama's commitment to consult with the World Heritage Centre, should reactivation be considered. Recalling the Committee's position that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate independent review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, potentially calling for a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party of Panama's reaffirmed commitment to its obligations under the Convention as well as the commitment to pursue development options through a participatory process in line with the SEA, is noted. In this context, the submission of an amended and approved version of the SEA is acknowledged. The IUCN review is ongoing and will be communicated separately to the State Party of Panama.

The continued monitoring enabled under concession contracts with the operators of the two existing hydropower projects in the Palo Seco Protected Forest in Panama (CHAN I and Bonyic) are noted. It is recommended to move beyond project activities by establishing reliable funding mechanisms for long-term monitoring. Such monitoring should focus on informing concrete mitigation measures to ensure the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted.

The property in the territories of both States Parties is for the most part surrounded by a number of protected and conserved areas serving as de facto buffer zones. Nevertheless, recalling that this is not formally designated as a buffer zone for the property, the new regional project (Linking the Central American Landscape) focusing on land between protected areas could play an important role to enhance the connectivity between component parts of the property and therefore its integrity through an additional layer of protection to the property's OUV, including several indigenous territories in Costa Rica, as well as the Volcán Barú National Park and the Palo Seco Protected Forest in Panama. The States Parties should be encouraged to build on the enhanced protection of these areas through this initiative by identifying and establishing a formal buffer zone for the property.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.66**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.25** and **44 COM 7B.197**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the States Parties' continued efforts to monitor and control illegal activities within the property, despite resource constraints, including through the establishment of new partnerships and projects;*
4. *Also welcomes the resumption of bilateral efforts following temporary border closure and Costa Rica's increasing involvement of indigenous peoples, and encourages continued engagement and meaningful indigenous participation in the management and governance of the transboundary property;*
5. *Notes the upcoming finalization of the Management Plan for the Panamanian part of the property, and requests the State Party of Panama to complete the process of finalizing the Management Plan as soon as possible;*
6. *Commends the States Parties on the completion and submission of an amended and approved version of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);*

7. *Recalling* that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, *further welcomes* that the construction project of the Changuinola II (CHAN II) dam has not been re-activated to date and *also notes* the State Party of Panama's reaffirmed commitment to its obligations under the Convention and its confirmation that, should re-activation of the project be considered again, prior consultations with the World Heritage Centre would be undertaken;
8. *Also notes* continued efforts by the State Party of Panama to monitor activities of the operating CHAN I and Bonyic dams, and *reiterates its request* to the State Party of Panama to continue these efforts to establish long-term monitoring programmes for the projects, and use the findings to design appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted;
9. *Recalling* Decision **44 COM 7.2** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou /online, 2021), which reaffirmed the increasing importance of effective buffer zones to support the protection and management of the OUV and building greater resilience of properties to external threats, *also encourages* the States Parties to identify and establish a formal buffer zone for the property;
10. *Finally, requests* the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## **67. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2007-2010

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 26 (from 1979-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 627,825

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million for the capitalization of an introduced species Trust Fund, management of introduced species, tourism management studies and other technical support.

### Previous monitoring missions

June 1996: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); February 2003: UNESCO mission; June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); April 2009: UNESCO informal visit; April-May 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing / collection of aquatic resources)
- Legal framework (inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos)
- Governance
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (high immigration rate)
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Invasive/alien species / biosecurity (inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>, reporting the following:

- All pending recommendations from the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission have been addressed;
- Indicators related to attributes which convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property were developed to serve as the basis for ongoing monitoring and management. The integration of standardised information on the attributes for pelagic ecosystems is underway through international assistance funding provided by UNESCO;
- An evaluation of threats to the property and management actions to address these threats was undertaken, based on UNESCO/IUCN guidance materials. Spatial analysis of threats within the property showed that buildings and development occupy less than 3% of the property, while Invasive Alien Species (IAS) were more broadly distributed across the property. Assessment of threat intensity showed that land conversion and harvesting of natural resources represent significant threats to the property while climate change, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and IAS require immediate intervention to mitigate their impacts on the OUV;
- The majority of threats are being reduced as a result of control measures, with the exception of climate change, and ecological and geological events (e.g., earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis);
- Biosecurity measures undertaken by the Galápagos Biosecurity Agency (GBA) have resulted in a decrease in the index of entry for invasive species from airline and maritime transport at the property's entry points between 2020 and 2022. Additional measures such as transport and farm inspections are in place for the control and surveillance of IAS between islands;
- Tourism activities in the property are strictly regulated in accordance with relevant government strategies, which are commensurate to a zero-growth model for tourism. The number of flights and, consequently the number of person arrivals, in Galápagos is governed by the National Civil Aviation Council;
- Following the dramatic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism in 2020, the number of tourist arrivals in the property has increased in 2021 but is still 40% lower compared to 2019;
- Data from the vessel monitoring surveillance system indicate that the majority of industrial fishing vessels operate at least 5 km from the boundaries of the property, under strict regulatory control as they are mostly Ecuadorian flagged and registered with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Artisanal fishing in the property is also strongly regulated with a total of 247 registered fishing vessels that comply with rules and regulations;
- Hermandad Marine Reserve, a 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> marine protected area (MPA) was designated between the Galápagos Marine Reserve (GMR) and Cocos Island (Costa Rica) to safeguard the migration routes of several key pelagic species and enhance the protection of the properties' OUV;
- Implementation of the new zoning system for the property adopted in 2017 is now underway following a decision from the Constitutional Court of Ecuador in 2021.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The significant ongoing efforts by the State Party to address the longstanding issues related to tourism, IAS and IUU fishing, including through the implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, are welcomed. Appreciation is due in particular for the recent progress on the operationalisation of the GBA, the development and implementation of the vessel monitoring system, and the regional collaboration to address IUU fishing.

The development of indicators related to attributes of the OUV, and the corresponding threat reduction assessment, represents a significant step towards effective long-term monitoring and adaptive management of the property. It is encouraging that management measures appear to be effectively reducing threats to the property's OUV. However, it is noted that longstanding and emerging threats including IAS, tourism and associated infrastructure, illegal harvesting of natural resources, climate change and land conversion remain stable and require ongoing management efforts. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to integrate the aforementioned indicators, and corresponding measures to address threats, into the current Management Plan for the property, and to submit the updated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre once it is available.

The State Party should be encouraged to continue its commendable efforts to limit and control the further spread of IAS, through effective implementation of the 10-year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan, sufficient enforcement and funding.

The information that tourism is strictly regulated in the property and commensurate with a zero-growth model for tourism is noted. However, statistics publicly available at the website of the Ministry of Tourism show a steep and continuous increase of visitor numbers (<https://servicios.turismo.gob.ec/>) from less than 12,000 at the time of inscription in 1978 to more than 270,000 in 2019 before the start of the pandemic. Notwithstanding the temporary decrease in numbers as a result of the COVID pandemic, tourist visitation numbers from January to March 2023 are reported to be 78,507, which is over than 9,500 more than in the first quarter of 2019, prior to the pandemic. The reported opening of a new flight connection to Galapagos from the city of Manta in March 2023 will only further exacerbate this trend.

Since 1998, when a cap was established on the total capacity of the cruise ship fleet, most of this growth is land-based visitation, which carries even larger risks of introduction and dispersal of alien species compared with ship-based tourism. It is of concern that the State Party did not provide any information on whether work has started on the development of a tourism strategy and clear action plan, which was requested by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 7B.113** to achieve the zero-growth model, including maintaining the moratorium on construction of new tourism projects and the limits on the number of flights. While it is noted that the number of flights and, consequently the number of arrivals, in Galápagos is governed by the National Civil Aviation Council, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that it is the responsibility of the State Party to manage tourism flow in a way that is compatible with the OUV of the property, including by pursuing a zero-growth tourism model, as previously requested by the Committee.

It is positive that most fishing vessels around the property are under regulatory oversight for compliance, reporting, and fishery observer coverage. Recalling the negative impact of IUU fishing on the OUV of the property, the State Party is requested to ensure continuous compliance of these fishing vessels with rules and regulations in place, including continued strengthening of their vessel monitoring system, and to ensure the continued monitoring of any illegal or unregulated fishing vessels that may encroach on or operate at the peripheries of the property.

The designation of the Hermandad Marine Reserve between the Galápagos Islands and Cocos Island represents a positive development to enhance the protection of the OUV through improved connectivity for migratory species across the region. The State Party should be encouraged to enforce the regulations established within the MPA alongside efforts to further strengthen its collaboration with neighboring countries.

In November 2021, the Presidents of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama signed a declaration to the sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) and started a regional process that could result in the establishment of the world's largest transboundary marine biosphere reserve encompassing four World Heritage sites: Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia) and the Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama). This corridor covers more than 500,000 ha and is an important migratory route for a number of species which represent attributes of the property's

OUV including whales, sharks, and manta rays. It is recommended that the Committee welcome this development and encourage the States Parties to further pursue this initiative.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.67**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.113**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Appreciates the significant progress made by the State Party in addressing the longstanding issues facing the property and in implementing the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular the recent progress towards the operationalization of the Galápagos Biosecurity Agency (GBA);
4. Encourages the State Party to continue the current biosecurity measures to control the entry and spread of invasive alien species throughout the property, including through the effective implementation of the 10-year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan;
5. Notes the development of indicators and identification of threats related to attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and requests the State Party to integrate these, in close collaboration with the relevant local institutions, into an updated version of the 2014 Management Plan for the property;
6. Reiterates its continued concern on the steady growth of tourism and commercial flights to the property and urges again the State Party to develop and implement a clear tourism strategy with a clear action plan with urgent measures to achieve the zero-growth model, including maintaining the moratorium on construction of new tourism projects and the limits on the number of flights, and to submit this strategy and action plan to the World Heritage Centre for review;
7. Takes note that the majority of fishing vessels around the property are Ecuadorian flagged and registered with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and operate under strict regulatory control, and further urges the State Party to ensure compliance with regulations and to ensure the continued monitoring of any illegal or unregulated fishing vessels that may encroach on or operate at the peripheries of the property;
8. Commends the implementation of the new zoning system and the designation of the *Hernandad Marine Reserve* between the Galápagos Marine Reserve (GMR) and Cocos Island in Costa Rica and also encourages the State Party to continue to strengthen regional collaboration with neighboring countries for a collective approach to reducing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the region;
9. Also commends the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama for adopting a declaration on the sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) and encourages them to work towards the establishment of a transboundary marine biosphere encompassing the World Heritage sites of Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia) and the Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama);

10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

## **68. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1290)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (vii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January-February 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities - Illegal logging
- Land conversion - Agricultural encroachment
- Forest fires (problem solved)
- Decline in the overwintering population of Monarch butterflies in the property
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (tourism pressures associated with growth in visitor numbers and heavy concentration in specific areas)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Mining in the buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/>

### Current conservation issues

On 26 December 2022, the State Party submitted a comprehensive state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/documents/> and reports the following progress:

- The programme to address illegal logging within the property involving local and national security agencies has continued. Although some equipment involved in illegal logging has been seized, 14 hectares (ha) of the property were affected by illegal logging according to the most recent monitoring data reported;
- Growing demand for commercial avocado production has led to increased forest clearing in the buffer zone and in the vicinity of the property, from 2.03 ha in 2004 to 9.62 ha in 2020, resulting also in an increase in water consumption. The State Party reports the activities to have not impacted the property to date; however, this activity is reported as “a potential threat”;
- Forest restoration programmes, including reforestation maintenance actions, rehabilitation of firebreaks and fuel management have continued in the degraded areas of the property and buffer zone with the participation of local communities;

- Trained and equipped firefighting and community brigades are in place in the property to limit the impacts caused by forest fires. However, in 2021 and 2022, 68 forest fires affected approximately 842.82 ha of forest;
- The process to update the existing “Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Management Program” is underway and due to be completed in 2023;
- There is currently no mining project authorized in the property or its buffer zone despite the Grupo Industrial Minera México, S.A. (IMMSA), initiating steps to reactivate operations;
- In 2021 and 2022, over 10,000 sightings of Monarch Butterfly and milkweed plants were documented through the collaborative Monarch Blitz initiative, led by civil society from Canada, the United States and Mexico;
- During the 2021-2022 season, ten colonies of Monarch Butterfly, covering 2.17 ha, were recorded within the property, and six recorded outside the property covering an area of 0.66 ha, representing an increase of 35% compared with the area occupied in 2020-2021;
- The National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly in Mexico 2018-2024 identified priority actions in six major strategic lines and 147 actions that require the participation of multiple actors for their implementation;
- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, measures were put in place to ensure the protection of the property in compliance with COVID-19 protocols. However, economic impacts to local communities, combined with lower management capacity, both resulting from the pandemic, have resulted in increased illegal logging activities.

On 18 May 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party of the United States of America (USA) conveying third party concerns regarding the conservation of Monarch Butterflies in the USA, in particular regarding pesticide use and loss of habitat.

On 9 June 2022, the State Party of the USA replied to share the concern that despite positive trends in populations, targets for population viability were not being achieved. The letter also highlighted the ongoing efforts to conserve the species in the USA, as well as international cooperation through the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management and the Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The measures taken to maintain the ecological integrity of the property, including monitoring of the forest cover, surveillance, and restoration of degraded areas with the involvement of security agencies and local communities have attained some tangible results and are appreciated. However, it is of concern that threats continue to increase, including illegal logging, bushfires, and forest clearing. This resulted in the migratory Monarch Butterfly to be recently entered into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered.

The rapid expansion of avocado production within the buffer zone of the property is concerning, given its potential threats to the forest cover of the property. In view of the continuously increasing and persistent threats to the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the State Party should be requested to further strengthen its on-going efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission. In particular, it is crucial to put in place long term inter-institutional actions to detect and prevent illegal logging activities within the property; expand reforestation in areas of the property impacted by illegal logging and take additional surveillance measures to halt the deforestation as a result of the expansion of avocado production in the buffer zone and reclaim and restore the affected areas. Efforts should also include programmes supporting involvement of local and indigenous communities in conservation activities as well as providing alternative income for these communities.

The confirmation that no mining project has been authorized within the property or the buffer zone despite several attempts by private investors is welcomed. Recalling previous requests of the Committee, and the recommendation of the 2018 mission, the State Party should be requested again to officially declare the property as a no-go area for mineral exploration and extraction and develop strict regulations for any mining activities within the property’s buffer zone to avoid any potential negative impacts to the property’s OUV. Furthermore, any potential mining activity being considered which may have potential impacts on the OUV of the property should be assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context prior to any decision being taken that would be difficult to reverse.



The planned finalization of the “Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Management Program” in 2023 and continued implementation of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly 2018-2024 in synergy with civil society organizations, scientists and volunteers along the migration corridor of the Monarch Butterfly are positive and should be continued. Noting the concerns raised by third parties regarding the conservation of the species throughout its range outside the property, the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the USA should be encouraged to strengthen their actions to conserve the species, in particular through relevant national-level protective legislation (i.e., U.S. Endangered Species Act) and minimizing the loss and restoring milkweed habitat, as well as through trilateral collaboration to ensure effective conservation for the Monarch Butterfly across its entire migratory range. Moreover, information on the actions taken by the States Parties of Canada and the USA in protecting the species should be shared between the three States Parties, where possible, and the State Party of Mexico should be requested by the Committee to report any shared information it receives relating to the conservation of the butterflies across their range in the USA and Canada.

The consistent occurrence of overwintering colonies outside the property emphasizes again the previously highlighted importance of strengthening the protection of the species not only within but also outside the property, including in the context of climate change. The State Party should therefore be again strongly encouraged to develop a proposal for an extension of the property to ensure that areas consistently occupied by overwintering colonies are appropriately protected, in particular in the context of a changing climate, and also be requested to provide an update on the progress of submitting a boundary modification in the next report.

Adaptive measures put in place to ensure the continued protection of the property during the COVID-19 outbreak are commendable and the State Party should be encouraged to improve management capacity to meet the current challenges in safeguarding the OUV of the property, in particular those that have arisen due to the impacts of the pandemic on illegal logging.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.68**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.198**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Appreciates the measures taken to ensure the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the property and restoration of degraded areas with the involvement of relevant government agencies and local communities;*
4. *Notes with utmost concern that illegal logging activities in the property have increased, and urges again the State Party to significantly increase efforts to halt the illegal logging in the property as a matter of priority;*
5. *Regrets that a number of threats including illegal logging, bushfires and land clearing are persisting and increasing, and requests the State Party to take appropriate actions, including by fully implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to ensure these threats do not impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular the below:*
  - a) *Ensure that inter-institutional efforts to detect and prevent illegal logging activities within the property are further strengthened in the longer-term and ensure reforestation activities are continued in areas of the property impacted by illegal logging,*
  - b) *Develop and implement additional surveillance programmes to halt deforestation in the buffer zone caused by the expansion of avocado production, and reclaim and restore the affected areas,*



- c) *Continue programmes supporting involvement of local and indigenous communities in conservation activities and develop additional ways of providing alternative income for these communities;*
6. *Welcomes the confirmation by the State Party that no mining project has been authorized in the property or its buffer zone, however also requests the State Party to make a permanent commitment not to undertake any mining activity within the property, and to ensure that any such activities outside the property do not cause a negative impact on its OUV, including through impact assessment processes in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
  7. *Further requests the State Party to finalize as soon as possible the “Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Management Program” and submit it to the World Heritage Centre and continue the implementation of its National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly;*
  8. *Encourages the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America to strengthen their actions to conserve the species in their territories, in particular through national-level protective legislation and minimizing the loss and restoring milkweed habitat, as well as through the trinational collaboration to provide adequate protection to the Monarch Butterfly and its habitat throughout its migratory corridor and requests furthermore the State Party of Mexico to report on these actions;*
  9. *Also notes the consistent occurrence of colonies of Monarch Butterfly establishing themselves outside the boundaries of the property and again strongly encourages the State Party to develop a proposal for an extension of the property to ensure that areas consistently occupied by overwintering colonies of Monarch Butterfly outside the property are appropriately protected and to increase the potential of the property to effectively conserve its OUV under changing climatic conditions, and to provide an update on the progress of submitting a boundary modification in the next State of conservation report;*
  10. *Further notes that adaptive measures were taken by the State Party to maintain an acceptable level of protection of the property during the COVID-19 pandemic and also encourages the State Party to restore management capacity following the pandemic to meet the current challenges in safeguarding the ecological integrity of the property and the associated OUV, in particular those that have arisen due to the impacts of the pandemic on illegal logging;*
  11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## 69. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 350,000 (for management planning, installation of mooring buoys for diving boats, working with local communities, capacity building, public use planning and improved stakeholder understanding of legal protection measures)

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
- Management System/Management Plan (delayed implementation of the Management Plan)
- Marine transport infrastructure (planned construction of a naval base)
- Legal framework (absence of clear regulations)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Human resources (insufficient management capacity)
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/>

### Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The updating of the Management Plan for Coiba National Park and the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property and its wider area of socioeconomic influence is ongoing;
- There are no plans to reactivate the rehabilitation of the airport runway in Coiba National Park. However, this work will be taken into consideration in the application of the SEA once it is available;
- The rehabilitation of the Administrative Headquarters at Gambute on Coiba Island is urgently required and a Heritage Impact Study is being considered. The World Heritage Committee is requested to allow this rehabilitation pending the finalization of the SEA. Several other rehabilitation works are also planned or carried out for the benefit of the property including installation of six buoys for mooring and diving, rehabilitation of trails, and the shoring up of the penal chapel;
- Monitoring activities following the eradication of livestock in Coiba National Park are being carried out with the support of camera traps, and the presence of four buffalos was detected. The conservation status of several other key species within the property, including the scarlet macaw, hawksbill turtle, sharks and rays, and coral reef communities is also being monitored;

- The fisheries regulations in place prohibit various unsustainable fishing practices, including the use of nets of any kind, within the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP), which is made up of three components with different management objectives (Resource Management Zone, Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, and Isla Montuosa Marine Reserve Zone). A technical report to evaluate compliance and effectiveness of the regulations was requested by the SZMP Commission in 2022, and will be submitted to UNESCO for consideration when available;
- The monitoring system enforced within the SZMP has enabled the collection of data on fishing vessels and their compliance with international regulations and established national laws, the detection and removal of abandoned fishing lines and plastic fuel containers, and the rescue of a green turtle. Additional modern tech-based surveillance and monitoring equipment such as Skylight or Global Fishing Watch is being acquired with the support of partners;
- The conditions are not yet met for the IUCN Advisory mission to the property as the State Party is still recovering from the economic damages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once conditions permit, this activity will be resumed.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing updating of the Management Plan for Coiba National Park is welcomed and the development of an SEA for the property and its area of socioeconomic influence is noted.

It is noted that urgent repairs are required to the Administrative Headquarters at Gambute to facilitate the effective management of the property. However, the proposed rehabilitation includes upgrades of existing tourism accommodation for about 30 people, and a camping area. Recalling the Committee's request to suspend the implementation of any new tourism infrastructure or other development projects until the SEA has been completed, any rehabilitation work at Gambute carried out prior to the SEA should be strictly limited only to structures that are necessary for the functioning management of the property and which should be subject to Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The efforts to monitor the trend of invasive alien species (IAS) and the conservation status of species that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are appreciated, however it is of concern that water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) are still recorded. The State Party should be encouraged to complete the eradication of feral livestock from the property. Current efforts to monitor flagship species should be continued and expanded to other taxa that constitute the OUV of the property. These data are also important to evaluate the fishing regulations.

The significant progress towards establishing identical fishing regulations for the SZMP and the Coiba National Park, including the prohibition of nets and commercialization of the species caught in sport fishing, should be noted with appreciation. Progress has also been made in the surveillance and monitoring of the compliance of fishing vessels with regulations through increased human and technological resources as well as infrastructure improvements. However, several of the 10 recommendations from the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission have still not been implemented, and the concern remains that regulations in the SZMP are significantly weaker than those in place within Coiba National Park. These weaker regulations fail to guarantee the protection of the OUV of the entire property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge again the State Party to further improve the fishing regulations for the SZMP, in line with the recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions, in particular the seasonal closures of critical replenishing zones across the property. The technical report to evaluate the fishing logs for commercial fishermen and fisheries management in the area, commissioned in 2022, should inform the implementation of the recommendations in strengthening fisheries regulations. The State Party should also be encouraged to continue improving its monitoring and surveillance capacity in order to prevent and sanction illegal activities throughout the property.

The continued interest to invite an IUCN Advisory mission, first proposed by the State Party in 2019, is noted. It is recommended that this mission take place as soon as possible to help further refine the fishing regulations and provide advice on their implementation on the property.

In November 2021, during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), the presidents of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama signed a declaration to the sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) and started a regional process that could result in the establishment of the world's largest transboundary marine biosphere reserve encompassing four World Heritage sites: Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia) and the Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection

(Panama). This corridor covers more than 500,000 hectares (ha) and is an important migratory route for sea turtles, whales, sharks, and manta rays. It is recommended that the Committee welcome this development and encourage the States Parties to further pursue this initiative.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.69**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.115**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the ongoing updating of the Management Plan for the property, takes note of the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property and its area of socioeconomic influence, and requests the State Party to submit the draft SEA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, once it is available;
4. Notes however that rehabilitation works, including tourist accommodation, are planned within the property before the completion of the SEA, therefore recalls its request to suspend the implementation of any new tourism infrastructure or other development projects within the property until the SEA has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and also requests that rehabilitation works at Gambute prior to the finalization of the SEA are strictly limited to structures that are necessary for the functioning management of the property and are subject to an environmental and social impact assessment in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
5. Appreciates the ongoing monitoring efforts to assess the conservation status of species which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to eradicate feral livestock from the property, and encourages the State Party and its partners to continue with the eradication of the domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and to expand efforts to ensure the long-term ecological monitoring of species that constitute the of OUV the property;
6. Notes with appreciation the significant progress in fishing regulations and the ongoing technical evaluation of the regulations, however expresses concern that several of the recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions are still not implemented, and urges again the State Party to further improve the fishing regulations for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP), in line with the recommendations of the missions, by:
  - a) Establishing additional no-take zones, including the Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, considering the significantly larger percentage of area covered by no-take zones within the Coiba National Park,
  - b) Reconsidering the current approach to commercial fishing within the SZMP in line with regulations in place for Coiba National Park, in order to further reduce pressures from fishing on the property;
7. Also appreciates the positive progress made in monitoring the compliance of fishing vessels with regulations through increased human and technological resources and also encourages the State Party to continue with the modernization of its monitoring and surveillance equipment to prevent and sanction illegal activities throughout the property and its zone of influence;

8. Also welcomes the renewed interest of the State Party to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to the property to help further refine the fishing regulations and provide advice on their implementation and further encourages the State Party to continue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to undertake the mission as soon as possible once conditions permit;
9. Commends the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama for adopting a declaration on the sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) and encourages them to work towards the establishment of a transboundary marine biosphere encompassing the World Heritage sites of Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia) and the Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama);
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## **70. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **71. Canaima National Park (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) (N 701)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/701/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1999-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 43,777

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/701/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

1998: UNESCO / IUCN mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Utilities or Service Infrastructure (Project to erect a series of power transmission lines)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Conflicts between the Pemon communities and the National Guard)
- Management System/Management Plan (Need to finalise the boundaries of the area)
- Illegal activities (illegal mining)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/701/>

### Current conservation issues

On 6 March 2023, the State Party sent a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/701/documents/> and reports the following:

- A territorial analysis between the southern boundary of Area 4 of the National Strategic Development Zone "Arco Minero del Orinoco" (ZDENAMO), the northern boundary of the property and the Mining Rights in Force, shows that the mining activity planned outside the property does not negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Mining rights Area 17, Gold Areas 25 and 26 are located approximately 10 km northwest of the property. Gold Areas 15, 20, 21 22 and 24 are located at an average distance of 14 or 15 km from the property;
- Planned mining activities in the ZDENAMO are aligned within the current national legal framework and administered by the relevant government authority, and are subject to control mechanisms for compliance with the relevant operational and environmental measures, including the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- The Bolivarian Armed Forces, coordinated through the Command of the Strategic Region of Integral Defense (REDI) Guayana, are responsible for the supervision and permanent surveillance of the property;
- The State Party has increased the number of park rangers in the property by 1,264% from 13 in 2015 to 163 in 2021. There are also 193 park rangers operating in the Bolivar Regional Directorate;
- The number of forest firefighters in the property has increased. By 2021, there were 36 Indigenous Community Brigaders in Canaima National Park and 40 forest firefighters are currently in training, representing a total of 76 members and an increase of 111%;
- The State Party is considering the possibility of expanding the property. An area of approximately 62,263 hectares (ha) located to the north of the property, and an estimated area of 150,005 ha to the east of the property have been provisionally identified.

The State Party invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property from 5 – 10 September 2022. On 21 August 2022 however, the State Party requested the postponement of the mission on the basis of severe weather.

On 7 December 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party encouraging it to invite the mission as quickly as possible. The need to organize the mission as soon as possible was reiterated on 9 March 2023, during a working meeting between the Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs, and UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. A renewed invitation for the mission, however, has not been received at the time of writing of this report.

On 19 May 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party further information received from third party sources about new illegal mining sites inside the property.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party regarding management of the property, in particular the increase in the number of firefighters and rangers, as well as surveillance of the property, is noted.

Following previous clarifications that the ZDENAMO does not spatially overlap with the property, it is further noted that a territorial analysis concluded that the planned mining activity outside the property does not negatively impact the OUV of the property. It is also noted that the mining rights areas are subject to relevant national environmental regulations, including an EIA requirement. However, it remains unclear how a territorial analysis could comprehensively assess potential impacts on the OUV of the property, and whether the planned and existing mining operations within the rights areas close to the property have been subject to EIAs which fully assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property. It is therefore recommended that the State Party submit the territorial analysis to the World Heritage Centre, as well as the status of any mining projects within the mining rights areas, for consideration by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and to ensure that all mining projects which could potentially impact on the OUV of the property are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Recalling the previously raised concerns regarding illegal mining activities within the property, no further information on illegal mining was provided. However, the World Heritage Centre has continued to receive information from third party sources about further expansion of illegal mining inside the property. It is regrettable that the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property planned in September 2022 had to be postponed due to extreme weather and that to date, no renewed invitation was received in spite of reminders to the State Party. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urges the State Party again to invite this requested mission as soon as possible. The mission should assess the degree to which the property's OUV might be affected by illegal mining activities through on-the-ground visits and consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of the Instituto Nacional de Parques (INPARQUES), relevant authorities, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the scientific community. It is also recommended that the mission review the planned and ongoing legal mining activities in the parts of ZDENAMO located close to the northern border of the property, to assess whether they might result in any potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property and provide advice to the State Party in ensuring that assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property is integrated into existing national regulations for mining. The overall state of conservation of the property, including the current status of the OUV of the property, its management effectiveness and the integration of local and indigenous communities into the management of the property should also be assessed during the mission.

The information on the potential extension of the property through areas to the north and east is again noted. Recalling previous concerns regarding the discrepancy between the originally reported area of the property and the more recently submitted revised figure following up to date mapping of the property using modern technology, the State Party should again be requested to submit an official proposal for clarification of boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, according to Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.71**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.199, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou /online, 2021),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the reported increase in the number of firefighters and rangers, as well as information on the surveillance of the property;*
4. *Notes with concern that it remains unclear whether the planned and existing mining operations within the National Strategic Development Zone "Arco Minero del Orinoco" (ZDENAMO) rights areas close to the property have been subject to impact assessments which fully assess the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to submit the territorial analysis and status of mining projects in this area to the World Heritage Centre, and to ensure that all proposed mining projects which could potentially impact on the OUV of the property are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to provide further information ahead of the requested Reactive Monitoring mission on the current extent and status of any illegal mining activities in the property to the World Heritage Centre;*
6. *Regrets that the State Party did not issue a new invitation for the Reactive Monitoring mission after its postponement for weather conditions and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite without further delay a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to:*

- a) *Assess, including through on-the-ground visits where feasible, the degree to which the property's OUV, including its integrity, might have been affected by illegal mining activities,*
  - b) *Review the planned and ongoing legal mining activities in the parts of ZDENAMO located in the vicinity to the northern border of the property and assess whether they might result in any potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property and provide advice to the State Party in ensuring that assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property is integrated into existing national regulations for mining;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an official proposal for clarification of boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, according to Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines concerning Minor Boundary Modifications;*
  8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*



## AFRICA

### 72. Sangha Trinational (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo) (N 1380rev)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 73. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996-2017

- Major declines of the Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations and of other large mammals
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property
- Impacts of road construction through the property

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 11 (from 1978-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 397,396

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 (2012-2015) in support of community conservation programme with co-financing from Global Environment Fund (GEF) and development of the grazing pressure reduction strategy (UNESCO-Spain-Funds-in Trust and UNESCO-Netherlands-Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2006 and 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Road construction through the property
- Power transmission line affecting exceptional natural beauty and conditions of integrity
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property and crop cultivation on the property
- Growing resource-dependent, economically poor population around the national park
- Overgrazing by livestock
- Human-wildlife conflict, including fatal leopard attacks, livestock predation and crop-raiding
- Declining populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species
- Poaching in remote areas, including of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf
- Impacts and risks associated with tourism development and visitation
- Management suffering from scarce human and financial resources
- Limited local participation in management and governance
- Pending Significant Boundary Modification to recognize the substantial expansion of the national park
- Uncommon precipitation and temperature patterns over recent years attributed to climate change

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>, and reports the following:

- The 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP) of the property is being implemented since 2020. It has fully considered the protection of the property and its buffer zone, with targets to protect and promote the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including to maintain the natural beauty and landscapes of the property;
- Implementation of the specific monitoring protocols for key species (Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf, and Gelada monkey) over the last two years under the GMP monitoring and evaluation plan included seasonal species censuses, wildlife disease monitoring, conflict management, and habitat quality, as well as quality control measures;
- A 2021 Ethiopian wolf camera trap census recorded 90 individuals, which was considered consistent with previous 2014, 2019 and 2020 Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCP) data. The 2021 Walia ibex census recorded 601 individuals, a 13% decline compared to previous surveys;
- The Tourism Management Plan sets out priorities for the next ten years in four areas: product development, visitor services, community tourism development, and management and funding;
- A number of lodge investment requests inside the property have been cancelled due to their potential negative impact on the OUV and efforts are underway to find alternative sites outside the property. Kibran lodge is under construction and Jacaranda lodge has not yet started. A lodge proposal in the west of the park will be completed this year. The Tourism Management Plan advises having tourist lodges outside the property and tourism infrastructure is required to pass the Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF) with bigger eco-lodges requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- An integrated fire management strategy developed by the management authority and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is being implemented. Fire related training was undertaken;
- Implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy (GPRS) is continuing with local communities, with 75% of the property free from livestock grazing, which is lower than 78% reported in the previous report due to instability and internal conflict affecting the park in 2021/2022;
- Several initiatives are underway with AWF and the German Development Bank (KfW) to support the management of the property;
- Continued support is provided to the relocated Gich community through a number of sustainable livelihood projects implemented by AWF and the management authority;
- The State Party requested financial support from UNESCO for the development of a new nomination dossier and the establishment of the buffer zone. The requested harmonization of the name of the property will be addressed through the nomination process;
- The construction of the alternative road was hampered by COVID-19 and security issues but is now continuing. The realignment of the power transmission line has been put on hold until the realigned road construction is completed.

The report referred to the following documents, as annexes, which were not included: the Tourism Management Plan, EIAs for the Jacaranda and Kibran lodges, and an integrated fire management strategy. On 13 February and 17 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre followed up with the State Party requesting these documents. No response had been provided at the time of writing of this report.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued efforts of the State Party, with support from partners AWF and KfW, to address Committee decisions are welcomed. The finalization and implementation of the GMP for the property is positive. Although no details are provided regarding how the aesthetic values of the property under criterion (vii) will be managed, the State Party's confirmation that the GMP fully considers the protection of the OUV and that targets have been developed to maintain the natural beauty and landscapes of the property is

noted. In this regard, the protection of the OUV, under both criteria (vii) and (x), should remain the primary management objective during the implementation of the GMP. The State Party should be requested to submit a copy of the GMP to the World Heritage Centre.

It is welcomed that the monitoring protocols for the three flagship species have been initiated and that quality control measures are reported to be included. Whilst noting that no information was provided on the Gelada, these protocols will allow the authorities to establish a consistent long-term monitoring approach to inform the protection and management of key species on the property. The results of the monitoring of the Ethiopian wolf, which show populations are stable, are encouraging, but the recorded 13% decrease in the Walia ibex population is of concern. It is recommended that the State Party further conducts research to identify the causes for this decline and takes appropriate actions to address these, including by seeking advice from the IUCN Species Survival Commission as needed.

It is recalled that the Tourism Development Plan provided by the State Party with its 2022 state of conservation report, was considered to be a positive starting point to address tourism development, but it lacked a management strategy to strategically assess how the impacts from the proposed tourism development will be monitored and managed, and the State Party was requested to develop a specific Tourism Management Plan. Although the current report refers to an appended Tourism Management Plan, it is regrettable that no such plan was provided and it is unclear whether the State Party has addressed the Committee's request.

Although it is positive that a number of lodge investment requests inside the property have been cancelled, it is concerning that lodges continue to be constructed inside the property. Recalling the Committee's request not to permit the development of tourism infrastructure inside the property and to submit EIAs for all proposed lodges to the World Heritage Centre, the State Party should be urged again to suspend these and ensure their potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. The EIAs should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse. It is also regrettable that the EIAs for the Jacaranda and Kibran lodges were not appended as stated.

It is positive that a fire management strategy has been developed and training activities undertaken. However, no information was provided on the affected area, impacts or recovery, and the fire management strategy was not appended as stated. The State Party should be requested again to provide further information on the affected area and impact on the OUV, to monitor the recovery of vegetation, and to submit the fire management strategy as soon as possible.

The continued implementation of the GPRS to further reduce livestock grazing from within the property is appreciated and efforts to address this issue should be continued.

The continued support to provide sustainable livelihoods to the relocated Gich community and other local communities is appreciated and should also be continued.

Noting the additional delays incurred, the State Party's continued commitment to developing a Significant Boundary Modification proposal for the entire Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP), including through an International Assistance request, and the intention to simultaneously formalize the buffer zone for the property and harmonize the names of the SMNP and the property, are welcomed.

The reported continuation of the alternative road project is noted; however, the repeatedly requested EIA for the part of the road crossing the SMNP should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible. Whilst noting the realignment of the transmission line has been suspended until completion of the road, it is important to recall the potential impact of this project on the outstanding natural beauty and conditions of integrity of the property, and the State Party should be requested again to assess the potential impacts, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to commencing any activity.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.73**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.81** adopted at its extended 44th session (**Fuzhou/online, 2021**),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party, with the support of its partners, in responding to past Committee decisions and the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, including the finalisation and implementation of the 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP), the monitoring protocols for Ethiopian wolf, *Walia ibex* and *Gelada*, and a fire management plan;
4. Takes note of the confirmation that the GMP fully considers the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that targets have been developed for species and to maintain the natural beauty and landscapes of the property, requests the State Party to submit a copy of the GMP to the World Heritage Centre, and urges the State Party to ensure that the protection of the OUV of the property, under both criteria (vii) and (x), is fully taken into account in the implementation of the GMP;
5. While also welcoming the results of the monitoring of the Ethiopian wolf, which show populations are stable, notes with concern the recorded 13% decrease of the *Walia ibex* population and requests the State Party to conduct further research to identify the causes for this decline and take appropriate actions to address these;
6. Further requests the State Party to continue monitoring the Ethiopian wolf, *Walia ibex* and *Gelada* through a long-term approach that informs the ongoing protection and management of the species, seeking advice from the IUCN Species Survival Commission as needed;
7. Noting that no Tourism Management Plan was appended, also requests the State Party to provide clarification regarding the request to develop a Tourism Management Plan to guide the monitoring and management of proposed tourism developments and impacts from increased visitors;
8. Notes with appreciation the cancellation of a number of lodge investment requests inside the property, however, notes with significant concern the continued construction of tourism infrastructure inside the property, and urges again the State Party not to continue these developments in their current locations before assessing the impacts of each project on the OUV, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit these Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to the World Heritage Centre for review before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
9. Also recalling the high impacts of the 2019 fires on the OUV of the property, also welcomes the implementation of a fire management strategy, however, reiterates its request for the State Party to provide further information on the affected area and impact on the OUV, to monitor the recovery of vegetation, and to submit the fire management strategy to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;
10. Also takes note of the continued implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy and the resulting reduction in livestock grazing, and further requests the State Party to continue addressing any grazing pressure;
11. Appreciates the continued support of the State Party and partners to support sustainable livelihoods of the relocated Gich community and other local communities, and encourages the State Party and partners to continue these efforts;
12. Also notes with appreciation the actions taken towards developing a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification for the entire Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) and the intention to simultaneously formalize the buffer zone for the property and harmonize the names of the SMNP and the property, and also requests the State Party to finalize this process, requesting technical advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as needed;

13. *Noting that progress is underway to complete the alternative road aiming at reducing disturbance of the existing main road in important afro-alpine habitats following further delays, also urges again the State Party to complete this project and to submit the EIA for the part of the new road crossing the SMNP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as possible;*
14. *Notes that the realignment of the transmission line has been suspended until the current road construction project is completed and further reiterates its request to the State Party to assess the visual and ecological impacts on the property, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to the commencement of any activities;*
15. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

**74. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (N 289)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**75. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**76. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**77. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe) (N 302)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## ARAB STATES

### 78. Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (Sudan) (N 262rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2010-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 29,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources (Limited financial resources)
- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of high-quality resolution maps that clearly define the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone) (resolved)
- Management System/Management Plan (Need to update the management plan and to complete an integrated management framework for the whole property)
- Legal framework (lack of regulation of diving tourism to ensure sustainable tourism)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/documents/> and reports the following:

- Despite the unstable political situation, the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) (2017-2021) was formally adopted by the Sudanese authorities and 80% was implemented. Since the IMP has expired, a stock-taking exercise, which would serve as a basis for an updated 5-year plan, is warranted; however most of the actions in the IMP remain valid;
- Partnerships with non-governmental, academic and research organizations were key for implementing the IMP and enabled the following: a diving training course, a workshop to review the IMP and identify areas of collaboration, signage, establishment of a mangrove nursery, clean-up campaigns, and GIS mapping;
- A mangrove management and replantation programme is underway. Sea turtle research will inform the design of a sea turtle monitoring programme, to be designed and implemented by the management authority and the NGO Sudanese Development Initiative (SUDIA). A 2022 coral reef survey of the Sudanese Red Sea coastline, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research, will provide data on reefs in the property;
- Local communities benefitted from USD 20,000 of micro-finance grants (funded by UNDP), a capacity training for fishermen (organized by the national NGO 'SOS-Sahel'), a training for a women's savings and loans association, and a workshop on community-based eco-tourism;

- In 2022, funding was secured from the Sudanese Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), the Czech Republic Development Cooperation, and the British Council to strengthen integrated management and improve livelihoods;
- A workshop to develop a code of conduct for diving operations in the property with multiple stakeholders is planned for December 2022. Ecotourism guidelines targeted at diving activities were produced by the Cousteau Society and its Sudanese partners. Although a licensing system is yet to be developed, dive operators require a permit for excursions in the property. Fines for violations are determined. There is a need for resources to monitor implementation for regulations and guidelines;
- Patrolling is ongoing, with a fulltime presence of the Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA) and small boat in Sanganeb Bay, but is extremely limited in Dunganab Bay and Mukkawar Island due to resource challenges;
- Several workshops were organized: addressing gender equality in fisheries and cultural industry (2021), ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (2022), community-based ecotourism (2022), and building educational capacity for conservation (2022);
- No formal permissions have been given by the Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the property.

In March 2023, the State Party provided further confirmation that, as of 2022, the Management Authority has established a mandatory permit system for tour operators entering the Marine Park, including fees.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

There has been no reported negative impact on the property as a result of the armed conflict that erupted in April 2023. Nevertheless, the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, is of great concern, and may affect the management capabilities at the property.

While noting that the formal adoption of the IMP was constrained by the unstable political situation, and its implementation by the lack of financial resources, the adoption and implementation of 80% of the IMP is encouraging, and the important support from donors, NGOs, local communities, and research organizations is welcomed. It will be important for the State Party to update the IMP for the next 5-year period, continue its implementation, and secure adequate funding in this regard. Other identified international funding sources should also be pursued further, including to ensure patrolling efforts in all the components of the property.

Recalling the previous concerns regarding activities of international dive operators reportedly causing damage to coral reefs, disturbance to wildlife, and negative impacts on visitor experience, it is positive that ecotourism guidelines for diving activities have been produced, that dive operators require a permit to operate in the property, and that a workshop to develop a written code of conduct for diving operations in the property is in planning following delay. Noting the reported financial constraints and recalling that the establishment of a regular income stream from tourism through a new fee has the potential to help facilitate ongoing funding for the management of the property, the implementation of the new permit system will provide an important source of revenue generation for the property.

The various marine research initiatives including mangroves, coral reefs, and sea turtles are noted with appreciation. Research findings should be used to inform monitoring and management priorities for the property, including as part of the development of the next IMP. It is positive that various expert workshops were held in 2021 and 2022 to strengthen the capacities of staff, teachers, and local communities in the field of conservation, gender equality, fisheries, and ecotourism. It is recommended that the State Party implement the expertise shared and continue building the management capacity for the property through training and knowledge exchange opportunities, both for nature conservation and livelihoods.

The State Party indicated in 2020 that it considered nominating the Sha'ab Roumi Marine Protected Area as an extension to the property. No official request has yet been received by the World Heritage Centre. It should be recalled that any proposed boundary change should be carried out in line with the procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination as per the Operational Guidelines, seeking prior technical advice from IUCN if required.

The confirmation that no formal permissions have been given by the Red Sea state for the development of a resort inside the boundaries of the property is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or authorize new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and to

assess any potential impacts on the OUV in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.78**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.99** and **44 COM 7B.179**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and the extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions, respectively,
3. While noting that the formal adoption of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property was constrained by the unstable political situation and its full implementation by the lack of financial resources, welcomes the 80% implementation of the IMP by the Wildlife Conservation General Administration and its partners, and requests the State Party to update the IMP for a 5-year period, ensure its implementation, and secure adequate funding, as soon as possible;
4. Also recalling the reported activities of international dive operators causing damage to coral reefs, disturbance to wildlife, and negative impacts on visitor experience, also welcomes ecotourism guidelines for diving activities and permit requirements for dive operators in the property, takes note of steps taken towards developing a written code of conduct for diving operations in the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts, including by:
  - a) Establishing a clear code of conduct for diving operations in the property,
  - b) Establishing effective communication with dive operators, both national and international, to raise awareness about the established rules and regulations and encourage best practice in line with international standards,
  - c) Establishing appropriate mechanisms, such as a licensing system, to avoid violations,
  - d) Ensuring regular patrolling to monitor any vessels operating within either component of the property;
5. Notes with appreciation the various marine research activities on mangroves, coral reefs, and sea turtles and encourages the State Party to use the findings to inform monitoring and management priorities for the property, including as part of the next IMP;
6. Also notes with appreciation the various expert workshops held in 2021 and 2022, and also encourages the State Party to implement the expertise shared and to continue building the management capacity for the property through training and knowledge exchange opportunities;
7. Recalls that any proposed extensions of the property should follow the appropriate procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination as per the Operational Guidelines, and further encourages the State Party to seek technical advice from IUCN if required;
8. Further welcomes that no formal permissions have been given for the development of a resort inside the boundaries of the property and reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or authorize new constructions,



*which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and to ensure any potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 79. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia) (N 368bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 80. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia) (N 917)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 81. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Area (China) (N 1083bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 82. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000 (“Enhancing Our Heritage” project on the assessment of management effectiveness). Between 2007 and 2015, the property has benefited from the World Heritage India programme, funded by the United Nations Foundation (which aims to enhance management effectiveness and build staff capacity, increase the involvement of local communities in the management of the property, promote sustainable development, and raise awareness through communications and advocacy)

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre site visit; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2023: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (Prosopis, Paspalum)
- Invasive/alien freshwater species (Eichhornia, Clarias gariepinus)
- Lack of adequate water supply (Water infrastructure)

- Management system/management plan (Need to update the Management Plan; inadequate water management including insufficient water supply and quality and competition among different users; inadequate measures to systematically monitor bird populations)
- Solid waste (Disposal of cattle carcasses near the property) (resolved)
- Other climate change impacts (High natural variability of rainfall)
- Other factor: Disappearance of Siberian cranes

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents> and reports the following:

- The property receives water from the Chambal Pipeline Project, Govardhan Drain Pipeline and Pachna Dam. The region where the property is located has received good rainfall in previous years, therefore the park has received its minimum requirement of water for the wetland blocks. The park management continues to search for solutions to sustain adequate long-term water supply to the property;
- The State Forest Department (SFD) is fully committed to protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. After receiving good rainfall in previous years and water from the aforementioned sources, the water supply from the Sewage Water Treatment Plant from Bharatpur city remains under consideration however no water has been released to the property yet. The Park administration understand the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee and would ensure a stringent monitoring system;
- The SFD is consulting with higher authorities regarding preparation of a Zonal Master Plan related to the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ);
- The revision of the Management Plan has now been completed.
- Management of invasive species *Prosopis juliflora*, Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), *Paspalum distichum*, African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) and vetiver (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) continues. The SFD has allocated Rs 20.0 lakh (ca. USD 24,500) to the removal of *P. juliflora* under the annual plan of operation, with removal from different blocks undertaken by park management. The removal of African catfish is being continued with the help of the local community. The management plan of the property for the next ten years includes a dedicated chapter on a strategy to remove invasive species;
- The Park authorities conduct systematic monitoring of the heronry birds and waterfowl population inside the park, which provides important information to help the administration better manage bird habitat. A study of heronries using nest counts is done periodically. A waterfowl census involving local community volunteers is undertaken on foot. The monitoring of bird populations in the property and nearby area is planned and will be integrated and documented in the Management Plan;
- The disposal of cattle carcasses near the park has been banned by the civil administration. Park authorities have taken full measures to resolve the issue and continuously monitor the dumping ground.

From 13 to 17 February 2023, an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property, the report of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents>.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In line with previously raised concerns, the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission highlighted that the overriding issue for the property remains to secure sufficient water supply to sustain its OUV. Whilst noting that the State Party has taken notable strides in the last decade to address this, the amount of available water in most years remains below the minimum level considered necessary. With the demand for water from other users (such as for agricultural and domestic purposes) continuing to increase, it is important to prevent further deterioration in the ecological status of the property and to restore its natural hydrological processes. It is therefore recommended that the State Party secure a long-term strategic solution to adequate water supply including by rapidly assessing the following: to clarify the water requirements for the property (i.e., a broadly accepted 550 million cubic feet (mcft) figure was identified

in the 1980's and the 2017-2027 Management Plan considers 650mcft to be necessary); clarify the hydrological processes related to the property; take into consideration the water quality of different water sources; and to facilitate water releases that ensure sufficient water reaches the property whilst a long-term solution is being secured. Although the State Party reports that sewage water treatment plants from Bharatpur city remain under consideration as a potential water source, the mission was assured that this is no longer the case. Water from these plants should not be considered unless there is clear evidence that the property's hydrological integrity would not be compromised.

The mission noted that the revised 2017-2027 Management Plan for the property was approved in 2021, with eight management objectives addressing water quality, habitat restoration, protection of the property, maintaining and developing ecotourism, adopting a landscape level approach, local communities, research-based management and monitoring, and improving management efficiency. In particular, the Management Plan noted the challenge of water supply and articulation of work needed to address invasive species. However, the mission highlighted that an explicit link to the OUV remains missing, with a clear need to ensure that the actions in the Management Plan contribute explicitly and directly to the conservation of the OUV. For example, a statement to more clearly define the desired state of conservation for the property to achieve the Management Plan vision of restoring 'full ecological glory', as well as explicit management objectives, would be useful.

It is regrettable that the revised Management Plan was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to its finalization and approval, as requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.92**. Noting that the final Management Plan was provided during the mission, it is recommended the State Party review the Management Plan in line with the mission recommendations with a specific focus on the management of the OUV, to identify short term gaps in addressing challenges and urgent management needs, and to ensure timely development of an updated Management Plan that explicitly links actions to attributes that convey the OUV before its expiry in 2027. The 40th anniversary of inscription of the property in 2025 provides a timely opportunity.

The mission highlighted that there is no clear list of the attributes that convey the OUV, nor a long-term monitoring programme, which makes it difficult for authorities to be able to clearly monitor and assess changes in the OUV over time. It is therefore recommended to identify such attributes to inform the long-term monitoring, protection and management of the property.

Regarding bird monitoring, the mission highlighted that a scientifically-based monitoring programme that is based on the attributes is needed to guide management decisions, and that the current status of the Siberian Crane, which has not been recorded in the property since 2001/2002 and is considered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to be possibly extinct in the wider region, is appropriately reflected in monitoring, management and in its communication. The mission considered that there seems no prospect of the species overwintering at the property without restoration of the flyway and coordinated transboundary management at the regional scale.

It is positive that actions to address invasive species continue, including through the MP and a budget dedicated to *P. juliflora*, which remains a threat to the property's integrity. It is recommended to establish a long-term adaptive management strategy for invasive species that takes into account the biological characteristics of *P. juliflora*, has a monitoring programme that allows evaluation of management impact and necessary responses, draws on scientific expertise such as the IUCN Species Survival Commission Invasive Species Specialist Group as needed, and where the actions proposed in the Management Plan are reviewed and harmonised with long-term needs.

Ongoing consultation for the preparation of a Zonal Master Plan for the ESZ is noted. It is recommended to continue encouraging the State Party to consider formalizing the area as a World Heritage buffer zone through a Minor Boundary Modification.

The State Party and the mission confirm that the cattle carcass disposal issue has been addressed.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.82**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.92**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021).
3. Notes the State Party's continued efforts towards securing sufficient adequate water supply to the property, however reiterates its utmost concern that water supply in most years remains below the minimum level considered necessary for the ecological functioning of the property;
4. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to its finalization and approval as requested by the Committee, and takes note that the 2017-2027 Management Plan has been completed and was provided to the 2023 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
5. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts to address invasive alien species within the property, including priorities in the revised 2017-2027 Management Plan and a dedicated budget;
6. Also requests the State Party to implement the 2023 mission recommendations, including to:
  - a) Develop a clear list of attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to inform the long-term monitoring, protection and management of the property,
  - b) Secure a long-term strategic solution to water supply, including by rapidly assessing the following to inform management priorities:
    - (i) Clarify water requirements for the property,
    - (ii) Consider water quality from different sources,
    - (iii) Ensure water release so that sufficient water reaches the property,
    - (iv) Clarify hydrological processes related to the property,
    - (v) Ensure no water is supplied from sewage treatment plants unless there is clear research evidence that the hydrological integrity of the property and its OUV will not be compromised.
  - c) Ensure the current status of the Siberian Crane is accurately reflected in the monitoring and management of the property,
  - d) Establish a scientifically-based monitoring programme based on the attributes that convey the OUV to inform management of the property, as follows:
    - (i) Review existing information as fully and analytically as possible,
    - (ii) Design a scientifically sound monitoring, analysis and reporting programme,
    - (iii) Consideration should be given to a wider ecological monitoring programme that would monitor ecosystem health, especially of the wetland,
  - e) Establish a long-term adaptive management strategy for invasive species,
  - f) Review the 2017-2027 Management Plan with an explicit focus on the management of the OUV of the property,
  - g) Ensure management planning and decision-making is focused specifically on the OUV of the property, including that planned activities explicitly and transparently contribute to its protection and management. In the short-term, reconsider whether the planned establishment of an ex-situ management programme for four species of mammal would be appropriate and the best use of resources given other urgent management priorities in the context of the OUV;

7. *Takes note that the development of a Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone around the property remains underway, and again encourages the State Party to consider formalizing the Eco-Sensitive Zone as a World Heritage buffer zone by submitting a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Also takes note that the disposal of cattle carcasses near the property has been resolved;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

**83. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**84. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**85. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) (N 1490)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**86. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**87. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**88. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 1461rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**89. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) (N 672bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**90. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 91. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 24,915 of financial support from the Participation Programme of UNESCO for development of a strategy for sustainable tourism (2010)

#### Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2018: IUCN Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development (developments in the Bansko ski zone)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of effective management mechanisms)
- Management and institutional factors (boundary issues)
- Illegal activities (illegal logging)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Following the ruling of the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) to reject Decision № EO-1 by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) not to implement a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft new Management Plan (MP) of the property, the State Party has followed up with the necessary actions, including those reported below;
- The MOEW has instructed the Director of the Park to develop an updated draft MP, in accordance with relevant environmental legislation, taking into account the recommendations of the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission to the property. The updated draft MP will include revised management objectives for land and natural resource use, development of infrastructure and construction, as well as other necessary provisions to ensure the conservation of the property. To date, no updated MP has been submitted to the MOEW;
- The SEA will be carried out simultaneously with the preparation of the MP. The SEA will determine the mandatory conditions for the subsequent approval of the MP, including relevant measures and restrictions, as identified through the SEA process;
- No further action has been taken on development plans and investment proposals in the buffer zone of the property, following the repeal of the amendments to the current MP introduced in 2017 by the Council of Ministers;



- According to national legislation, strategic regional planning cannot be undertaken through the property's MP. Such planning is performed through development plans, which are subject to relevant SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) procedures, in which the impact of the MP on the environment and protected areas is assessed;
- The long-term vision for socio-economic development is determined by spatial development planning of the territory, which includes assessment of potential environmental impacts of development plans, including consideration for impacts on protected areas;
- No significant development projects or investment proposals with potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been approved in the reporting period. A number of small-scale projects, related mainly to maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, have been approved;
- All approved investment proposals within the property have been processed according to relevant environmental legislation. In view of the development projects, which have been approved, the State Party deemed that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/SEA and AA procedures were not necessary. Additional checks were undertaken to ensure that the projects were compatible with relevant protected area and water management plans.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While the decision to develop an updated draft MP for the property, in accordance with the decision of the SAC and taking into account the recommendations of the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission to the property, is welcomed, it is of concern that no progress has been reported on this. The Committee should therefore request the State Party to expedite the development of the SEA to inform the management objectives, in particular with regards to tourism infrastructure development and logging in the new MP, and to finalize this process prior to the adoption of the draft MP so that the findings of the SEA can be reflected in the new MP. The State Party should ensure the SEA includes a specific assessment of the proposed management objectives and zoning in the new MP to ensure that the plan adequately considers and reflects the property's OUV, including in relation to potential development in areas located within its buffer zone, in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*.

It is noted that the updated draft MP will include revised management objectives for land and natural resource use, development of infrastructure and construction, as well as other necessary provisions to ensure the conservation of the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate again the importance of ensuring that the new draft MP comprehensively addresses threats associated with grazing, forest and water resource management, and tourism, including tourism-related construction and infrastructure development, as identified by the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission, and specifies how management priorities will help to maintain the OUV of the property, including the protection of its integrity. Recalling the previous concerns raised by civil society regarding the content and implementation of the draft MP, the development of the new draft MP should be undertaken through public consultation with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to its final adoption.

It is also noted that no further action has been undertaken on development plans and proposals in the buffer zone following the court decision to repeal the amendments to the 2004 MP, introduced by the Council of Ministers in 2017. Whilst other development projects and investment proposals are stated to have been processed according to environmental legislation, it is unclear how they were assessed with regards to potential impacts on the property's OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that any new projects, in particular for additional water supply from reservoirs located within the property, which may negatively impact on the OUV of the property, be reported to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and that the potential impacts of these new projects be thoroughly assessed, in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*.

Information that impacts on protected areas are accounted for in strategic regional planning and the long-term vision for socio-economic development is noted. However, there is no confirmation that a long-term strategic approach for all plans and programmes specifically related to the property, its buffer zone, adjacent municipalities and the broader region, has been developed with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including municipalities, as requested by the Committee. The State Party should therefore be requested again to undertake this exercise to ensure that future development is harmonized,

coordinated and consistent with the regulations protecting the property's OUV and integrity, and the Operational Guidelines.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.91**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.101**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Urges the State Party to expedite the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to inform the new draft Management Plan, including a specific assessment of the proposed management objectives and zoning to ensure that it adequately considers and reflects the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including potential impacts of development in areas located within the buffer zone, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop the new draft Management Plan through public consultation with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, to comprehensively address the threats identified by the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission, and to specify how the management priorities will help to maintain the OUV of the property, including the protection of its integrity, and to submit the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to its adoption;*
5. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, any new project within the property, its buffer zone or its wider setting, which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, is reported to the World Heritage Centre, and that its potential impact is assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
6. *Urges again the State Party to develop a long-term strategic approach to all plans and programmes for the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, which is agreed among all relevant stakeholders, including municipalities, and which ensures that any potential future development is harmonized, coordinated and consistent with regulations protecting the property's OUV, including its integrity, and with the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

**92. Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve (France) (N 258)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**93. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**94. Central Sikhote-Alin (Russian Federation) (N 766bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**95. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**96. Virgin Komi Forest (Russian Federation) (N 719)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**97. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**98. Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (N 740bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (mice and procumbent pearlwort) (issue mentioned since 1999)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/documents/>, and provides the following updates:

- In 2021, the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) eradication programme was implemented following COVID-19-related delays. Funded by the State Party and various donors, the programme was undertaken by a partnership led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Government of Tristan da Cunha, alongside the governments of the United Kingdom and South Africa, and three non-governmental organizations;
- The eradication programme significantly reduced the population of house mice on the island on a temporary basis, with a near absence during the 2021 breeding season. This resulted in a substantial improvement in breeding success (up to a doubling) for a variety of seabirds important to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- However, despite following international guidelines and best practices for eradicating invasive alien species, the project was declared unsuccessful with mice recorded on Gough Island after its completion and the population rapidly increasing thereafter. House mice are likely to significantly reduce the breeding success of seabirds on Gough Island in the future. The State Party remains committed to support the eradication efforts of the RSPB and partners;
- An independent review has been initiated to identify all the factors that contributed to the failure of the eradication programme and is expected to conclude by mid-2023;
- Captive populations of Gough moorhens (*Gallinula comeri*) and Gough buntings (*Rowetta goughensis*) were temporarily held as a precautionary measure to prevent collateral impact on non-target species during the bait application;
- Experts have concluded that the eradication of the procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) is no longer possible, but containment and biosecurity measures are being implemented to prevent its further spread on the island;
- Due to practical challenges of biological surveying, it is not possible to obtain information on detailed population dynamics for all species that are part of the property's OUV; however, the project has contributed to a temporary improvement in the breeding success of five seabird species;
- No immediate risk has been identified as a result of the fishing vessel which sank near Gough Island in October 2020, however confirmation from authorities in Tristan da Cunha is still outstanding;
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which affects many seabird populations in the northern hemisphere, has not been recorded on Gough Island. It is being closely monitored by the authorities as it may occur in the future.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The extensive preparation and implementation of the complex 2021 house mouse eradication programme on Gough Island should be appreciated, despite the disappointing outcome. The resulting immediate improvement in reproductive success of five flagship seabird species, albeit temporary, demonstrates the utmost importance and urgency of finding a permanent solution to house mice eradication on Gough Island. The initiation of an independent review of the eradication programme is noted and its findings should be critically examined to feed into the development of a new phase of the programme. The State Party should also be strongly encouraged to use the findings of the independent review to record and disseminate lessons learnt to continue promoting knowledge exchange with other States Parties who may also be planning eradication programmes. In this regard, the continued commitment of the State Party to sustain its support to RSPB and other partners to eradicate the house mouse from the island is welcomed and considered vital to the future of the property.

It is noted with concern that experts have now determined that the eradication of the invasive plant species procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) is no longer possible. In the context of the

containment operation, which the State Party reports is now being implemented, further information is required on the current spread of the plant, and efforts need to be focused on preventing further spread in the interior of the island and other highly sensitive locations. These preventative measures to curb the spread of the plant, together with the continued implementation of strict biosecurity measures on the island, will need to be sustained in the long term. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to conduct an analysis of the impacts of the procumbent pearlwort on endemic species of plants and associated invertebrates, and to develop a long-term containment plan. Changes in habitat structure could also lead to losses of suitable nesting habitat for seabirds that are part of the OUV of the property.

The challenges of establishing detailed population dynamics of the species that are part of the property's OUV are noted. However, the lack of such data makes it difficult to monitor the state of conservation of a property, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List for hosting some of the world's most important seabird colonies. It is thus recommended that the State Party be encouraged to establish monitoring that would provide information on the current status of the OUV of the property.

Whilst acknowledging that no immediate risks have been identified as a result of the fishing vessel which sank near Gough Island in October 2020, the State Party should be encouraged to continue monitoring the situation for potential impacts.

It is positive that no cases of HPAI have been recorded in the property, considering the importance of migratory seabirds to the OUV. Recalling the significant impact of HPAI in other regions, it is recommended that the State Party continue to monitor the situation closely.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.98**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.192, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Appreciates the implementation in 2021 of the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) eradication programme and the resulting temporarily improved breeding success of several flagship seabird species, as well as the prevention of collateral damage to non-target species;*
4. *Regrets, however, that the eradication of the house mouse population was unsuccessful, and notes with significant concern that the population of mice is rapidly increasing again, which is expected to significantly reduce the breeding success of seabirds and thus negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and in particular criterion (x) in the future;*
5. *Welcomes the continued commitment of the State Party and its partners to eradicate the house mouse from the island, which is vital for the protection of the property's OUV, and urges the State Party to ensure that the independent review of the eradication programme's failure informs the development of a new phase of the programme for which funding is secured as soon as possible;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to continue to share its experience on invasive alien species eradication and island ecosystem management practices, including the findings of the independent review, to promote knowledge exchange with other States Parties facing similar challenges;*
7. *Also regrets that the eradication of the procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) is no longer considered possible and requests the State Party to conduct an analysis of the*

*impacts of the procumbent pearlwort on endemic species of plants and associated invertebrates and to develop a long-term containment plan;*

8. *Notes that there is no imminent risk to the OUV of the property arising from the sunken fishing vessel and encourages the State Party to continue monitoring the situation for potential impacts;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to continue monitoring for any Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), and encourages the State Party to establish monitoring that would provide information on the current status of the OUV of the property;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, 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 48th session.*

## **MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

#### **99. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

#### **100. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (i)(iii)(vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/274/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 11 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 166,625

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/274/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 15,000 Extra-Budgetary Spanish FIT support for the participatory workshop requested by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **30 COM 7B.35**)

Previous monitoring missions

1989, 1990, 1991, 2003 and 2005: technical missions; October 1997: IUCN/ICOMOS joint technical mission; October 1999: World Heritage Centre, IUCN/ICOMOS joint technical mission; June 2002 and April 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; January 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS Reinforced Monitoring mission; February 2010: World Heritage Centre technical emergency mission; May 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission; January 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission; February 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (Delays in reviewing the Master Plan and developing detailed yearly operational plans, and inadequate budgetary support for effective implementation; No evaluation of transport options, related geological studies, or the impact of bus traffic on increasing the risk of landslides; Lack of effective management of the property; Lack of risk management plans related to natural disasters)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Uncontrolled visitor access to the western part of the Sanctuary)
- Flooding
- Inadequate governance system including lack of adequate coordination of activities between different institutions and stakeholders involved in the management of the property
- Lack of impact studies related to the carrying capacity of the Citadel and Inca Trail (issue resolved)

- Delays in the development and implementation of a Public Use Plan
- Delays in implementing urban planning and control measures for Machu Picchu Village, the main point of entry to the property, which has impacted on the visual values of the property (issue resolved)
- Air transport infrastructure

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/274/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/274/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The new 2023-2027 Master Plan for the property is in the final stage of public consultation with new zoning standards being developed, and was expected for finalisation in December 2022;
- In 2022, the Cusco Directorate of Culture adopted an Action Plan for the proper management and implementation of visitation in line with the capacity established by the relevant Ministerial Resolution;
- Regulations for Sustainable Tourism Visits to the Llaqta of Machu Picchu were successfully drafted. The regulatory document was reviewed by the Ministry of Culture and is awaiting official approval;
- The Visitor Centre project has a resolution of compatibility of use issued by the National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP). A Unique Investment Code has been assigned and the integral project for its execution has been formulated;
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Chinchero International Airport – Cusco, is being developed. The potential effects of the new airport have been considered in the diagnosis of the new Master Plan 2023-2027;
- Admission capacity figures to the Llaqta are defined in the new Master Plan. Based on this, the Ministry of Culture will resume the public tender to prepare the Alternative Transportation Study for the Llaqta;
- The Ministry of Culture has been urging the other entities of the Machu Picchu Management Unit (UGM) to comply with the agreed-upon commitment to comply with the external and interinstitutional conditions of the “Complementary Evaluation Report on the Increase in the Capacity for Admission to the Llaqta of Machu Picchu”.
- The State Party emphasises that all important infrastructure studies and projects require a Prior Binding Technical Opinion from SERNANP, authorisation from the Ministry of Culture, a recommendation for requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a Detailed Environmental Impact Study, Heritage Impact Study, a Visitor Influx Scenario Study, and a review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

On 16 July 2022, the Ministry of Culture published the *Resolución Ministerial RM224-2022* which temporarily increased the maximum permitted number of visitors to the property from 3,044 to 4,044 until 31 December 2022. The World Heritage Centre expressed its concern regarding this measure in a letter dated 4 August 2022 and asked for a technical report concerning the latest protection measures undertaken by the State Party. On the basis of the report, *Informe N° 000194-2022-DSPM/MC*, dated 7 September 2022, the Advisory Bodies prepared a Technical Review which was transmitted to the State Party on 4 November 2022.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS

Welcome progress has been made in the process of updating the Master Plan, as well as on the conservation, security and monitoring installations and activities implemented at the site. In particular, the advances in the protection of the original surfaces, the initiation of the Video Surveillance System Project, the reordering of the visitor circuits with the creation of a new exit, and the steps taken towards hiring new employees for administration, maintenance, conservation and surveillance are most welcome. The State Party should be requested to clarify how the Master Plan is linked to other existing strategies and visions for the property. Furthermore, in 2022, the Ministry of Culture completed the



formulation of the Regulations for Sustainable Tourism Visits to the Llaqta of Machu Picchu, which is due to be approved by the corresponding Ministerial Resolution. It is unclear whether these regulations are equivalent to the Public Use Plan, expected for 2022, and should be clarified by the State Party. It is important that all of these activities receive the necessary funding to ensure their effective implementation in the long term.

The revised study on carrying capacity defined conditions for increasing the maximum daily visitor numbers to the Llaqta. In 2022, the Cusco Directorate of Culture adopted an Action Plan for the proper management and implementation of visitation in line with the capacity established by *Ministerial Resolution N° 224-2022-DM/MC*. Noting that the Resolution permitted the temporary increase in numbers of visitors to 4,044 per day until 31 December 2022, and that there are several pending issues reported by the State Party, that would require to be addressed in order to fully meet the conditions for maintaining the number of daily visitors at this figure, the State Party should confirm that the numbers of visitors admitted to the Llaqta has been reduced through the Action Plan, according to the current situation. The State Party reports efforts to ensure inter-institutional commitments regarding admission capacity limits are upheld, and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that all entities of the Machu Picchu Management Unit (UGM) do so in respecting the defined conditions for any increase of the admission capacity in the future, based on incremental improvements to the visitor management processes. The Advisory Bodies emphasise that the admission capacity of the property should be directly related to (a) the availability of sufficient human and material resources necessary to manage and control the flow of tourists, (b) the adequate preparation and maintenance of the property in order to avoid direct or indirect damage caused by visitors, and (c) the monitoring and mitigating actions concerning natural erosion and geological stability at the Llaqta and at the access routes.

The Visitor Centre project was positively evaluated by SERNANP for its compatibility with the protected natural area and has been subject to relevant administrative processes. However, information is lacking on the pending HIA, including the participation of the local population in the process, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and a timeframe for the project's implementation.

It is noted that the State Party aims to initiate the Alternative Transportation Study following the definition of the admission capacity for the property, and the State Party should be encouraged to complete this process taking into consideration the necessity to maintain visitation numbers within the carrying capacity of the property.

In one of the annexes of its report, the State Party mentions an increase in incidences of site invasion, looting and illegal changes of land use at the property, particularly along the entrance routes. The State Party should take the necessary steps to control this situation and report on activities and results to the Committee.

It is noted that the HIA of the Chinchero International Airport – Cusco, which is in the process of being formulated, was reviewed by personnel of the property and is reported to utilise a more inclusive approach than previous studies, which were concentrated mainly on the area immediately surrounding the airport. However, the document is reported to lack proposals for mitigation measures for the impact on the property of the expected rise in tourism numbers. The State Party should be requested again to ensure, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, that any major infrastructure transport project, such as airports, railways, cable cars, tunnels and roads, are rigorously assessed at an early stage of planning in terms of their impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), on its wider setting and on the proposed future Machu Picchu-Choquequirao Biosphere Reserve, and that the corresponding impact assessments are undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

No further progress towards the establishment of a Machu Picchu-Choquequirao Biosphere Reserve was reported, and the State Party should be encouraged again to develop this proposal.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.100**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,

2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.35**, **39 COM 7B.36**, **41 COM 7B.36**, **43 COM 7B.37**, and **44 COM 7B.172** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the advances in protection of the original surfaces, the initiation of the Video Surveillance System Project alongside improvements to visitation management and increased management capacity;*
4. *Notes the advances in the process of updating the Master Plan, the elaboration of Regulations for Sustainable Tourism Visits to the Llaqta of Machu Picchu, as well as the advance of the elaboration of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Chinchero International Airport – Cusco, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure their development is effectively harmonized with existing strategies, visions, operational plans, regulations and sanction measures, and to ensure their effective implementation to protect and manage the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; all of the above-mentioned documents should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once they are complete;*
5. *Requests the State Party to clarify the status of the Public Use Plan, supposed to have been finalized in 2022, including information on how this relates to the various documents and regulations mentioned above;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to confirm that the current number of visitors to the Llaqta has been decreased, in accordance with the study on carrying capacity, following the end of a temporary increase in admission capacity on 31 December 2022;*
7. *Considers that the admission capacity of the property should be directly related to the availability of sufficient human and material resources necessary to manage and control the flow of tourists, the adequate preparation and maintenance of the property, as well as the monitoring and mitigating actions in relation to natural erosion and geological stability at the Llaqta and at the access routes and urges the State Party to ensure that inter-institutional commitments within the Machu Picchu Management Unit (UGM) to comply with these conditions are upheld, and to address the pending issues in visitation management of the property;*
8. *Takes note that the information in the Annex 2.2 of the State Party report (Final Diagnóstico SHM-PANM), which mentions an increase in incidences of site invasion, looting and illegal changes of land use at the property, particularly along the entrance routes, and further requests the State party to elaborate a report on this issue, including information on mitigating actions taken or planned, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;*
9. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any major infrastructure transport project, such as airports, railways, cable cars, tunnels and roads, are rigorously assessed, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and encourages the State Party to develop land use plans for the areas surrounding the property prior to the expected increase of tourism pressure caused by the construction of the Chinchero International Airport;*
10. *Further reiterates its request to undertake the Studies on Alternative Transportation to the Llaqta based on the established carrying capacity and OUV of the property, prior to any decisions regarding new transportation projects;*

11. Also welcomes the information on the new Visitor Centre and encourages the State Party to finalise the HIA, through a consultative process involving relevant rights holders and stakeholders such as the local communities, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
12. Also notes that no further progress towards a proposal for a Machu Picchu-Choquequirao Biosphere Reserve was reported and further encourages the State Party to continue this process;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## **AFRICA**

### **101. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa) (C/N 985bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **ARAB STATES**

### **102. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan) (C/N 1377)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 103. Trang An Landscape Complex (Viet Nam) (C/N 1438bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (v)(vii)(viii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provide to the property: UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project "Post Covid-19 World Heritage Site Management" (537GLO4000) – US 95,922\$ for 2021-2023

#### Previous monitoring missions

September/October 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan (Need to revise the management and zoning plans, including tourism planning and consideration of the adequacy of permissible activities and developments; Lack of an appropriate buffer zone; Need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for any major developments within the property and the buffer zone)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Developments and urbanization stemming from tourism and recreation; Localized, seasonal overcrowding and lack of clarity in terms of planning of tourism infrastructure and services; Need to reinforce full accountability for private tourism actors with respect to the protection of features of possible Outstanding Universal Value; Need to assess the carrying capacity of the property in the context of increasing visitation)
- Commercial development (illegally built concrete walkway, replica film set) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents> and responds to previous Committee decisions as follows:

- Five of the six main tourism sites within the property (all except Hao Lu Ancient Capital) are only accessible by boat tours and following fixed itineraries, considerably limiting the impact on natural and cultural attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Following a carrying capacity study conducted in 2019 for two of the six sites (Trang An Scenic Area, Tam Coc Bich Dong area), a study for another two areas (Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and Sunlight Valley Area) was implemented in 2022 following COVID-19 closures in 2020-21. The increase in visitor numbers in 2022 to these four areas did not exceed the assessed carrying capacity. The recommendations arising from these studies are being implemented;
- During the COVID-19 closure, management authorities undertook upgrades of tourism facilities, landscape restoration works, and completed the waste-water treatment system;
- Progress on the implementation of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations includes a decision to establish an Advisory Science

Commission for managing and conserving the property, a protocol for new developments, enhanced Management Board mission statement to focus more directly on the OUV, ensuring financial and human resources, and strengthening nature-culture connection and preservation of various heritage assets through new implementation documents enforcing existing policies;

- The updated Management Plan 2021-2025 with vision to 2045, scheduled for approval in November 2022, was first submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies in November 2021;
- Mapping and documentation initiatives were reported as means to enhance the preservation of both cultural and natural attributes;
- Training and capacity building of the Management Board was undertaken;
- 4,000 artefacts were documented in the digital format in 2020 and two information systems became operational in 2022;
- In collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Ha Noi, the project: 'Enhancing the tourism quality in the heritage' delivered training on heritage guiding, developing and differentiating tourism products; building awareness about sustainable tourism; and sustainable tourism marketing;
- National and international research cooperation has continued to enhance interpretation and public outreach in cooperation with partners including UNESCO;
- The property continues to benefit from strong public-private partnership initiatives;
- The Critically Endangered endemic primate Delacour's Langur was successfully reintroduced into the property;
- Involvement of local communities has been given particular attention to increase their well-being, their ownership in the preservation of cultural and natural attributes, environmental protection and livelihood increase through ecotourism.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies*

The State Party report outlines how various management actions have been implemented, including during the 2020-21 COVID-19 closures, in response to the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and requests of the World Heritage Committee, attempting to reconcile heritage management and tourism pressure by harmonizing management tools, finalizing the revision of the Management Plan, upgrade of facilities including waste water treatment, promoting scientific and academic cooperation and community involvement. In addition to the protocol and regulation mechanism for controlling new construction within the protected zones, the zoning mapping, inventorying and documentation of different cultural and natural attributes of the OUV of the property provide a basis for long-term monitoring of the general state of conservation of the property.

Combined with the Zoning Plan (vision 2050) for regulating the development initiatives within the property and the Conservation Plan (vision 2030), the updated Management Plan (vision 2045) provides a framework for implementing an integrated management, valorizing nature-culture connection, and will contribute to the alignment of the preservation requirements and development needs of the property. The Management Plan addresses the protection and management of the OUV of the property with a specific focus on cultural and natural heritage management, visitor management and community education. It highlights management challenges (e.g., tourism, pollution) and necessary actions, with a longer-term vision to 2045. The implementation of management practices should follow international best practice guidelines, for example in considering species reintroductions, relocation of local communities, or future development decisions. The assessment of potential impacts of proposed developments should be undertaken in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

It is positive that the impact of tourism pressure on attributes, which support the OUV, is limited by the fact that five out of six main tourism areas of the property are only accessible via boat tours and following fixed itineraries, that the carrying capacity has been determined for four of these areas, and that the number of visitors which has been slowly recovering since the COVID-19 closures, remains within the assessed capacity limits. It is recommended that the State Party implement the study for the two remaining areas and report on the analysis and mitigation measures to be determined for all areas, in particular for specific periods of the year with high visitor concentration. In this regard, it is important to note that visitation numbers have been affected by the COVID pandemic and that new baseline data

may be required. The monitoring and management of tourism pressure to ensure sustainable tourism practices, will remain a key priority.

The national authorities and Management Board have been engaging in a variety of public and private partnerships, including the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust and actively participating in a pilot project integrating World Heritage, local cultural assets and networks in the post-COVID-19 context. Through these projects, considerable efforts have been deployed in increasing livelihood and resilience of local communities, especially in favour of female populations who represent vital part of the stakeholders supporting the social and economic activities for the World Heritage property. It is hoped that the property provides a credible and replicable model of increasing livelihoods of local communities, and a successful public-private cooperation mechanism.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.103**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.14, 40 COM 7B.67, 42 COM 7B.62 and 44 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the actions taken by the State Party in addressing the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and Committee requests, including the implementation of the carrying capacity study for four of the six major tourism areas, tools enforcing the policies reconciling heritage preservation and development, a protocol on local development, establishment of the Advisory Science Commission, a zoning mapping and inventories, cooperation projects for the property at the international and national levels, and capacity building for management staff, and requests that these actions be monitored regularly by the State Party;*
4. *Also welcomes the revision of the Management Plan for the property, which contributes to enhancing the framework of the property management and valorising nature-culture connection, and also requests that the Plan be fully implemented following its adoption;*
5. *Further requests the State Party to complete the carrying capacity study for the remaining two tourism areas, and to ensure a proactive approach to monitoring and managing increasing tourism pressure following the COVID-19 pandemic, having particular regard to high visitor concentration during certain periods of the year and at particular parts of the property, with appropriate mitigation measures;*
6. *Commends the State Party's efforts in engaging cooperation with public and private partners to increase livelihood and resilience of the local populations of Trang An, in particular in favour of female populations representing vital force in implementing social and economic activities, a model which could inspire other World Heritage properties;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*



## **EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

### **104. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia) (C/N 99quater)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

#### **105. Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina) (C 1116)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Incomplete Management Plan
- Flooding risk
- Urbanization, Re-building/building extensions
- Intensification of Agricultural processes
- Antennae/Electric power lines
- Increasing tourist pressure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/documents> which reported the following:

- A number of “guiding premises” and “strategic axes” have been identified in view of the establishment of the management system of the property. The “strategic axes” include Management, Identification and registration, Conservation, Public Use, Awareness, communication and dissemination, Legislation, Education, and Monitoring;
- Coordination is ensured to implement the same management system in the property and in “Quebrada Grande-Las Escaleras”, segment of the Qhapac Nan, Andean roads system; the participatory management methodology proposed for the federal management system that applies to the Qhapac Nan segment is aligned with the management approach implemented in the Quebrada de Humahuaca;
- A Disaster Risk Management Plan will be developed as part of the management system presently under elaboration. It is expected that this Plan will be finalized by end of 2023, as soon as the governance structure is in place;
- Concerning the Jujuy - La Quiaca Train Project, the development of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for World Heritage assets according to the Guidance and toolkit for impact

assessments in a World Heritage Context has been requested to the relevant institutions, while some progress has been made concerning the elaboration of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The State Party will submit full information on the project and the assessments to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available;

- While the construction of the Rio Grande works has not started, namely due to lack of financial resources, summary information on the project has been annexed to the report and information on mitigation measures related to hydrological risks and impact on populations and productive areas is available through a footnote link in the Report;
- A letter informing about the availability of the government of the Jujuy province to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission was received by the World Heritage Centre in December 2021;
- A team in charge of studying the impact of tourism in the property has been established. Parameters for the development of a sustainable tourism strategy are to be elaborated during the 2023-2024 biennium;
- 12 members from the local communities have been trained as guards of touristic sites of cultural value through a multifaceted course that includes first aid, geology, paleontology, archaeology, and tangible, intangible, historical and natural heritage.

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

The advances in the establishment of the management system of the property, namely the finalization of the “guiding premises” and “strategic axes”, are noted. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to finalize the updated Management Plan and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review as soon as possible.

The efforts to align methodologically the management of the segment “Quebrada Grande-Las Escaleras”, segment of the Qhapac Nan, Andean roads system with the Quebrada de Humahuaca are noted with satisfaction; the State Party should be encouraged to continue these lines of action in the framework of the elaboration of the updated Management Plan for the property.

The provisional date for the finalization of the Disaster Risk Management Plan by end 2023 is noted. The State Party should be requested to submit this Plan to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review as soon as it is available.

It is regrettable that no notable progress on the impact assessment concerning the Jujuy-La Quiaca train project has been reported. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party finalize the HIA and the EIA for the project, according to the Guidance and toolkit for impact assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible.

It is also regrettable that the projects foreseen at the Rio Grande have not been submitted yet to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for technical review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. It is recommended that the State Party be urged to provide complete documentation on the projects, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made.

It is noted that a letter informing about the availability of the government of the Jujuy province to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission was received by the World Heritage Centre in December 2021, but that no arrangements could be made for the mission to take place in 2022. The organization of the mission as soon as possible should be reiterated.

The work of the State Party towards the establishment of parameters for the development of a sustainable tourism strategy and the training of tourism guards should be welcome and the State Party should be encouraged to continue these lines of action.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.105**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Takes note of the advances in the establishment of the updated Management Plan for the property and urges the State Party to finalize it and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to align methodologically the management of the “Quebrada Grande-Las Escaleras”, segment of the Qhapac Nan, Andean roads system with the Quebrada de Humahuaca and encourages the State Party to continue these lines of action in the framework of the finalization of the updated Management Plan for the property;
5. Notes that the finalization of the Disaster Risk Management Plan should be achieved by end 2023 and requests the State Party to submit this Plan to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review as soon as it is available;
6. Reiterates its request that a Heritage Impact Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Jujuy-La Quiaca train project are urgently finalized according to the Guidance and toolkit for impact assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before works commence or any irreversible decision is made;
7. Also reiterates that the projects foreseen at the Rio Grande should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for technical review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made;
8. Acknowledges that the State Party has notified the availability of the government of the Jujuy province to invite the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently make the necessary arrangements for this mission, in order to assess its current state of conservation and the effectiveness of management mechanisms, and to evaluate the impact of the planned and ongoing projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
9. Welcomes the work of the State Party towards the establishment of parameters for the development of a sustainable tourism strategy and in the field of training of guards in charge of sites of cultural value, and encourages it to continue these lines of action;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

**106. Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) (C 1459)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2005-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 60,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,012,810 during the period 2003-2011 under the Spanish Funds-in-Trust; USD 450,000 for the project "Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System" (UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage -JFIT-) (approved by the Donor in June 2016 and successfully concluded in 2019)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems (some management plans still pending)
- Lack of risk preparedness and risk management plans
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) common framework needed
- Developing of a more effective and sustainable monitoring system

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 December 2022, the State Party of Chile, in its function as the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the technical secretaries of the six States Parties involved, submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/documents/>. which reported the following:

- The positive results of the project *Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System*, financed by the Japanese Fund-in-Trust for the Preservation of World Cultural Heritage, were reflected in a UNESCO publication entitled *Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System*. The States Parties believe it is necessary to continue consolidating the work through a second stage of the project, which could give continuity to the activities undertaken and consolidate the link between the different national and international organizations for the benefit of this transnational World Heritage property;
- The Pro Tempore Secretariat was transferred from Bolivia to Chile. It coordinated the participation of the relevant national institutions in the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise (first time for this property), with 17 working meetings, as well as with a number of diverse scientific and cultural meetings;
- The Technical Secretariats have met 35 times, virtually, to move forward with pending tasks and updating the International Management System, and ensuring the continuity of the management of the property in spite of staff turnover;
- The Management System of the property has been updated, based on the review and update of the guidelines set out in Annex III of the Nomination dossier. It includes a common methodology for mandatory use for all components of the property, adapted to national conditions, on the basis of two pillars: (a) The Management Structure, which provides an institutional framework and the necessary resources for protection and sustainable and participatory management, and (b) the

Management System Permanent Monitoring Matrix, to guide the development of management plans in each State Party and the overall monitoring.

- A version 2.0 has been generated of the Kamayuq mobile application, designed to record and monitor threats and vulnerabilities in the Qhapaq Ñan, while the AYLLU application, designed to monitor the state of conservation of the property and also including factors established for the third cycle of Periodic Reporting, is currently in testing and adjustment stage;
- Following the international workshop on risk preparedness and disaster management, held in Cusco in October 2018, technical documents have been expanded and updated, resulting into the following validated documents: Glossary of Hazards and Vulnerabilities Terms; Manual of Risk Estimation; Risk Estimation Field Sheet Format; Risk Estimation Report Format; Catalogue of Parameters and Descriptors for Risk Estimation; Indicators for recording and monitoring hazards and vulnerabilities; Glossary of Disaster Risk Management Terms; Disaster Risk Management Guidelines;
- The "Plan for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage associated with the Qhapaq Ñan" is being implemented, with links with the relevant areas in each country. The updated Management System includes guidelines for the protection and monitoring of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property;
- The "Common Guidelines for the realization of Heritage Impact Assessments" already included in the previous State of conservation Report under the title "Premises and terms of reference for the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System World Heritage Site" is annexed to the Report;
- A HIA related to the construction of International Airport of Chinchero - Cusco has been developed by an international consulting firm and is currently under review of the Project Management Office of the Chinchero International Airport Construction Project;
- The Report also includes information on a number of educational and awareness-raising projects and conservation initiatives individually undertaken by the States Parties concerned.

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

In light of the good results of the project *Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System*, the intention of the States Parties to continue with a second phase of the project, should be welcomed.

They should be commended for their excellent coordination through the Pro Tempore Secretariat, which ensured joint participation in the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, collaboration on all pending tasks, updating of the International Management System, and continuity in the management of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee take note with appreciation of the update of the Management System of the property, which foresees a common methodology for mandatory use for all components of the property, adapted to national conditions, based on the pillars of the Management Structure and the Management System Permanent Monitoring Matrix.

The development of version 2.0 of the Kamayuq mobile application (recording and monitoring threats and vulnerabilities) and the testing of the the AYLLU application should be welcomed.

The development and update of a number of technical documents based on the results of the international workshop on risk preparedness and disaster management (October 2018), should also be noted with appreciation. The States Parties should be encouraged to continue producing and updating documentation on risk preparedness and disaster management and should develop specific risk preparedness and risk management plans for the property

The ongoing implementation of the "Plan for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage associated with the Qhapaq Ñan" is noted, as well as the inclusion of guidelines for the protection and monitoring of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property in the updated Management System.

The "Common Guidelines for the realization of Heritage Impact Assessments" should also be welcomed.

Progress regarding the HIA related to the construction of the International Airport of Chinchero – Cusco, is noted. It is of great concern that in spite of the Committee's recommendations, the construction of the airport is proceeding, and that no timely information has been made available by the State Party about

the potential impacts of the airport on three World Heritage properties in the region: the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System, the City of Cuzco and the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. It is recommended that the Committee express this concern and urgently request the HIA be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in line with the conclusions set out in the ICOMOS technical review of February 2020.

The States Parties should be commended for the development of several diverse projects and initiatives which demonstrate their strong commitment to the conservation of the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.106**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.162**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the intention of the States Parties to proceed with a second phase of the 'Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan project, in light of the good results from the first phase of the project;*
4. *Commends the States Parties for their excellent coordination through the Pro Tempore Secretariat, in light of their participation in the third cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and for their collaboration on all pending tasks, on the update of the International Management System, and ensuring the continuity of the management of the property;*
5. *Takes note with appreciation of the update of the International Management System of the property, which foresees a common methodology for mandatory use for all components of the property, adapted to national conditions, based on the pillars of the Management Structure and the Management System Permanent Monitoring Matrix;*
6. *Also welcomes the development of version 2.0 of the Kamayuq mobile application and the testing of the AYLLU application with the inclusion of factors established for the third cycle of Periodic Reporting;*
7. *Also takes note with appreciation of the development and update of a number of technical documents based on the results of the international workshop on risk preparedness and disaster management held in October 2018, and encourages the States Parties to continue producing and updating documentation on risk preparedness and disaster management;*
8. *Expresses its satisfaction for the ongoing implementation of "Plan for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage associated with the Qhapaq Ñan", for the inclusion of guidelines for the protection and monitoring of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property in the updated Management System, for the "Common Guidelines for the realization of Heritage Impact Assessments" (HIA), and for the development of a number of diverse projects and educational and outreach initiatives which demonstrates strong commitment to the conservation of the property;*
9. *Takes note that an HIA related to the construction of International Airport of Chinchero – Cusco, has been completed and is currently under review by the Project Management Office, reiterates that HIA's should be prepared and submitted before any projects are approved or works undertaken, expresses its serious concern that in the meantime works*

at the airport are progressing and urgently requests the State Party to submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre and to the Advisory Bodies for technical review as soon as possible;

10. Requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## **107. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) (C 567rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1995-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 4,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 870,000 for the project "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" (UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage), finalized in 2018

### Previous monitoring missions

August 2002: Experts Mission; November 2007: World Heritage Centre Preparatory mission; February-March 2009: World Heritage Centre Technical mission for the implementation of the JFIT project; November 2009: World Heritage Centre/UNESCO Quito Office Monitoring mission; November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2012: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a management plan (issue resolved)
- Governance (Lack of coordinated conservation policies and interventions between the national government and local stakeholders)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Legal framework
- Management System/management plan (Lack of conservation policy)
- Urban high rise/urban sprawl

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The State Party confirms that the Ministry of Cultures, Decolonization and Depatriarchalisation, through the designated management authority, the Tiwanaku Archaeological, Anthropological and Administration Research Centre (CIAAAT), is committed to implementing decisions of the



World Heritage Committee and recommendations by the Advisory Bodies to preserve and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

- CIAAAT has sufficient resources at the moment. However, additional human and financial resources will be required in the future to facilitate the full implementation of the management and conservation plans. Given the lack of national personnel in many fields of expertise, it will be necessary to obtain international cooperation;
- CIAAAT prepared a Management Plan and Conservation Plan that were approved in 2017 and 2018 respectively;
- The Risk Management Plan is under preparation and, once concluded, will be shared with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- The actual buffer zone of 100 meters around the World Heritage property has three sub-zones: a small area of high potential value, a zone for agricultural use and an area for the construction of housing. CIAAAT has no authority to regulate land use in the buffer zone and proposes to the municipality of Tiwanaku to implement regulations for the protection of cultural heritage and the control of new constructions in this area;
- Joint activities were undertaken to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural objects, as well as educational activities and visits for students from the municipality. The CIAAAT has overseen the elaboration of a plan for a new archaeological museum for Tiwanaku;
- CIAAAT signed an agreement with the Military Geographic Institute (IGM) to verify the delimitation of the property and buffer zone, and subsequently assert the property rights in favour of the State Party, where necessary. This mapping will form the basis for the expansion of the buffer zone;
- In the short term, no restoration or construction works are foreseen, and priority is given to conservation activities. CIAAAT has undertaken substantive maintenance of the museum, storage and conservation areas and prepared a number of manuals and regulations for conservation activities and the use of the property for tourism and other purposes;
- A capacity building programme for tourism-based activities in the village of Tiwanaku has been prepared. An integral waste management plan was developed by CIAAAT including an extensive inventory of flora and fauna in the area and a capacity building programme.

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

The commitment of the State Party to implement the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies concerning the Management Plan and the Integral Conservation Plan, is welcomed. It is noted that the Risk Management Plan is under preparation and the State Party should be invited to submit the plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as soon as it becomes available.

It is understood that no new archaeological zone will be opened, and that priority will be given to conservation activities.

It is appreciated that CIAAAT has signed an agreement with the IGM to review the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone. However, it remains unclear what the timeframe and the possible new limits of the buffer zone will be. In the meantime, it is of great concern that the regulations for the 100-meter buffer zone establish a rather substantial area designated for the construction of housing, and that no definition of village expansion and urban and rural areas has been achieved. It is considered essential that CIAAAT and the municipality of Tiwanaku agree upon cooperation and coordination mechanisms that will define urban and rural areas and will ensure the proper regulation, control, and use of the present and future buffer zone. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its grave concerns about this matter.

The continued collaboration of CIAAAT with the local authorities and communities in awareness raising, waste management and heritage-based economic activities, among others, is highly appreciated. Equally, CIAAAT should be commended for the measures it has taken for the maintenance of museum, storage and conservation facilities and the preparation of manuals and regulations that will guide the conservation, tourism, and other activities at the property.

It is noted that the full implementation of the management and conservation plans will require additional human and financial resources, which may not be available in the State Party. The State Party could be invited to review the funding mechanisms for CIAAAT and explore further international cooperation.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.107**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to implement the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies; as well as the assurance of the State Party that priority will be given to conservation actions over the opening of new excavation zones;
4. Requests the State Party to submit the Risk Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as it becomes available;
5. Appreciates that the management authority of the property (CIAAAT) signed an agreement with the Military Geographic Institute (IGM) to confirm the boundaries of the World Heritage property and the buffer zone;
6. Reiterates, however, its concern that the actual arrangements for the zoning and control of the buffer zone do not guarantee its adequate protection and management, particularly in view of the urban pressure of the village of Tiwanaku and urges the State Party to:
  - a) Proceed as a matter of priority with the mapping of the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone by the IGM,
  - b) Define urban and rural zones and assess the implications of such designation on the conservation and management of the property and the buffer zone,
  - c) Strengthen, to the extent possible, the authority of CIAAAT over the buffer zone and proceed with the necessary arrangements with the municipality of Tiwanaku, to agree on the regulations for the use and control of the buffer zone,
  - d) Proceed urgently with the extension of the buffer zone and the submission of a formal Minor Boundary Modification request, as per Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Expresses its appreciation for the collaboration and communication with the local authorities and communities, the maintenance activities and the preparation of manuals and regulations for the adequate conservation and use of the property;
8. Invites the State Party to review the human and financial resources that will be required for the full implementation of the management and conservation plans and explore additional resources and international cooperation for this purpose;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 108. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1997-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 42,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

1993: Technical mission; November 2001: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; March 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (urban pressure that may affect the original city plan (*Plano Piloto*) that warranted inscription on the World Heritage List)
- Management System/Management Plan (lack of a Master Plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The Plan for Preservation of the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia (PPCUB), based on a technical opinion by the Institute for the National Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN), was reviewed by the State Department of Urban Development and Housing (SEDUH) and sent to a public hearing prior to its submission to the Legislative City Parliament of the Federal District. Once completed, the PPCUB will be submitted, together with the technical opinion by IPHAN, to the World Heritage Centre;
- Isolation measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic prevented community mobilization for discussions regarding the elaboration of a Management Plan and had to be postponed until 2023;
- In 2022, meetings were held between the internal technical areas at IPHAN to discuss methodological adjustments, social mobilization, relevant criteria and comprehensive stakeholder mapping, for the constitution of the Working Group that will prepare the Management Plan. This will also contribute to defining the governance structure and the Steering Committee. Elaboration of the Management Plan is dependent on the previous Working Group's constitution as two years are necessary for its conclusion;
- The projects mentioned in the previous state of conservation report, *Viva Centro!* and *Pátio Ferroviário de Brasília*, have not progressed. Discussions are estimated to resume after the approval of the PPCUB by the Legislative City Parliament. No new projects have been proposed in the last biennium;
- In December 2021, Complementary Law no. 995/2021 was approved, defining parcelling criteria and the use and occupation parameters for five plots located at the end of the Monumental Axis West (EMO). The mandatory use is institutional, related to theatrical and musical production activities, artistic performances, museums, archives and libraries. Supplementary Law 998/2022, which replaced Supplementary Law 766/2008, was approved in January 2022. This norm is

related to the occupation of a public area contiguous to the commercial areas of the South Wing (*Asa Sul*) of the *Plano Piloto*. Both legal instruments are in line with the objectives, criteria and parameters set out in IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 and the PPCUB's complementary draft law;

- Some of the recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission have been considered in IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 and in the PPCUB;
- The Superintendence of IPHAN in the Federal District has intensified the work related to heritage education with a view to fostering a participatory process of awareness and re-signification of the cultural heritage of Brasília. This includes the populations that live beyond the *Plano Piloto*.
- On 16 February 2023, the World Heritage Centre received a report of the Ministry of Culture of Brazil on the damages caused during the violent unrests of 8 January 2023, notifying that some cultural objects were stolen but there were no structural damages on the buildings, and the return to functionality of the concerned edifices thanks to the prompt action of the relevant national institutions.

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

It is welcomed that the PPCUB has been reviewed by the SEDUH and sent to a public hearing before submission to the Legislative City Parliament of the Federal District for approval. It is advisable that the plan should be submitted, together with IPHAN's technical evaluation, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before its submission to the Legislative City Parliament.

Though it is understandable that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the timeframe previously foreseen for the elaboration of the Management Plan, little progress has been made in this regard, especially in relation to discussions with the community, which are necessary to ensure the participatory process for the elaboration of the plan. It is hoped that this process can be carried out in 2023 and that the Working Group and Steering Committee can be in place as soon as possible.

The Committee may wish to note with appreciation that the projects that could jeopardise the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the attributes that convey it, namely the *Viva Centro!* and *Pátio Ferroviário de Brasília*, have been halted and that the discussions could recommence once the PPCUB and the Management Plan are in place. Nevertheless, it is advisable that the projects be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies at the earliest possible stage and for the State Party to include a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) procedure in the Management Plan.

It is noted that new laws related to land usage and land occupation have been passed over the last two years, and that those legal instruments are in line with the objectives, criteria and parameters set out in both IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 and the PPCUB's complementary draft law. It is hoped that the PPCUB and the Management Plan will constitute a framework which is appropriate for regulatory instruments which could be required in the future.

The work done by the IPHAN Superintendency of the Federal District in relation to heritage education is welcomed. It is hoped that these actions will foster awareness among the population on the property's values and encourage participatory processes for the adequate conservation and management of Brasília.

Despite some progress which has been made in the processes of approval of the PPCUB and elaboration of the Management Plan, the framework for the conservation of the property is still fragile, and several recommendations from the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission have not yet been fully implemented. Although the IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 is in place, it is estimated that the approval of the PPCUB and the implementation of the elaborated Management Plan will be appropriate resources for the property's adequate conservation.

The theft of cultural objects is regrettable and the absence of consequences on the structures of the property of the violent unrests of 8 January 2023 is noted.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.108**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the draft Preservation Plan for the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia (PPCUB), which was evaluated by IPHAN, reviewed by the State Department of Urban Development and Housing (SEDUH), and sent to a public hearing, will be submitted to the Legislative City Parliament of the Federal District for approval, and requests the State Party to submit the plan, together with IPHAN's technical opinion, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before its submission to the Legislative City Parliament;
4. Notes that some progress has been made in the elaboration of the Management Plan, but further notes with concern that the foreseen timeframe has been altered, in part due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and urges the State Party to launch the participatory process and to establish the Working Group for the elaboration of the Management Plan;
5. Also notes with satisfaction that the projects which could jeopardise the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been halted until the PPCUB is approved and also requests the State Party to submit the documentation concerning those projects for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies at the earliest possible stage and for the procedures for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be included in the Management Plan;
6. Further notes that new laws concerning the occupation of public and private areas have been passed over the last two years and in the case that new regulatory instruments are required, further requests the State Party to consider the provisions of the IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 and the PPCUB;
7. Notes with appreciation the heritage education activities carried out by IPHAN in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with the Secretariat of Education of the Federal District;
8. Also urges the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 109. Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region (Chile) (C 1634)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iii)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1634/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1634/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

2009: USD20,000 from the Spanish Funds-in-Trust

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management and governance
- Documentation, inventorying and monitoring to be developed
- General maintenance, including for unprotected archaeological remains on the surface
- Safety of visitors and protection of the property
- Potential impacts caused by the industrial poultry farm located in the Camarones River valley
- Illegal settlement in the Desembocadura de Camarones component part
- Legal Framework

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1634/>

### Current conservation issues

On 22 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1634/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The University of Tarapacá (UTA) has made improvements to the UTA Chinchorro Management Centre offices and installed security cameras and lighting systems in the Estanques de Agua area of component 01, Faldeos del Morro. Reinforcement of the perimeter fencing and work on a visitor trail is still in progress. The archaeological sites of component 01 were cleaned and signage was installed at component 03, Desembocadura de Camarones to guide visitors;
- The legal dispute concerning the southern terrace at component 03 is resolved and the area is included in the list of public lands by the Cadastre Department. However, it remains unclear if all legal disputes concerning the area are resolved permanently;
- Systematic documentation and inventory of archaeological information is in progress. As part of this process, UTA has plans to build a new Regional Anthropological Museum and the inventories of available Chinchorro culture materials will need to be updated. The museum was scheduled for completion in February 2024, but an extension of the deadline is being processed;
- The Chinchorro Marka Corporation has carried out biannual monitoring of the components, reviewing the general state of conservation as well as site management. Monitoring has also been done by the Chinchorro Management Centre of UTA at component 01. The results of these monitoring efforts indicate that the irregular settlement at component 03 is growing and that component 01 has suffered looting, deposition of solid waste and is impacted by the activities of domestic animals. In response to these findings, a Municipal Ordinance to further protect

Chinchorro heritage is being drafted and awareness-raising activities and training sessions were carried out with members of the community at component 03;

- Conservation measures have been implemented for the remains exposed on the surface of the sector called Reserva Estanques in component 01. This process will be evaluated and replicated in other sectors. A field evaluation of component 03, focused on the open archaeological excavations, produced the recommendation to cover or stabilize most of the open excavations, and exhibit some of the archaeological profiles in situ. The corresponding projects will be developed in 2023;
- The ethical issues regarding human remains are a matter of permanent reflection by local and national agents and the dialogue between the different involved groups is ongoing. In a recent exhibition of Chinchorro culture, replicas of bodies were used;
- In order to make management of the property more inclusive, the Chinchorro Marka Corporation is in the process of formalizing the presidents of the three neighbourhood councils surrounding the property as ordinary members of the Corporation with the right to speak and vote;
- The official integration of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in the management process of the property is foreseen for the updated Management Plan (2027-2031), following training and resources identification;
- In August 2022, the Regional Ministerial Secretariat of Health carried out an inspection to the poultry farm of Ariztía, which certified the non-compliance of the company's practices with environmental regulations;
- The project to modify the Arica Communal regulatory Plan is ongoing;
- The process to amend the current cultural heritage legislation (Law N°17288 of National Monuments) is ongoing, addressing participatory and indigenous consultations;
- The State Party submitted updated maps with the revised boundaries of components 01, 02 and 03, and their buffer zones.

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

The official approval of the property's Management Plan (2020-2026), the advances concerning site preparation (e.g., signage, fencing, stabilization of excavations and surface finds and solid waste removal), the advances in the resolution of property disputes, and the steps taken to make the management structure of the property more inclusive are welcome. The management entity, the Chinchorro Marka Corporation, currently includes UTA and the municipalities of Arica and Camarones. However, the state of conservation report distinguishes between the activities of the Corporation on the one hand, and UTA, on the other. This seems to indicate that the management structure is not yet completely integrated. Moreover, the draft of the new Municipal Ordinance does not mention the Chinchorro Marka Corporation, further indicating an apparent lack of integration. The importance of a coherent approach to site management should be stressed.

It is concerning that the official integration of an HIA in the management process of the property is only foreseen for the updated Management Plan (2027-2031). It is noted that the poultry farms, which are located in the Camarones River valley, are non-compliant with current regulations and stresses the importance to follow-up to solve this matter. Other pending issues include the Arica Communal Regulatory Plan, which is in the process of being submitted to the Regional Government of Arica and Parinacota, as well as the process of amending the current legislation on cultural heritage (Law No. 17,288 on National Monuments) with elements of participatory processes and indigenous consultation. No clear timeframe for the finalization of these processes is provided. The relocation of the illegal settlement in component 03, Caleta de Camarones, is also still pending due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a change of authorities at the national, regional and local levels.

The advances in the dissemination of information on the World Heritage property and the participation of local communities are also well noted. Nevertheless, the reported growth of the illegal settlement in component 03, the impact the installation of underground fibre optics has had on the edge of the southern terrace of component 03, and the looting, animal intervention and solid waste disposal in component 01, show that there is still a need to improve the control of the property and increase the availability of information, awareness and involvement of local actors.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.109**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.48**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the official approval of the property's Management Plan (2020-2026), the improvements concerning site preparation, the advances in the resolution of property disputes, the awareness-raising and training activities carried out with members of the community, and the steps taken to make the management structure of the property more inclusive and encourages the State Party to continue with these efforts;
4. Notes with concern the reported growth of the illegal settlement in component 03, Desembocadura de Camarones, the impact on the edge of the southern terrace of component 03 through the installation of underground fibre optics, as well as the looting, animal activity and solid waste disposal in component 01, Faldeos del Morro, and requests information on the steps taken to avoid or mitigate future impacts;
5. Reminds the State Party of the importance of an integrated management plan and monitoring structure and requests information on their functioning;
6. Takes note of the information on the non-compliance with current regulations by the poultry farms located in the Camarones River valley and urges the State Party to follow-up to solve the issue
7. Encourages the State Party to advance the Arica Communal Regulatory Plan, as well as the process of amending the current legislation on cultural heritage (Law No. 17,288 on National Monuments) with elements of participatory processes and indigenous consultation and, explore the possibility of including the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process in the regulatory and/or legislative framework of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide updated information on the agreement and timetable required to relocate the illegal settlement in component 03, Desembocadura de Camarones, to a location outside of the buffer zone;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide the following information:
  - a) Updated topographical maps (with the new delimitations and buffer zones) which show the location of the archaeological sites and areas of potential interest (zonification),
  - b) The legal situation of component 03, Desembocadura de Camarones,
  - c) The treatment of surface findings,
  - d) The stabilization or backfilling of open archaeological excavations in component 03,
  - e) The advances of the development of the new Regional Anthropological Museum;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.



## 110. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of boundaries
- Construction of a shopping mall in the vicinity of the Castro Church
- Insufficient legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas of each component
- Commercial development
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Legal framework
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The “Comprehensive Plan for the Protection of the Churches Environments” aims to protect and regulate the environments of the 16 components of the property as “Typical Zones”, based on participatory work with local governments and communities, and its posterior submission to the World Heritage Committee as Minor Boundary Modifications:
  - The designation of Aldachildo and Castro is complete and Minor Boundary Modification requests will be submitted before February 2024,
  - The designation of Achao, Rilán and Dalcahue are expected to conclude in 2023,
  - Caguach's protection process was halted due the community's request to prioritise the restoration of the church,
  - After completing the processes of all 16 components, the buffer zones of Chonchi and Tenaún will be reviewed as requested by the Committee,
  - Expansion of the buffer zones of Quinchoa and San Juan, is considered unfeasible due to local conditions,
  - Intervention guidelines for Ichuac, Detif and Aldachildo have been completed. The guidelines for Castro should be finalized during the first half of 2023;
- The “*Cuidemos Chiloe Plan*”, consists of government measures which seek to promote tourism and social, cultural, economic progress within the communities. The Provincial Technical Office

will be strengthened, and through the recent Resolution nº805, will be given authority to approve minor maintenance / repair work;

- The development of the “Integrated Management Plan” (IMP) is ongoing. A 2nd technical assistance organized an online workshop and defined a strategy for participatory work. A 3rd technical assistance aimed to coordinate boards in the communes of Puqueldón, Chonchi and Quinchao;
- Conservation actions are ongoing for the Churches of San Juan, Ichuac, Detif, Chonchi and Caguach;
- Delays were experienced on the “Castro By-pass Project”, due to safeguarding works for archaeological findings and the bankruptcy of the company in charge of the work;
- The “Inventory of Religious Imagery” of the churches on the property has been finalized;
- The “Risk Management Plan” is in progress with actions addressing fires, including a “Community Plan for the Prevention of Fire Risks” and electrical standardization of the churches;
- Other reported issues are the “Enhancement of the Identity and Cultural Heritage Project” for Quinchao, the “Integrated Territorial Program” (a promotion of sustainable productive development for the components of the site), the ‘Public Areas Program’ which addressed Chonchis’ main square among others, and the Small Towns Program in Chonchi;
- To date no mitigation measures have been implemented at the Castro shopping mall. Intentions to expand the mall were reported but no advances were made concerning the architectural competition for the design of mitigation measures. The State Party intends to advance in the modification of the “Communal Regulatory Plan” to regulate the urban volumetry around the church.

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

The ‘Comprehensive Plan for the Protection of the Churches Environments’, is being developed with participation from local governments and the community. Aldachildo and Castro have been declared as Typical Zones. Four other components are pending finalization, including Achao, Rilán, Dalcahue and Caguach, which has halted its progress due to the community’s request to prioritise the restoration of the church first. The State Party should conclude the protection process of the buffer zone for all components, complete the “Intervention Guidelines for all Typical Zones”, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Implementation of the IMP is in progress. The online workshop entitled “Enhancing our Heritage”, highlighted important issues, such as the absence of communities and local governments (municipalities), and the need to include direct managers. Otherwise, the IMP should consider the commune scale and the property as a whole, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The provision of Technical Assistance was an important support which helped to achieve commitment from managers and other stakeholders. A new form of governance and consensual decision-making appears to be gradually coming together. It is expected that an updated version of the IMP should be prepared and submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The conservation initiatives in four churches and the conclusion of the “Inventory of Religious Imagery” of the property’s churches, is to be welcomed. The execution of the Castro by-pass needs to be addressed and concluded. A “Community Fire Risk Prevention Plan” was developed and addresses emergency actions. The “Risk Management Plan” still needs to be concluded and then submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

As the expansion of the Castro shopping mall is intended, it is welcomed that the State Party expedited the decree for the designation of its Typical Zone. However, it is noted with great regret that the Typical Zone was significantly reduced in size compared to the area recommended by the ICOMOS’ Technical Review. It is a reason of deep concern that since the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, there were no advances on corrective measures regarding the shopping mall in Castro, and that the effective protection of the wider setting of the component continues to be fragile.

There remains an urgent need for mitigation measures to be undertaken on the form of the mall, the protection of the surrounding areas, including expansion of the Typical Zone, and for details of designs and measures to be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, prior to

their implementation. Meanwhile the actual threat to Outstanding Universal Value caused by the construction of the shopping mall persists.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.110**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.164, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the progress on the preparation of the “Comprehensive Plan for the Protection of the Churches Environments”, and requests the State Party to complete the procedure for Achao, Rilán, Dalcahue, consider resuming Caguach for the submission of Minor Boundary Modifications to the proposed buffer zones and to submit “Intervention Guidelines” for all Typical Zones of the property for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Also welcomes the advances made to achieve the “Integrated Management Plan” (IMP), of the property, notes with satisfaction that the establishment of the “Cuidemos Chiloe Plan” is coordinated through an intra-ministerial committee and urges the State Party to complete the draft IMP and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before its approval;*
5. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in conservation actions, as well as the conclusion of the “Inventory of Religious Imagery”, the “Public Areas Program” and the “Small Towns Program” but regrets that the “Castro by-pass Project” still suffers delays for its completion and also requests the State Party to conclude its execution;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to conclude the “Risk Management Plan” and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before approval;*
7. *Regrets the lack of progress, since the 2013 Reactive monitoring mission, on mitigation measures and in the legal protection of the wider settings of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently submit effective mitigation measures, including the expansion of the Typical Zone, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to their implementation;*
8. *Considers that in the absence of any mitigation measures for the shopping mall, the actual threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) caused by its construction persist;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, particularly regarding the shopping mall in Castro, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## 111. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) (C 959rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2010-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 140,688

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; November 2022, World Heritage Centre Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Emergency situation due to the massive fire of April 2014 (issue resolved)
- Interventions planned at the port, such as the Barón Port and the Prat Dock, as well as for touristic facilities and real estate projects
- Fragmentation of competencies and mandates by sectors and by different levels of government, as well as by the different types of specific protection and use of different areas, which does not allow for the management of the property with respect to its Outstanding Universal Value and within a broader perspective
- Commercial development
- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 March 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, whose summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents/>, presenting progress on the issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Technical Cooperation support granted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) has allowed the implementation of all the scheduled meetings and studies;
- As a result of the December 2020 agreement established between the municipality of Valparaíso and the Ministry of Cultures, the Arts and Heritage, the management of the World Heritage site has been strengthened, together with the financial, legislative, administrative and decisional synergy between all national and local actors concerned;
- In January 2022 the "Municipal Corporation for Heritage Site Administration" was created, associating Valparaíso's institutional, academic and civil society stakeholders. The mandate of the Corporation is to promote and strengthen public-private partnerships for the comprehensive development of projects, programmes and actions that ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site, and the preservation of its architectural, urban, cultural, social and environmental features;
- The third stage of the development of a technical platform for the risk management of the site was implemented, allowing the completion of the risk assessment for the site and the identification of risk factors and indicators. A handbook for the site manager has been published. The elaboration of a Risk Management Plan should start in 2023;

- The creation and provision of Regional Heritage Directorates under the National Cultural Heritage Service has progressed throughout the country. The team of the technical office of the National Monuments Council is expected to be reinforced in the first half of 2023;
- A programme of restoration and conservation of nine elevators and of a number of historic buildings is ongoing, including Palacio Subercaseaux, the Interpretation Center of the World Heritage Site of Valparaíso, the Former-Prison Memorial Site, the Cemetery of Valparaíso, the Library Santiago Severin, the University Museum of Printing, and the Church of San Francisco del Barón;
- Concerning the enhancement of the accessibility of the port of the city, a series of consultations were carried out in 2021 and a collaboration agreement between the Municipality of Valparaíso and Valparaíso Port Company has been established to ensure participation and synergy. In this context, the Terminal 2 extension project has been abandoned and an alternative project will be participatorily defined in 2023;
- Extensive information on the new Paseo Barón project, focusing on the creation of a public park that will enhance the social relation between the coast and the city, has been annexed to the report. A bidding process for the excavation works will be launched in 2023 in view of the completion of the works in 2025;
- Following the visit to Valparaíso of the UNESCO Director-General in May 2022, an Advisory mission of the World Heritage Centre took place in November 2022 to meet institutional and civil society representatives and advise on matters linked to the conservation of the site and the implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. In Annex 39 of the state of conservation report submitted in January 2023, the State Party reports on the state of implementation of the Advisory mission's recommendations.

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

The continued support of the IADB is noted, as well as the timely implementation of the scheduled meetings and studies, whose content – however – has not been specified in the report. Complete information should therefore be requested on the activities carried out in this framework.

The establishment of the agreement between the municipality of Valparaíso and the Ministry of Cultures, the Arts and Heritage is welcomed as a tool to ensure better coordination and synergy between all national and local actors and stakeholders concerned at financial, legislative, administrative and decision-making levels. The State Party should be encouraged to concretely implement the agreement and to report to the Committee on the results obtained in its framework.

The State Party should be commended for the creation of the "Municipal Corporation for Heritage Site Administration", with the mandate of promoting and strengthening public-private partnerships. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to report on the decisions and measures that will be taken by the Municipal Corporation for Heritage Site Administration.

The third stage of the development of a technical platform for the risk management of the site is noted with satisfaction, and note is also taken that the elaboration of a Risk Management Plan should start in 2023. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the Plan, once completed, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The further progress in the creation and provision of Regional Heritage Directorates under the National Cultural Heritage Service should also be welcomed. Due to the pressing needs of the institutions concerned, it is suggested that the State Party be urged to reinforce the technical office of the National Monuments Council.

The information on the new Paseo Barón project, focusing on the creation of a public park that will enhance the social relation between the coast and the city should be welcomed; the Committee may wish to request that the State Party report to the World Heritage Centre on the excavation works expected to be launched in 2023 for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The ongoing implementation of a programme of restoration and conservation of nine elevators and a number of historic buildings is noted. The State Party should be urged, as a matter of priority, to accelerate the implementation of restoration and conservation activities, and to extend them to all the buildings of the property in need of urgent rehabilitation, also as a means to reverse the recognized depopulation trends in the site, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory mission of November 2022.

The abandonment of the previous Terminal 2 extension project is noted. Complete information on the alternative project expected to be defined in 2023 should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review as soon as available.

The State Party should be commended for the agreement established between the Municipality of Valparaíso and Valparaíso Port Company to ensure participation and synergy among the main stakeholders on issues related to port accessibility and port-city interaction.

The State Party should also be commended for having invited an Advisory mission of the World Heritage Centre in November 2022, to facilitate institutions and civil society consultations on all matters linked to the conservation of the site and the implementation of the decisions of the Committee. The Advisory mission has invited the State Party to consider a set of general and specific recommendations, among them the development, approval, and implementation of an integral participatory management plan as a means of integrating current legal instruments and administrative relevant competencies. The State Party reports on the state of implementation of the recommendations; the first stage for the development of the integral management plan is scheduled for 2023.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.111**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.165**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Takes note of the continued support of the Inter-American Development Bank and of the timely implementation of the scheduled meetings and studies and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre complete information on the activities carried out in this framework;*
4. *Welcomes the establishment of the agreement between the municipality of Valparaíso and the Ministry of Cultures, the Arts and Heritage, encourages the State Party to concretely implement the agreement and also requests it to report to the World Heritage Centre on the results obtained in its framework;*
5. *Commends the State Party for the creation of the "Municipal Corporation for Heritage Site Administration", with the mandate of promoting and strengthening public-private partnerships, and further requests the State Party to report to the World Heritage Centre on the decisions and measures that will be taken by this "Municipal Corporation for Heritage Site Administration";*
6. *Also takes note of the third stage of the development of a technical platform for the risk management of the site, and that the start of the elaboration of the Risk Management Plan is foreseen in 2023, and requests that, once completed, the plan be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also welcomes the further progress in the creation and provision of Regional Heritage Directorates under the National Cultural Heritage Service and urges the State Party to reinforce the technical office of the National Monuments Council;*
8. *Further welcomes the new Paseo Barón project focusing on the creation of a public park that will enhance the social relation between the coast and the city, and further requests the State Party to report to the World Heritage Centre on the excavation works expected to be launched in 2023 for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

9. *Notes the ongoing implementation of a programme of restoration and conservation of nine elevators and a number of historic buildings and also urges the State Party to accelerate, as a matter of urgent priority, the implementation of restoration and conservation activities, and to extend them to all the buildings of the property in need of urgent rehabilitation, also as a means to reverse the recognized depopulation trends in the site, in line with the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre Advisory mission of November 2022;*
10. *Also notes the abandonment of the previous Terminal 2 extension project and furthermore requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, as soon as available, the complete information on the alternative project to be defined in 2023;*
11. *Also commends the State Party for the establishment of the agreement between the Municipality of Valparaíso and Valparaíso Port Company to ensure participation and synergy among the main stakeholders concerned by port accessibility and port-city interaction issues;*
12. *Further commends the State Party for having invited an Advisory mission of the World Heritage Centre, to facilitate institutions and civil society consultations on all matters linked to the conservation of the site and the implementation of the decisions of the Committee and again requests the State Party to fully implement the mission's recommendations;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## **112. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia) (C 285)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1988-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 108,800

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

May-June 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November-December 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2006 Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2017: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Construction of TRANSCARIBE, a new public transportation system and its impact on the wall (issue resolved)
- Marine transport infrastructure (impact of the harbour public works on the fortifications of Cartagena)
- Management Systems/Management Plan (lack of a Management Plan; lack of a regulatory conservation management system for the property; need for urban regulations for the protected area)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Housing
- Commercial development
- Governance

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/>

### Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, particularly on the development of management plans at architectural, urban and landscape levels:

- At the architectural level, the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and the Castle of San Felipe (PEMP-MURCA), was approved in 2018, establishing building parameters, and defining a buffer zone. In the framework of this Plan, short term project as well as preventive and corrective maintenance works are in progress, while the development of mid-term plans to promote the appropriation and protection of the property has begun;
- At the urban level, the PEMP for the Historic Urban Complex (PEMP-CH), and at the landscape level, the PEMP for the Fortified Cultural Landscape of Cartagena de Indias (PEMP-FORT BAHIA), developed in conjunction with the District of Cartagena and other local and national entities, have been finalized, and are in the process of being adopted via administrative act.

The report also details measures undertaken to reinforce the Institute of Cultural Heritage of Cartagena (IPCC), as well as actions and strategies implemented by the IPCC Heritage Division, including:

- Development of an app (BIEN MIO) to monitor changes in the property and improve response times, and of the SH CITY CTG monitoring system for preliminary studies to develop tools to understand visitor and user flows in the historic centre;
- Implementation of projects to enhance the social appropriation of heritage for different groups of the population; to identify the state of crafts and trades related to heritage, to define strategies for their protection;
- Implementation of online capacity building courses for managers in the city;
- Participation in working groups with the Police Inspectorate and the Risk Management Office to define joint actions for the protection, inspection and surveillance of buildings;
- Participation in meetings with the District Council of Cultural Heritage and the community to disseminate information on buildings in the property which were declared as assets of cultural interest, and to disseminate the progress in the implementation of the Special Safeguarding Plans;
- Monitoring the state of conservation of buildings in the property and provision of technical advice to owners of properties with decay problems on actions to be taken;
- Proposal for joint actions with the Heritage and Culture Sectorial Committee to deal with urban art, sculptures and monuments and graffiti;
- Reviewing proposals for projects in the property in view of their authorization, and suspension of work and sanctions for inadequate interventions.

The report also describes a number of legal procedures linked to the Aquarela project, most of which are still ongoing.



The State Party indicates that once the articulation and harmonization process for PEMP MURCA, PEMP CH and PEMP FORT BAHIA is finished, and with the approval of the plans consolidated in a single administrative act, the process of updating the boundaries of the site will begin.

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

While the State Party should be commended for the actions and activities for the development and implementation of the PEMPs, and for strengthening capacities of managers, improving communication with inhabitants and users of the property, and fostering collaboration with various agencies for an improved management of the property, it is fundamental to urgently finalize the approval of the PEMP-CH and PEMP-FORT BAHIA.

The State Party reiterated that once the two additional PEMPs are approved, the boundaries of the property can be established, and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The report mentions that the PEMP-MURCA includes the definition of a buffer zone for the site, but no details are provided regarding its location and extension or related to the regulations in that area. The State Party should submit to the World Heritage Centre the cartography details of the property at the time of its inscription, as well as a Minor Boundary Modification request.

The report directly addresses the Committee's recommendations, highlighting the main issues. However, the State Party is advised to provide more specific information on issues that have not been solved and to offer an estimated timeline for their finalization, particularly as concerns the issues of approving the two PEMPs but also pending legal procedures associated with the Aquarela project, most of which seem to be ongoing.

While the challenges for the property remain, the State Party should be commended for the actions undertaken to have adequate regulation for the property, and for the efforts undertaken to include local inhabitants and users in activities linked to a better understanding and protection of the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.112**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.167**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the measures undertaken for the implementation of the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and the Castle of San Felipe (PEMP-MURCA), and encourages the State Party to continue with these efforts;
4. Also welcomes the finalization of the PEMP for the Historic Urban Complex (PEMP-CH) and the PEMP for the Fortified Cultural Landscape of Cartagena de Indias (PEMP-FORT BAHIA), and further welcomes the articulation of these plans with other existing regulation but regrets that these documents have not been approved yet, and urges the State Party to approve these documents as a priority and enable their implementation;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit an up-to-date map of the property as inscribed in 1984 and, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, a Minor Boundary Modification request to define the buffer zone(s);
6. Welcomes moreover the actions undertaken to address the impact of the Aquarela project on the Outstanding Universal Value, and also urges the State Party to continue the processes to resolve the outstanding legal actions, and requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the proposals for the restitution of the public space;

7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

### **113. Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís (Costa Rica) (C 1453)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 17,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 95,260 for the project “Engaging youth from local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation of the Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís” (German Foreign Office), currently under implementation

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Interpretative and visitation facilities (provide visitor interpretation and future accessibility to components not yet open to the public)
- Human resources (guardians and managers)
- Housing (future urban development)
- Water infrastructure (discussion on the construction of a hydropower dam)
- Air transport infrastructure
- Financial resources
- Management system/Management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/>, and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The cooperative project with the University of Costa Rica on joint management activities with communities near the sites was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was suspended in May 2021. Resumption remains a future possibility;
- Despite pandemic-related restrictions, several activities were carried out to engage local youths and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation. Workshops were geographically focused on the canton of Osa;

- Between 2020-2022, collaboration activities with the indigenous communities of Curré/Yimba and Boruca were developed, among them an intervention on the spheres located in Boruca town's Community Museum and a fair for the valorisation of traditional knowledge in Curré/Yimba;
- Between 2020-2022, 6,471 people participated in 302 educational activities;
- Between 2020-2022, three exhibitions were opened in the temporary exhibition hall in the Finca 6 Visitor Centre. 10 information signs and 20 directional signs were placed along trails at the four sites;
- The Osa Canton Regulatory Plan relating to buffer zone regulation is still suspended due to ongoing difficulties. In October 2022, a draft agreement was presented to representatives of the Surcoop association of landowners within the Finca 6 buffer zone, which would maintain land use for agricultural purposes and establish measures relating to future projects. Similar agreements will be sought with the owners of the land in the buffer zones of other archaeological sites in the series;
- Risk assessments associated with the property's archaeological sites have been evaluated annually;
- The High-Level Commission to ensure the adequate protection of the property is in place to provide support, should pressing issues arise;
- The preliminary proposal for the organization of the administrative unit and its position in the institutional organization chart is being evaluated at the national level;
- The feasibility of the Southern International Airport project is still pending. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been approved by the Environmental Technical Secretariat after a request by the National Museum of Costa Rica not to do so until the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is completed;
- The government invested in upgrading existing regional airports, including the Palmar Sur airport, which is in the Diquís delta;
- The hydroelectrical project remains indefinitely suspended. In November 2021, the General Direction of Civil Aviation requested the Heritage Impact Assessment of the project;
- In 2020 and 2022, four spheres located in the only two alignments preserved to date in the Finca 6 archaeological monument, were restored.

Additionally, in a note received by the World Heritage Centre on 10 May 2023, the State Party confirmed that feasibility and impact studies concerning the Southern International Airport had been relaunched and were expected to be carried out in the next months.

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

It is commendable that, despite pandemic-related restrictions, the State Party has continued activities aimed at engaging local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation and furthering collaboration with the indigenous communities of Curré/Yimba and Boruca. The State Party must be also commended for continuing the Heritage Education programme. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the cooperative project with the University of Costa Rica for joint management activities with some of the communities near the sites could not be executed within the established timeframe and was suspended in May 2021. Since the possibility of resuming it remains open, it is hoped that the project could be carried out and that the State Party keeps the World Heritage Centre informed of the outcomes. It is also welcomed that exhibitions were held in the temporary exhibition hall in the Finca 6 Visitor Centre and that the programme of signage and interpretation has been continued.

The Committee may wish to commend the State Party for the above-mentioned activities and also for the restoration of four spheres located in the only two alignments preserved to date, in the Finca 6 archaeological monument, in the framework of the cooperation with Mexico.

The regulation of the buffer zone is still pending, although a meeting between the Director of the National Museum and the Mayor of Osa was held in 2022, and a draft agreement was presented which aims at reaching the adoption of a decision to maintain the agricultural use of the land and to establish measures for future projects. The State Party should be requested to continue with the efforts to reach agreements with the Osa municipality and landowners to find a solution to this issue.

In 2020, the “Local institutional plan for risk reduction” was prepared and approved by the Administrative Board of the National Museum of Costa Rica and approved by the Ministry of Health. However, annual evaluations have been conducted by the Internal Audit of the National Museum and a risk and disaster management plan is not yet finished.

It is welcomed that the High-Level Commission to ensure the adequate protection of the property has met several times over the last two years. However, the establishment of a consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit for the property has not yet been reached due to financial constraints in the country. The State Party should therefore be requested to reach the agreements to establish the management unit.

The Southern International Airport project is unchanged, and its feasibility is still pending. It is welcomed that the EIA has not been approved by the Environmental Technical Secretariat after the request of the National Museum of Costa Rica and it is hoped that the HIA can be conducted, as confirmed in the note of the State Party of 10 May 2023. The report submitted by the State Party indicates investment for upgrading of the Palmar Sur airport located in the Diquís delta but provides no detailed information, and it is expected that any project or action that could jeopardise the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, its integrity and authenticity, will be the object of a HIA.

The hydroelectrical project remains indefinitely suspended. Since the General Direction of Civil Aviation requested a HIA of the project, it is expected that the State Party keeps the World Heritage Centre informed on its outcomes. HIAs should be conducted in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.113**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou /online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for continuing the activities related to heritage education and participatory management mechanisms with youth, local communities and indigenous groups despite the restrictions derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, and encourages the continuation of these initiatives;*
4. *Takes note that the cooperative project with the University of Costa Rica for joint management activities with some of the communities near the sites could not be executed on the established timeframe and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed, should the project be resumed;*
5. *Takes note with satisfaction that the activities related to interpretation and signage of the property have continued and that four spheres located in the Finca 6 archaeological monument were restored;*
6. *Also takes note that the regulation of the buffer zone remains pending, and that the risk management plan is not finished yet, and also requests the State Party to reach an agreement among the relevant parties and stakeholders and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the outcomes of these projects;*
7. *Welcomes that the High-Level Commission to ensure the adequate protection of the property has met several times, and also encourages the State Party to reach the establishment of a consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit for the property;*

8. Further takes note that the feasibility of the Southern International Airport project is still pending and that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), to be conducted in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, has not yet been carried out, and takes note furthermore that the hydroelectrical project remains indefinitely suspended;
9. Further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any changes in the status of these two projects, and to submit any relevant documentation and studies undertaken, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide further information on the nature, scale of the upgrading of the Palmar Sur regional airport located in close proximity to three of the property's archaeological sites, in order to determine any possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

#### **114. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 82,207

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998: Monitoring missions; August 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; 2002: World Heritage Centre mission; December 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (undefined and unregulated buffer zone leading to urban development pressure and inadequate control of land use)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Vulnerability to earthquakes and hurricanes
- Deterioration of historic structures derived from natural and social factors (including environmental pollution and lack of sensitization of local residents)
- Housing - Urban development project (Sansouci)
- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan
- Society's valuing of heritage

- Underground transport infrastructure

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The second phase of the Integral Program for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (PIDTUCCSD) has started. It is co-funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and will have an impact on the urban infrastructure, living conditions, local economy and management of the historical centre. Unlike the first phase, this second phase ensures a governance structure in which the full participation of the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), the Ministry of Culture (MINC) and the National District Council (ADN) is jointly ensured. The institutional strengthening of the National Directorate of Monumental Heritage (DNPM) and the Cultural Heritage and Historic Centre Directorate (DPCH) is foreseen;
- Revision of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Dominican Republic is ongoing;
- Carrying capacity studies for the historic centre have been undertaken;
- The certification process under the TourCert programme as a sustainable tourism destination with a focus on biodiversity was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic but resumed in 2021 within the Ministry of Tourism;
- The preparation of a Minor Boundary Modification is ongoing but it is awaiting the conclusion of the regulations for the buffer zone in the Municipality of East Santo Domingo;
- The Hotel Frances which collapsed in 2015 has been rebuilt. The outer masonry walls have the same thickness as original structure but contemporary construction methods and materials were used. The walls are plastered both inside and outside. The main entrance portal was re-erected using the stone that was recuperated from the rubble in a reconstruction technique known as anastylosis;
- While awaiting the implementation of a broadly agreed vision on the use of the ruins of San Francisco, it was necessary to undertake temporary stabilization of the ruins. This intervention was approved in September 2021 and documentation sent to the World Heritage Centre in January 2022. Works started the same year but were temporarily halted due to the cancellation of the contract with the construction company;
- Works at the Santa Barbara Church started in 2017 with clearing of vegetation and redirection of groundwater flows followed by structural consolidation and restoration. An amphitheatre was built at the back of the church;
- In October 2022, a workshop was held between the DNPM and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) to strengthen capacities in the identification, management and prevention of risks at heritage sites. The Disaster Risk Management Plan is being developed within the framework of the programme financed by the IDB;
- A Medical Emergency Plan is being implemented;
- An Action Plan 2022-2023 for the recuperation of a number of historical monuments (including the Alcazár de Colon and the Puerta de la Misericordia), several streets and fifteen facades is in preparation. A separate report details the activities undertaken in the period 2019-2022 by the ADN.

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

In June 2022, ICOMOS undertook a Technical Review of the PIDTUCCSD. It considered that the programme is comprehensive with an appropriate management structure and that improvement of living conditions and the local economy will contribute to the sustainability of the property, provided that the design and execution of the projects take into account the conservation of the integrity and authenticity

of the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as well as all aspects covered in the previous decisions of the Committee.

The joint management of the programme between the MITUR, the MINC and the ADN as well as the strengthening of the DNPM and the DPCH should be recognised as great advances in the appropriate management of the historic centre and its conservation programmes.

The continuous delays in the revision of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage, as well as the submission of the Minor Boundary Modification to include the buffer zone of the World Heritage property remain of extreme concern. The State Party should be requested to give these matters the highest possible priority.

The progression of the certification process for the Colonial City as a sustainable tourism destination and studies on its carrying capacity is welcomed. It is noted that a capacity building workshop was held in October 2022 on the formulation of a Risk and Disaster Management Plan. The development and implementation of a Medical Emergency Plan is highly appreciated.

Note is taken of the report on the reconstruction of the Hotel Frances that was executed following recommendations issued in 2015 by a high-level working group. The reconstruction of the stone portal at the entrance and the respect for the spatial characteristics of the building as it was restored in 1992 are welcomed. It is regretted, however, that the final project proposal in which contemporary building materials were used for the reconstruction of exterior walls, was not submitted in due time for review and advice by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. A similar situation concerns the intervention at the Santa Barbara Church which is reported to have started in 2018 and is now concluded. The document and images that are included in the State Party report are insufficient for a review of the restoration project. The exterior and aerial photographs show circular patterns in the pavement that may perhaps not be appropriate in the historic setting of the church. Both cases highlight the previous request by the Committee, for additional information be provided regarding the conservation methods used in historic buildings within the property.

At the Convent of San Francisco, a stabilization project was initiated that mainly consists of wooden beams with minimal impact on the stone structures and pavements.

The delicate state of some of the monumental structures in the historic centre is emphasised by the collapse of a wall and part of the Sun Clock on the Puerta de la Misericordia. The restoration of the latter is scheduled to start in January 2023.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.114**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.66, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the preparation of carrying capacity studies for the historic centre, and that the second phase of the Integral Program for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (PIDTUCCSD) has commenced and that it ensures a joint governance structure from the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), the Ministry of Culture (MINC) and the National District Council (ADN);*
4. *Considers the strengthening of the National Directorate of Monumental Heritage (DNPM) and the Cultural Heritage and Historic Centre Directorate (DPCH) of high importance for the appropriate management of the property;*
5. *Expresses its appreciation for the broad programme of activities undertaken by the national and local authorities during the 2019-2022 period and for the activities foreseen in the Action Plan 2022-2023;*
6. *Regrets the delays in the revision of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage, as well as of the submission of the Minor Boundary*

*Modifications concerning the proposed buffer zone and urges the State Party to pay the highest possible priority to the matters;*

7. *Welcomes the progress in the certification of sustainable tourism and carrying capacity studies and the implementation of a Medical Emergency Plan;*
8. *Notes that capacity building in risk management is underway and that the preparation of the Risk and Disaster Management Plan is foreseen, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed and submit the Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Also notes that the reconstruction and restoration of the Hotel Frances and the restoration of the Santa Barbara Church and its surroundings have been completed, regrets that the Advisory Bodies did not have the opportunity to provide advice on these projects in due time and reiterates its request for additional information be provided regarding the conservation methods used in historic buildings within the property;*
10. *Further notes that the stabilization of the ruins of the Convent of San Francisco are being executed and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of further developments concerning the restoration and future use of the complex;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## **115. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1981-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 391,800

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 for the project "Risk Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Quito", implemented from 2016-2018 (UNESCO/Spanish Funds-in-Trust)

### Previous monitoring missions

November 1988: expert mission; March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban development pressures affecting the authenticity of the property
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (works in the Tower of the Complex of the Compañía de Jesús) (issue resolved)
- Management system/plan (weaknesses in the decision-making mechanisms regarding conservation)
- Transportation infrastructure (construction of metro, including underground stations)
- Housing



*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report (available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>), including technical annexes on management and conservation matters, and presenting progress on a number of issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Territorial Planning and Development Plan for the Metropolitan District of Quito (PMDOT) 2021-2033 and the Metropolitan Land Use and Management Plan (PUGS) were approved on 13 September 2021. The PMDOT dictates the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan for the heritage in the Metropolitan District of Quito. The Municipality of Quito has been working to harmonize and align the Management Plan (entitled the “Partial Plan for the Comprehensive Development of the Historical Centre of Quito” - PPDI-CHQ) and the Master Plan, as well as to develop a new ordinance to replace Ordinance 260. The final version of the Comprehensive Master Plan for the heritage in the Metropolitan District of Quito and the PPDI-CHQ will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as finalized. The new ordinance replacing Ordinance 260, whose draft is annexed to the state of conservation report for review by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, is presently pending approval by Historic Areas and heritage Commission (CAHP) and the Metropolitan Council;
- The review and update of the 2019 Disaster Risk Management Plan was carried out during 2021, with a pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to take into consideration ICOMOS’ technical review of September 2020 and include a larger participation of municipal entities with risk management competences;
- The geotechnical monitoring processes at the metro stations and tunnels within the Historic Centre of Quito ended in September 2020, once complete stabilization was reached, as per the monitoring and control plan developed before the works. A summary of the technical reports on this monitoring process, annexed to the state of conservation report, shows that complete stabilization has been achieved within the acceptable settlement ranges established for the Historic Centre of Quito;
- Monitoring of the impact of the pedestrian flows was scheduled to begin in March 2023, in conjunction with the start of the regular service of the metro based on the baseline of current conditions of the areas surrounding the 15 new metro stations. However, at the moment of the finalization of this document the State Party informed that this operation was delayed of approximatively two months. Before that, introductory studies have been foreseen, including an update of the study of demand determined by journey and station, an analysis of the impact on the commerce and residential use with the metro zones, and an audit of road safety and detailed design for the improvement of road safety around the metro stations, including San Francisco.

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

The State Party should be commended for the important efforts and accomplishments in view of the finalization of the management plan of the property (PPDI-CHQ) and in view of its harmonization - through the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan for the heritage in the Metropolitan District of Quito - with the PMDOT and the Land Use and Management Plan (PUGS). It is regrettable, however, that the PPDI-CHQ still under preparation after many years, has not yet been formally approved. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to finalize it as soon as possible.

The draft of the new ordinance proposal to replace Ordinance 260, submitted to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS for technical review, is welcomed, and the progress in its approval is noted. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to consider the observations and recommendations made in the ICOMOS technical review before proceeding with the formal approval of the new ordinance.

The participative and inclusive approach adopted by the State Party as concerns the review and update of the 2019 Disaster Risk Management Plan is welcomed. However, it is unfortunate that the advances accomplished by the State Party in this respect were significantly limited by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021. The State Party should be urged to finalize the update of the Disaster Risk Management Plan in light of the recommendations of ICOMOS’ technical review of September 2020, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS as soon as possible, for review.

The geotechnical monitoring processes at the metro stations and tunnels within the Historic Centre of Quito should be welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee note with satisfaction the complete stabilization within the acceptable settlement ranges established for the Historic Centre of Quito.

The establishment of a programme to monitor the impact of the pedestrian flows should also be noted as a significant achievement. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue these lines of action and to report on the results of their implementation. The State Party should furthermore be requested to adapt the signage in the surroundings of the metro station in such a way that it interferes to the minimum in the historic environment of the San Francisco Square

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.115**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Takes note of the efforts accomplished in the finalization of the management plan of the property (entitled Partial Plan for the Comprehensive Development of the Historic Centre – PPDI-CHQ) and its harmonization, through the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan for the heritage in the Metropolitan District of Quito, with the Territorial Planning and Development Plan for the Metropolitan District of the City of Quito (PMDOT) and the Land Use and Management Plan; but expresses its regret that to date the PPDI-CHQ, has not yet been finalized, and urges the State Party to continue the harmonization process and to finalize, as soon as possible, both the PPDI-CHQ and the PMDOT and in view of their timely submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Welcomes the draft of the new ordinance to replace Ordinance 260, which provides the legal framework for the implementation of the PPDI-CHQ and recommends to the State Party to consider the observations made in ICOMOS' technical review before proceeding with its formal approval;*
5. *Also takes note of the advances, regrettably limited by the COVID-19 pandemic, accomplished by the State Party in the update of the Disaster Risk Management Plan, and urges the State Party to finalize it, in light of the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical review of September 2020, and to submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible;*
6. *Also welcomes the geotechnical monitoring processes carried out at the metro stations and tunnels, the complete stabilization within the acceptable settlement ranges established for the site, and the establishment of a programme to monitor the impact of the pedestrian flows and encourages the State Party to continue these lines of action and to also consider the signage around the metro station in order to limit its visual impact in the historic environment of the San Francisco Square;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

## 116. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2010: on the occasion of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Portobelo and San Lorenzo, a technical visit to the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and the Historic District was undertaken, as requested by the authorities of Panamá; October 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2013: Joint High level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources (Inadequate long-term financial sustainability of conservation and management efforts)
- Housing (Demolition of urban ensembles and buildings, Urban development projects within the protected area, i.e., Cinta Costera)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Visual impact of the Cinta Costera project Maritime Viaduct)
- Human resources (Limited capacity for the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic structures)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Forced displacement of occupants and squatters)
- Legal framework (Deficiencies in the implementation of the legislative framework for protection)
- Management systems/ management plan (Conflicting interests of different stakeholders with regard to the use, management and conservation of the historic centre, Lack of implementation of clear conservation and management policies for the property)
- Other factors (Severe deterioration of historic buildings)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/>

### Current conservation issues

In 2019, the State Party of Panamá submitted a nomination dossier with the aim to transform the “Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá” into a serial property under the name of “Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá”. The World Heritage Committee (Decision **43 COM 8B.40**) deferred the request and asked for a resubmission. The Nomination was resubmitted in January 2023, and in March 2023 the World Heritage Centre confirmed the completeness check of the Nomination and sent it to ICOMOS for evaluation.

On 25 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/> and addresses the inscribed World Heritage property, taking as the baseline for the analysis the current Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (Decision **37 COM 8E**). Progress on a number of measures requested by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- In November 2020, the General Law on Culture (Law No. 175) was adopted by the State Party and legal tools and the Law need to be regulated for its implementation. Nationwide consultations for drafting and approval of the regulation of this Law are ongoing. No timeframe is given for the

completion of this process. The State Party submitted the text of the Law, without any detailed explanations of its expected impact;

- Results of a 3D viewshed study and visual corridor analysis for Panama Viejo and the Historic District of Panamá are presented as part of the draft Management Plan of the nominated serial property “The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá”;
- Advancement of different planning tools was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only the Land Use Plan for the District of Panamá was approved on 30 March 2021, which incorporates the two property components as “special planning zones” and includes height restrictions (between 4 and 8 floors) on new buildings in the buffer zones and wider urban context;
- A draft of the regulation of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is in the process of internal approval and further consultation in 2023;
- The Municipality of Panamá (MUPA) has developed a Plan of the City Centre, which includes a Mobility Plan for the Historic District of Panamá. The status of the Plan of the City Centre is unclear;
- For the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo, no new project is reported and existing projects have been stagnant. In the Historic District, three projects are reported as active, the “Hotel Casco Viejo”, the “EDEM Building” and the “P.H. Casco View”, but no further information is supplied. A photo of the completed “Bay View Tower” is included (mentioned in the last report), but no mention is made of its impact on the values of the property;
- The report also offers details on the state of conservation of different buildings in the two component parts of the property and highlights the improvement of the state of conservation of the buildings of the Historic District.

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

The State Party reports on some important advances, including the approval of the Land Use Plan for the District of Panamá, progress made on the inclusion of the HIA in the planning process, and the improved state of conservation of the buildings of the Historic District. However, some of the points mentioned in the report are not new (e.g., the Plan of the City Centre and the Project for Waste Recycling). Determining the differences between its previously reported state of conservation is difficult. Also, many of the points mentioned either lack detailed information or give only detailed information, without a summary to highlight the relevant points.

On several occasions the report refers to the new Management Plan for the “Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá”, for which the revised Nomination/Significant Boundary Modification was submitted in 2023. This Management Plan will contain sections on Natural Disaster and Risk Management as well as Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation for the entire Transisthmian Route. Parts of this draft document are included in the State Party’s 2022 report. However, it is difficult to judge the impact on the property discussed here, without evaluating the finished document.

A map taken from the Land Use Plan for the District of Panamá mentions a new buffer zone for the Historic District, but the changes to the previous or current buffer zone are not discussed in the state of conservation document. It is also unclear if the height restrictions that the Land Use Plan introduces have a bearing on the ongoing construction projects of the buildings with 12 floors that, as the report states, “*may cause visual impacts*”.

Even though there are, as mentioned above, important advances concerning the legal protection and management of the site, many of these issues are pending final approval or sufficient regulation in order to become operative. It has to be recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic slowed many of these processes down, but it is of great importance to finalize them as soon as possible.

The report makes no mention of how the re-Nomination/Significant Boundary Modification will affect all of the above-mentioned issues, and how it will address the impact on the World Heritage values caused by the maritime viaduct that encircles the Historic District. It is to be hoped that the significant boundary modification document will refocus the work on this property and show a clear way forward.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.116**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.168**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes that the State Party submitted a nomination dossier that would transform the sites into component parts of a serial property under the name of “Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá” to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Requests the State Party to provide reports on:
  - a) The status of all planned, ongoing or recently finalized construction projects,
  - b) The way these projects are affected by the new legal and planning framework,
  - c) Their (potential) impact on the newly defined values of the property components within the framework of the “Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá”;
5. Also requests a detailed account of the state of conservation of the main elements of the two property components, with a clear definition of baseline data to which any changes can be compared and evaluated;
6. Urges the State Party to finalize the processes necessary to make new laws, plans (Decision **44 COM 7B.167**, paragraphs 7 a-d) and programmes operative and further requests a report on the advances;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

**117. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## 118. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

February 2000: ICOMOS expert mission; July 2001: expert mission; August 2001: expert mission; April-May 2008: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage (deliberate demolition of historic buildings)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Planned and ongoing development projects
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of a Risk Preparedness Plan)
- Lack of management plan (issue resolved)
- Housing (uncontrolled urban development)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/>

### Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The Municipality of Arequipa, in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) prepared a new Master Plan 2022-2032 for the Historic Centre of Arequipa and Buffer Zone. This Plan is included in the annexes of the State Party report. The process of public consultation and review by the Ministry of Culture was expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Following this process, the Master Plan is ready to be approved by the Municipal Council;
- The Metropolitan Development Plan 2022-2042 that is still under review, will establish a framework for the city as a whole, in accordance with the proposed Master Plan;
- Upon approval of the Master Plan, a minor boundary modification will be prepared and processed for approval by municipal ordinance and review by the Ministry of Culture. This process will be completed during 2023;
- The Master Plan foresees eight zones within the buffer zone, each with specific landscape, agricultural and tourism-related characteristics. The Plan includes guidelines for the recovery of the urban basin of the Chili River Valley and its integration into the historic centre;
- Awareness-raising activities have continued and expanded to sensitize the local community regarding cultural values and potential for sustainable development;
- As part of the process of having the Cultural and Archaeological Landscape of the Chili River Valley and Las Rocas Ecological Park declared as national cultural heritage, the final report of

the archaeological evaluation is being evaluated by the Ministry of Culture. The archaeological evaluation reports for the Archaeological Landscape of the Lari-Lari-Los Tucos Ravine and the Archaeological Cultural Landscape of Tocrahuasi and Carmen Alto are pending presentation by the Regional Government of Arequipa;

- A project to partially enclose the edges of the Chilina Bridge is proposed to increase public safety;
- A pedestrian circulation project designed for the Plaza Mayor and the Salaverry-Malecón Socobaya Viaduct was rejected by the municipality of Arequipa.

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

It is noted that the State Party did not proceed with the approval of the previously submitted Master Plan 2019-2029 nor the submission of a minor boundary modification, both of which were foreseen in 2020. Alternatively, a new Master Plan 2022-2032 was prepared and it is now pending public consultation and approval by the Ministry of Culture and the Municipal Council.

The Master Plan 2022-2032 covers the areas that will be included in the future buffer zone. The plan defines seven strategies (*Lineas Estratégicas*) that include cultural promotion, housing and living conditions, mobility, rehabilitation of public areas, preservation of La Campina and the Chilli River Valley, preservation of the cultural heritage and governance and management. In addition to these, it also includes a zoning plan consisting of 14 sectors (*Sectores de Tratamientos*). It is recommended that the State Party be urged to approve the Master Plan 2022-2032 but to keep the World Heritage Centre informed in case any modifications would be introduced during the approval process of the Metropolitan Development Plan 2022-2042. It is also recommended that the State Party be urged to proceed with the minor boundary modification as early as possible.

It is reiterated that the mitigation measures proposed in the 2017 Heritage Impact Assessment of the *Chilina Bridge and the Via Truncal Interconectora* project and the recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission report are essential for the preservation of the future buffer zone. These include the declaration as national heritage of the Archaeological Landscape of the Lari-Lari-Los Tucos Ravine, the Archaeological Cultural Landscape of Tocrahuasi and Carmen Alto and the Cultural and Archaeological Landscape of the Chilina River Valley and Las Rocas Ecological Park.

It is welcomed that the project for pedestrian circulation at the Plaza Mayor and Salaverry-Malecón Socobaya Viaduct has been rejected.

The approval of the new Master Plan 2022-2032 and the submission of a minor boundary modification are critical elements for the adequate management and protection of the property as proposed in the 2014 mission report and subsequent decisions of the World Heritage Committee. It is noted with satisfaction that regulations for the implementation of the Master Plan (*Reglamento del Plan Maestro*) are attached to the plan, and that they foresee in Article 131 the creation of an inter-institutional body (*Superintendencia del Centro Histórico*) that will oversee the management of the historic centre. This body will appoint a technical secretariat that will be responsible for making proposals for the management of the historic centre and the implementation of the Master Plan. This secretariat will need to be allocated sufficient human and financial resources for its operations.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.118**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Noting that a new Master Plan 2022-2032 has been prepared and is now in the approval process, urges the State Party to approve the Master Plan 2022-2032, and requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in case any modification would be

introduced during the approval process of the Metropolitan Development Plan 2022-2042;

4. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed as soon as the Master Plan is approved and to provide information about the measures that will be taken to ensure its implementation, in particular the creation of an inter-institutional body and the provisions of human and financial resources, that will be made for its operations;
5. Reiterates the urgency to proceed with the submission of a minor boundary modification in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines to formalise the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
6. Also urges the State Party to conclude the declaration as national heritage of the Archaeological Landscape of the Lari-Lari-Los Tucos Ravine, the Archaeological Cultural Landscape of Tocrahuasi and Carmen Alto and the Cultural and Archaeological Landscape of the Chilina River Valley and Las Rocas Ecological Park;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue its public awareness activities among local communities and residents;
8. Further requests the State Party to ensure the full implementation of the mitigation measures included in the 2017 Heritage Impact Assessment of the Chilina Bridge and the Via Troncal Interconectora and the recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to ensure the preservation of the future buffer zone;
9. Welcomes the decision to abandon the pedestrian circulation project at the Plaza Mayor and Salaverry-Malecón Socobaya Viaduct,
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, 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 48th session.

## 119. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 23,000 for the project "Management Plan for Paramaribo" in 2010; and USD 125,362 provided for the project "Inner City of Paramaribo. Phase I & II" from 2005 to 2008 (UNESCO/Netherlands Funds in Trust)



### Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/>

### Current conservation issues

On 11 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/>, which reported the following:

- The draft designs of the Waterfront in the framework of the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP), were submitted on 3 December 2021, then modified following ICOMOS' technical review and submitted a second time on 18 February 2022. Based on ICOMOS' feedback, the designs of the waterfront were revised again then re-submitted on 3 March 2022. ICOMOS noted then that these revised designs respond to its prior suggestion and suggested that they be welcomed;
- On 14 October 2022, a contract was signed between the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the State Party and a private consultancy company to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA) to evaluate possible impacts of the waterfront rehabilitation project on environment and community, and envisage mitigation measures;
- The extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone is drafted, but authorities have not taken a decision in this respect yet. The extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river has not been addressed;
- The Management Plan 2020-2024 was approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2021 and USD230,000 for fiscal year 2021 was approved for implementation;
- Concerning destroyed buildings within the property, 15 historic buildings are being restored. Other government-owned historic buildings still need urgent rehabilitation. A privately-owned monumental building was illegally destroyed, with no legal prosecution of the proprietor, and a request was made to deny the owner a new building permit. Several public awareness initiatives were taken, including a photo contest on historical places, a youth event, a university student workshop and a national workshop on Sustainable Tourism Strategies for World Heritage in Suriname;
- The reconstruction of the two former National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 was completed, in conformity with the results of consultations with ICOMOS;
- Three government-owned buildings are to be restored. ICOMOS' technical review welcomed the restoration of two. The designs of the third were revised following the comments of the Advisory Body and subsequently welcomed by ICOMOS;
- Under the current PURP, a consultancy will develop a Parking Management Policy for the historic city center, and a second consultancy is revising the legal framework and functioning of the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission to support the protection of the historic inner city;
- A new PURP, supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, is being planned for 2024;
- The project of a new State Council building was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in October 2022. A new hotel project in the buffer zone will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for technical review. The design of a new apartment building is being revised to comply with the applicable legislation;
- The State Party submitted in March-April 2023 four additional projects for review by the Advisory Bodies: the rehabilitation of the Palm Garden, the restoration of two historic buildings at the Henck Arronstraat 1 and Grote Combeweg 3, a project for the construction of a new National Assembly Hall on the grounds behind the two reconstructed National Assembly buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, and a proposal for a hotel at the Kleine Combeweg next to the Palm Garden.

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

The revisions to the designs of the Waterfront and the launch of the ESIA which will be implemented by the PURP are welcomed. It is noted that the ESIA results will inform the final design of the Waterfront and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Regrettably the State Party has made no progress in the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river, which is relevant to the Waterfront rehabilitation. No action has been taken on a draft extension of the buffer zones. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to urgently complete the process following the procedures established for a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The approval of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage City Management Plan 2020-2024 by the Council of Ministers and the initial budget provided for its implementation are noted with satisfaction. The State Party should be encouraged to ensure its effective implementation and financial support.

The rehabilitation of destroyed historic buildings is noted with satisfaction, as are the initiatives to raise awareness of the population and of owners on the importance of the buildings. The State Party should be encouraged to restore government-owned historic buildings still needing urgent rehabilitation. It is noted that illegal demolitions have police reports but legal action against perpetrators was not taken. It is recommended that the Committee request the enforcement of adequate legal measures.

The reconstruction of the former National Assembly buildings is also noted with satisfaction. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide full photographic documentation of the exterior and interior of the building.

The restoration of three government-owned buildings in line with suggestions of ICOMOS' technical reviews is welcomed. Photographic documentation or drawings should be requested particularly with regards to Waterkant 33.

Initiatives to manage parking in the historic city center are noted.

The State Party should be commended for the initiative under the PURP to revise the legal framework of the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission in view of protecting the historic inner city. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to share these legal frameworks with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The planning of a new PURP, with the Inter-American Development Bank starting in 2024 is welcomed. Extensive information on this new project should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible.

As to the project documentation submitted for technical review by the Advisory Bodies:

- ICOMOS endorsed the restoration works at Henck Arronstraat 1 and Grote Combeweg 3 with some recommendations to the State Party;
- It also concluded that the proposed construction for the State Council building is located within one of the most essential monumental zones listed in the nomination dossier of the property (the Fort Zeelandia area), and that substantive additional documentation is required for a full review;
- With regards to the proposed new National Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, an extensive technical review was undertaken by ICOMOS, which concluded that the proposed hall is unsuited and inviable in terms of its urban setting, size, scale, proportions and architectural language and would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is recommended to study alternative options, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square). In case of any further development at the premises of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, it is recommended to respect the earlier agreed Master Plan and the recommendations of previous technical reviews. Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) of the hall at its present or alternative locations will be required;
- The technical review of the project for the rehabilitation of the Palm Garden recommends treating the garden as a cultural landscape and preparing a comprehensive Management Plan and rehabilitation project that should consider the historical development and present conditions of the garden including infrastructure in and around the garden, as well as the 'spirit of the place'.

The cleaning, maintenance and removal of damaged or too old palms as proposed in the documentation could proceed in the meantime;

- The proposed hotel at the Kleine Combeweg 63-64-65 would potentially have a negative and irreversible impact on the OUV of the property. In case the proposal would be further developed, an HIA will be necessary, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and accompanied by an exhaustive spatial and historical analysis of the proposed building site, the more so in light of the above-mentioned rehabilitation project of the Palm Garden;

The State Party should be invited to submit requested documentation and/or HIAs as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and no action should be undertaken until technical reviews and eventual consultation processes between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS are completed.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.119**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the designs of the Waterfront of the property, revised in conformity with the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical reviews, and the launch of the Environmental and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA), which will inform the final design of the Waterfront, as well as the planning of a new Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP), with the Inter-American Development Bank to start in 2024, and requests that extensive information in its regard be submitted to the World heritage Centre as soon as possible;
4. Expresses its serious regret that no action has been taken concerning the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-meter strip along the river, nor concerning the draft extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone, and urges the State Party to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Takes note with appreciation of the approval of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo World Heritage City Management Plan 2020-2024 by the Council of Ministers and the initial budget provided for its implementation and encourages the State Party to ensure its effective implementation and financial support;
6. Also welcomes the rehabilitation of some 15 public and private historic buildings demolished or otherwise destroyed by fire or decay, the reconstruction of the former National Assembly Building, the restoration of three government-owned buildings in line with suggestions of ICOMOS' technical reviews and also requests the State Party to provide full photographic or graphic documentation of the reconstructed National Assembly Building and restoration of Waterkant 30 and 32;
7. Equally welcomes the initiatives to raise awareness of the population and of owners on the importance of the buildings, as well as the initiatives to manage parking in the historic city center, and encourages the State Party to restore government-owned historic buildings still needing urgent rehabilitation, to take adequate legal measures with regard to illegal destruction of historic buildings, and to continue the public awareness-raising campaign;

8. Appreciates the review and revision of the legal framework of the Building Committee and the Monuments Commission in view of protecting the historic inner city and further requests the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible;
9. Notes that the proposed new Assembly Hall behind the recently reconstructed buildings at Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), recommends to the State Party to study alternative options, including the refurbishing of the present location at the Onafhankelijkheidsplein (Independence Square), and in case of any further development at the premises of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, to respect the earlier agreed Master Plan and the recommendations of previous technical reviews, and urges the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on the housing of the National Assembly at its present or alternative locations and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;
10. Also notes the technical reviews of four additional projects (two restoration projects, a new State Council building, the rehabilitation of the Palm Garden and the construction of a hotel at the Kleine Combeweg) undertaken by ICOMOS and requests furthermore the State Party to take the recommendations of these reviews into consideration, provide additional documentation as requested and enter into consultations with the Advisory Bodies as appropriate, and requests moreover that the State Party ensure that no permits are delivered or irreversible actions are taken in the meantime;
11. Finally, requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## AFRICA

### 120. Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1648)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 121. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1322rev)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 122. Asmara: A Modernist African City (Eritrea) (C 1550)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2017

*Criteria* (ii)(iv)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1550/documents/>

*International Assistance*

Requests approved: 3 (from 2016-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 89,950

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1550/assistance/>

*UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount provided: USD 44,038 under the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust

*Previous monitoring missions*

N/A

*Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Unfinalized Urban Conservation Master Plan and Asmara Planning Norms and Technical Regulations
- Lack of strategies to ensure a steady influx of financial resources, substantial qualified human resources, and considerable institutional and technical capacity
- Need to set up the central management body

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1550/>

*Current conservation issues*

On 30 November 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1550/documents/>, and reported on progress on the number of issues requested by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The roles and structures of the main stakeholders of the World Heritage property are clarified, including that the Asmara Heritage Project (AHP), the principal management authority for the property located within the Department of Public Works Development, is an autonomous institution with a staff of 20 professionals;

- The preparation of the Detailed Urban Conservation Master Plan (DUCMP) and the Asmara Planning Norms and Technical Regulations (APNTR) continues, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other unforeseen circumstances, the timeframe for completion of these studies has shifted. Work done to date includes developing planning norms and building regulations and establishing an Integrated Historical Perimeter, which includes the property, its buffer zone and areas outside the buffer zone for green protection. The State Party commits to completing this process and submitting the DUCMP and APNTR to the World Heritage Centre for review by September 2023;
- A Managing Director and the Eritrean Cultural and Natural Heritage Board have been established to implement the 2015 Cultural and Natural Heritage Proclamation (CNHP);
- The State Party further communicates its intention to urgently declaring Asmara as a Protected Site under the auspice of the 2015 CNHP;
- The Terms of Reference for the project of the drafting of the Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) were agreed with the World Heritage Centre. The project will be realized during the year 2023 and will engage national and international experts;
- The State Party has initiated a discussion between the Central Region Administration and the Commission of Culture and Sports to improve the organizational structures of the AHP with a view to better coordinating and managing the World Heritage property.

The entry developed for the property as part of the World Heritage Cities programme, including an interactive map, can be found at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/1305/>.

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

The continued efforts of the State Party to mobilize resources for the finalization of the DUCMP and the APNTR are welcomed. These planning, management and conservation tools are essential for the sustainable conservation and effective management of the site. Despite challenges due to unforeseen circumstances following the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Party continues the work and targets to finalize these documents in 2023. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue its endeavour to develop these tools in parallel with its efforts to improve the structure of AHP and to designate the property as a protected site under the auspices of the CNHP of 2015, in order to ensure an effective management and administrative system essential for the safeguarding and promotion of the World Heritage property.

The State Party has engaged the World Heritage Centre in the definitions of the Terms of Reference for the LEDP, which is to be drafted in 2023. Already in 2018, the State Party identified 14 historical buildings as a priority for conservation and restoration as a first phase but noted that it would need to raise the funds to undertake these projects. It is critical that the LEDP supports the establishment of a financial mechanism to support the conservation of the World Heritage property. In addition, the Committee may wish to reiterate the invitation to the State Party to provide detailed information on the renovation projects before proceeding with their implementation.

In view of developing these tools, it is positive that the State Party adopts an inclusive approach that mobilises different analyses of the historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes of the protected areas to boost the socio-economic transformation of the urban area. Based on the reflections under the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, the proposed Integrated Historic Perimeter (IHP) will ensure that the protection of the World Heritage site promotes adequate quality of life for its residents and growing population, provides better services and infrastructures in the territory such as safe and comfortable mobility, and improves the protected green areas within the urban context and its geographic setting.

It is noted that the State Party has provided clarification on the roles and structures of various stakeholders and other important partners involved in the planning, management, and conservation of the property. It is, however, important to emphasize that the new revised organizational structures of AHP should maintain the balance between its managerial and administrative roles to effectively conserve, manage, and promote the property. A position that hinges between the institutions dealing with cultural development, such as the newly created Eritrean Cultural and Natural Heritage Board, and those dealing with planning and building permits in the city, such as the Department of Public Works Development (DPWD), is highly desirable. In addition, to address the complexities inherent in the conservation and management of this property, continued mobilisation, engagement, and capacity building of these stakeholders and rightsholders is essential. The Committee may wish to reiterate its

encouragement to the State Party to continue in these efforts both in regard to managing the historic urban landscape and to the physical conservation of the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.122**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.117**, adopted at its 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),
3. Acknowledges the progress made in finalising the detailed Urban Conservation Master Plan (UCMP) and the Asmara Planning and Technical Regulations (APTR) and encourages the State Party to continue its endeavours to designate the property as a protected area under the auspices of the Cultural and Natural Heritage Proclamation of 2015;
4. Notes the State Party's commitment to developing the UCMP using the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach and welcomes the proposal to develop the Integrated Historic Parameter (IHP) to ensure the protection of the property, promotion of socio-economic development for its resident, and enable sustainable urban development for its broader urban context and its geographic setting;
5. Notes the clarification provided by the State Party on the roles and functions of the stakeholders and requests the State Party to improve the structure of the Asmara Heritage Project (AHP) to enhance its responsibilities to conserve, manage and promote the property but also to maintain its link with institutions dealing with cultural development and urban planning and development;
6. Also requests the State Party to continue working with the World Heritage Centre to develop the Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) with a view to supporting the implementation of the UCMP and providing a mechanism to ensure a viable financial resource for sustainable conservation of the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide an update report on the state of conservation of the 14 historical buildings identified in 2018 as an initial priority conservation and restoration phase to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to seek international financial and technical support towards the preparation of detailed conservation proposals, including criteria, methods, and materials to be used for the conservation and restoration of the 14 historical buildings identified in 2018 and to submit such proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Encourages the State Party to continue with the mobilisation, engagement and capacity building of stakeholders and rightsholders, also with regards to managing the historic urban landscape and to the physical conservation of the built attributes of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

### 123. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 124. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 17,018

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 400,000 euros from European Union (project launched in 2016)

#### Previous monitoring missions

April 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Development projects
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Land conversion
- Absence of established boundary

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 27 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/> and reported on the progress made on the number of issues requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), as follows:

- Boundaries demarcation of the World Heritage property, using a digital map, to determine the property area and the buffer zone were in progress;
- Revision of the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and a public community consultation process for the sustainability of the Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP) were conducted, using the guidelines of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Commission of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change and that of the World Bank;
- Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on new developments to mitigate the negative impact on the Outstanding Universal value (OUV) of the property to be updated, taking into consideration the property as well as the proposed ancillary development activities of the Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP);
- Development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the potential impact of the KSDP and its development activities on the Lake Turkana Basin for both States Parties of Ethiopia



and Kenya to look at the impact on both World Heritage properties of the Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) and Lake Turkana (Kenya).

The State Party also submitted the location map of the Lower Omo Valley, and the text of the revised ESIA study and the validation process of the KSDP project through a public consultation process to justify the decision taken regarding the activities in the area.

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

The location maps of the property submitted by the State Party are welcome. These are the outcomes of a European Union (EU) funded project begun in 2014, which was undertaken with the involvement of the Ethiopian Geo-spatial Agency and Federal and Regional stakeholders.

The need to establish a clear map of the Lower Omo Valley World Heritage has long been a concern of the Committee who also requested that these maps should be based on an assessment of fossil-bearing sediments, in order to more clearly define areas of potential archaeological importance. The 2015 mission also recommended that management strategies should respect a visually coherent landscape with no development between visible outcrops. The maps so far submitted are at a small scale and before the proposed boundaries can be reviewed larger more detailed maps need to be provided together with evidence from surveys upon which they are based and related protection and management proposals.

The State Party has updated the ESIA in the light of changes to the project and included a consultation process on the sustainability of the KSDP and its social and economic impacts and benefits. The ESIA includes proposed measures and mitigate negative environmental impacts of the project. As requested by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.4**, the ESIA will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

It is also pointed out that the State Party will update the HIA developed in 2017 on the basis of the proposed boundary delineation. It is recommended that the Committee take note and reiterate its Decision **44 COM 7B.4** that requests the State Party to submit details of the revised HIA.

In view of assessing the potential impacts of the Gibe III dam and Kuraz project on the Lake Turkana basin, the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia are encouraged to continue the dialogue with the view to undertaking a joint SEA on both the Lower Omo Valley and Lake Turkana World Heritage properties. It is noted that the State Party of Ethiopia is uncertain about the feasibility of such a study considering the different Outstanding Universal Values of the two properties concerned and their different categories – one natural and one cultural. The Committee may wish to clarify that the SEA should identify potential impacts on the natural and cultural attributes of both properties. As progress with the SEA process appears to have stalled since 2017, the Committee may wish to express its concern and to urge both States Parties to continue the dialogue and accelerate the process, based on the established mechanism of the Joint Technical Experts Panel (JTEP). The World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS stand ready to support the process with generous financial support from the Government of Norway.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the other requests in Decision **44 COM 7B.4**.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.124**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.4, adopted at its 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the ongoing work to develop maps of the Lower Valley of the Omo, to clarify a boundary for the World Heritage property and to propose a buffer zone and notes the support of a European Union-funded project and the involvement of the Ethiopian Geo-spatial Agency and Federal and Regional stakeholders;*

4. Recalls the need for maps to be based on an assessment of fossil-bearing sediments, in order to more clearly define areas of potential archaeological importance, and the recommendations of the 2015 mission that management strategies should respect a visually coherent landscape with no development between visible outcrops and requests the State Party to submit larger-scale maps for review by the Advisory Bodies, together with evidence from archaeological surveys upon which they are based and related protection and management proposals;
5. Commends the State Party for updating the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including an associated community consultation on social and environmental impacts and benefits of the Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP), and that this has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Further notes that the State Party intends to update the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) developed in 2017 on the basis of the proposed boundary delineation, and requests the State Party to submit the updated HIA for review once it is finalised;
7. Urges the State Party to continue its dialogue with the State Party of Kenya to accelerate the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for assessing the potential impacts of the Gibe III dam and Kuraz project on the Lake Turkana basin including on the attributes of OUV of both the Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) and Lake Turkana (Kenya) properties, based on the established mechanism of Joint Technical Experts Panel, as requested by the Committee since 2012, and thanks the Government of Norway for its generous financial support for this SEA;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 125. Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana) (C 34)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 145,086

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 26,770 provided in 2007 by the Australia Trust Fund for the project "Cleaning Ussher Fort"; USD 49,261 received in 2007 by the European Commission for the project "External Works for the Restoration and Redevelopment of Parts of Ussher Fort"; USD 33,593 provided in 2019 by the UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project "The rehabilitation of Ussher Fort Slave Museum and Documentary Centre"; USD 35,377 provided in 2021 by the government of France for the "Consolidation of Fort Amsterdam (Ghana) for Conserving and Preserving Heritage for sustainable Development".

### Previous monitoring missions

April/May 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission; February 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Illegal construction and housing development (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Commercial development
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Ground Water Pollution
- Solid waste
- Management systems/management plan (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Legal Framework
- Financial resources
- Heavy rain (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019, 2021)
- Wind (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Changes to oceanic waters
- Salt-laden atmosphere (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Lack of maintenance of built fabric
- Society's valuing of heritage

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 January 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- Collapses occurred at the Fort at British Komenda and Fort Vernon. Emergency funding facilitated repairs at the former. Structural surveys of all property components are to commence in early 2023. Preliminary reports will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Consolidation works on the south-western section of Fort Amsterdam is ongoing thanks to funding from the Government of France;
- Monitoring only occurs at components staffed by the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB). Expansion is hampered by logistic and staffing constraints;
- The lack of delineated boundaries, combined with urban development pressures is leading to encroachment. Delineation of all the components boundaries and buffer zones to commence in mid-2023;
- The new Integrated Management Plan (IMP) was submitted and reviewed twice by ICOMOS. Finalization was expected in February 2023;
- Signage for improved on-site interpretation is being installed at all components. The IMP includes actions to engender local awareness of the property;
- The statutes for the new National Heritage Committee and Culture and Heritage Development Act were submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The 'Elmina Tourism Bay' project was cancelled. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken on the alternative 'Elmina Iconic Project'. The ICOMOS Review's recommendations are being considered by the State Party. The Fort St Anthony at Axim project is being redesigned;
- Work at Victoria Park at Fort Saint Anthony commenced in 2021. The design is under review and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The Jamestown Fishing Harbour project has continued despite attempts by GMMB to engage the project sponsors and developers. The State Party seeks the advice of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on means to retrospectively mitigate this projects' impact;

- Conformity to the Committee's request to halt the interventions at Fort Fredensborg was unachievable due to the urgent need to address coastal erosion. The remains of this fort will be stabilized after the project;
- The importance of developing an inventory and documentation informing critical maintenance, restoration and interpretation is acknowledged, but the State Party lacks available resources;
- Updates will be provided to the World Heritage Centre on progress made in engaging the UNESCO "Routes of Enslaved Peoples: Resistance, Liberty and Heritage" Project.
- Conservation is hampered by funding and personnel limitations and insufficient research and documentation.

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

The State Party's continued commitment to the conservation and management of this property, combined with its commitment to communicate with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies is both welcome and commendable. The State Party's reports of further collapses at components of the property are cause for grave concern. Although the quick remedial work undertaken at the Fort at British Komenda highlights that with assistance, the integrity of the property can be improved, it also illustrates the urgency for the State Party to become proactive in order to prevent further decay of the property's components. The intervention at Fort Amsterdam can serve as a positive example, yet still far too rare.

Indeed, the draft IMP notes that the property suffers from "*insufficient coordination*", which leads to "*non-cooperation of projects and cumbersome administration impeding project implementation*". This certainly explains why the harbour projects at Jamestown and Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo have continued despite the Committee's or the Secretariat's request and the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission's recommendation to halt them. While consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies is sought for the redesigned project at Elmina, this has not yet taken place regarding the project at Fort Anthony, and the State Party is to be reminded of the importance to ensure consultation prior to all major interventions at the property's components, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The completion of the new IMP is an important step towards improving this situation. Implementation of impact assessment procedures for projects is likewise significant. The initiatives to undertake a structural assessment of all built components of the property and to define boundaries and buffer zones are welcome.

However, it should be noted in this context that the need to define the boundaries of each component and delineate the buffer zone for each one was already identified in 1996 (**CONF 202 IV.7**) and 1998 (**CONF 203 VII.35**). Also, the State Party reported in 2019 that it was initiating a process to survey all components of the property, delineate boundaries and buffer zones, create a Heritage Fund and appoint 60 new members of staff for the GMMB. Therefore, the State Party's current report of human resource limitations and its inability to timely implement some Committee requests, are a great cause for concern.

The 2020 mission reported that components of the property are continuously decaying and highlighted the urgency of securing them and implementing immediate remedial actions for the structurally weak elements. The State Party has not responded to the Committee's request to invite a new Reactive Monitoring mission to the property. The Committee may wish to reiterate this request, and also request that the State Party provide an update on all projects at all components of the property in advance of any Reactive Monitoring mission taking place. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review, full details of the development projects at any component of the property, and in particular those at Elmina, Jamestown, Old Ningo and Axim, including the timelines for their further implementation and indicate opportunities for mitigation of possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The State Party should also be invited to provide a report on the implementation of the IMP, further development of a disaster risk management plan, provide details on the establishment of the Heritage Fund, or other funding for each Fort and Castle, creation of a scientific and technical committee, plan for stabilization and restoration of the attributes, implementation of development authorizations, urban encroachment management and expedite the development of an inventory that contains documentation and information critical to the maintenance, restoration, and interpretation of the property.

As the State Party needs to meet several significant challenges, the Committee may wish to invite the international community to assist the State Party in achieving improved protection and management of this property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.125**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.5, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the completion of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), the quick action in rehabilitating the damage that occurred at the Fort at British Komenda, the conduction of consolidation works at Fort Amsterdam, and the State Party's commitment to provide details of the Elmina Iconic Project and the Fort Anthony project for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before any decisions are made on their implementation, and reminds the State Party of the importance to ensure such consultation prior to all major interventions at the property's components, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Also welcomes the application of impact assessments as a tool to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property, the project to delineate the boundaries and define buffer zones for the components of the property, and the survey of the structural condition of all components of the property;*
5. *Further welcomes the contribution of international partners, in particular the governments of the Netherlands and France, to the State Party's activities, notably for the rehabilitation of the Ussher Fort Slavery museum, the consolidation of Fort Amsterdam and the development of signage at the property's components;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to implement the IMP and requests that the State Party provide a report on the effect of this implementation in its next state of conservation report;*
7. *Expresses its concern at the continuing deterioration of the integrity of the components of the property, the continued reports of urban encroachment and inability of the State Party to halt projects that may damage the OUV of the property;*
8. *Also expresses its concern at the State Party's reports of its lack of resources to execute projects to improve the conservation and management of the property;*
9. *Recalling that international assistance could be considered to this effect, also requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Create a disaster risk management plan for the property,*
  - b) *Provide details of the establishment of the Heritage Fund, or other funding mechanisms for each Fort and Castle,*
  - c) *Consider the creation of a scientific and a technical committee to guide the conservation and maintenance of the property,*
  - d) *Urgently develop a plan for the stabilization and restoration of the attributes,*

- e) *Implement impact assessment procedures in accordance with the provisions of the Operational Guidelines and general development authorizations in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context,*
  - f) *Develop a policy to manage urban encroachment,*
  - g) *Expedite the development of an inventory that contains documentation and information critical to the maintenance, restoration, and interpretation of the property;*
10. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of all the components of the property; the efficacy of the protection and management system; the impacts of development projects at the property's components, in particular those at Elmina, Jamestown, Old Ningo and Axim; the progress on the implementation of the IMP; the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 and 2020 missions; the progress in the delineation and protection of buffer zones; and the progress on the structural survey and planning to implement urgent remedial structural actions;*
  11. *Further requests the State Party to develop an overview of all projects being planned in the vicinity of all components of the property and submit this to the World Heritage Centre in advance of the requested Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;*
  12. *Calls for increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through International Assistance, to implement the short and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
  13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

## **126. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## 127. Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya) (C 1450rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2018

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2010-2016)

Total amount approved: USD 51,390

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need to expanding the property boundary at the south-eastern end of the property
- Lack of exact demarcation of the extended buffer zone
- Lack of an indicator-based monitoring system

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 March 2023, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/documents/>, and provides the following information:

- The State Party is continuing to work on land acquisition to acquire land in order to extend the buffer zone on the western side of the property;
- A digitization project for World Heritage properties in Kenya has commenced;
- All projects undertaken at the property have been subjected to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and archaeological surveys, although there has been little development activity in 2020-2021 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- A workshop with the community was held in 2022 to identify community priorities and uses;
- The property has been incorporated into a national tourism campaign, causing increased recognition and visitor numbers.

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

The progress made in relation to the extension of the buffer zone on its western side is welcomed as part of the Committee's larger set of recommendations concerning the property boundary and buffer zone. The State Party advises that land owners have agreed to sell an area of 3 acres to the National Museums of Kenya to extend the buffer zone on its western side. It is important to again recall that the ICOMOS Evaluation of the nomination stated that property ownership was not a pre-requisite for extending the property, and that inclusion of areas outside of State ownership could also meet the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee. Decision **42 COM 8B.14** noted that processes for land acquisitions to extend the property boundary on the south-eastern end near the entrance to Koketch were planned for completion in 2020, but there is no update from the State Party about whether this has been completed. The State Party should be encouraged to submit a minor boundary modification once the recommended extensions to the property boundary and buffer zone are completed.

The State Party mentions that one additional archaeological survey has been undertaken, with the information accessioned by the National Museums of Kenya. However, there is no information provided

about the recommendation regarding the documentation of the associated oral traditions of the property. Digitisation projects for World Heritage properties in Kenya include a 360 degrees virtual tour of the property which is oriented at visitors is to be commended. In addition, the State Party has initiated a national tourism campaign to increase visitation.

The State Party advises that the monitoring indicators are those that were outlined in the Management Plan. The Committee had recommended that these be provided to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, but this has not yet occurred. The increased tourism promotion and visitation underscores the necessity of having an effective monitoring system in place.

The information about the community workshop is noted, and the reported desire for community involvement in the maintenance of the property is welcomed, as is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between the National Museums of Kenya and the county government of Migori for management activities.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.127**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 8B.14** and **44 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the information provided by the State Party concerning the progress made to extend the buffer zone on the western side of the property boundary, encourages the State Party to ensure that the rights of communities are respected in the processes of land acquisition, and requests the State Party to continue implementing the recommended extensions to the property boundary at its south-eastern end near the entrance to Koketch, and the extension and demarcation of the buffer zone, and to submit a proposal for minor boundary modification once these are in place;*
4. *Notes the completion of an archaeological survey and encourages the State Party to continue documenting the cultural values of the property, including oral traditions;*
5. *Also notes that the property is important for local artists and musicians and commends the reported activities' efforts to digitalise the property with a 360 degrees virtual tour and ensure continued community engagement, including involvement in its maintenance and in management decision-making;*
6. *Further encourages the State Party to continue to implement the monitoring system for the property, including indicators associated with visitor management issues, and invites it to provide details about the selection of indicators and reporting methodology to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Requests the State Party to continue to ensure that all planned projects or works, including infrastructure to support tourism, are subject to Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context, and that information on any planned projects that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is forwarded to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*



**128. Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius) (C 1227)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**129. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**130. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria) (C 938)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**131. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**132. Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (South Africa) (C 915bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999, extension 2005

Criteria (iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground water pollution
- Mining
- Surface water pollution
- Water (rain/water table)
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Acid mine drainage

- Interpretative and visitation facilities in case of concern re. additional material requested

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/documents/>. Progress in several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) have been completed for all three components of the property. An overarching IMP Framework and the individual IMPs have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Progress is reported on the development of a Risk Prevention Strategy (RPS) for the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs (FHSSSKE) component, which will be integrated into the RPS for the entire property. Risk reduction and risk prevention interventions are continually monitored by the management and other national entities;
- Regarding Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) at the FHSSSKE component, a special committee is investigating alternatives for the Long-Term Solution (LTS). Its final report, which will identify a feasible option for the LTS, is expected soon. Following its approval by the National Treasury, the chosen option will be assessed through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The final LTS report and EIA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The capacity of the current Short-Term Solution (STS) for the AMD at the FHSSSKE component is such that no decant (overspill) has occurred to date. Yet, the State Party is investigating options to increase the pumping and treatment capacity of the STS. A backup system is in place in case of decant and/ or seepage;
- With regards to bacteriological pollution at the FHSSSKE component:
  - Bacteriological pollution by coliform and *E. coli* persists above those common in natural environments in numerous sample locations. While these don't hold any direct threat to the paleontological attributes, the State Party concerns about an impact of the pollution on the natural environment, the health of the local community and the aesthetic appeal of the property's natural resources,
  - Current inter-governmental discussions on the operation of one source, the Percy Stewart Waste-Water Treatment Works still continue;
- Funding for visitor facilities at the Makapan Valley component has been secured. Impact assessments will be completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Further cursory information on redevelopment of the Taung Skull Fossil Site component was provided. The State Party noted its commitment to best practice in restoration and construction and to keep the Committee informed of developments.

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

The completion of the three IMPs for all three components, as well as the IMP Framework (IMPF) for the entire property is welcome. The IMPF and IMPs span 2022-2026 and the IMFP notes that its implementation will be monitored by the Joint Management Committee, which is not yet fully established. This establishment is envisaged for 2022/2023, and the Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide a report on both its implementation as well as making provisions for its timely review in the State Party's next state of conservation report.

The State Party reports that the STS implemented at the second phase of the Western Basin Treatment Works remains in operation and is successful at managing AMD at the FHSSSKE component. However, it is important that a sustainable LTS is found and implemented with urgency and that the STS remains in place until an LTS is fully operational. The State Party has in the past committed to providing water quality targets as part of the LTS. The Committee may also wish to remind the State Party of its request (Decision **44 COM 7B.121**) to submit the design specification and the EIA for LTS for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation. It would also be useful to be provided with a report on the motivation for the selection of the preferred LTS in order to aid in the assessment thereof.

The problem of bacteriological pollution in surface water at the FHSSSKE component persists. In the previous state of conservation reports, the State Party already noted that discussions were taking place to address a major source of this pollution: the Percy Stewart Waste-Water Treatment Works. The State Party is concerned over the impacts of pollution on the attributes of the property negatively. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to urgently address this matter, including through the Memorandum of Understanding with the local municipality, as proposed in the IMP for this component.

The renovation proposals for some of the dilapidated built infrastructure in the so-called 'Mine Complex' of the Taung Skull Fossil Site component are welcome in principle. In this context, it should be noted that the 2015 Heritage Impact Assessment recommended that an updated masterplan for the site is essential to guide development and that the renovation of all buildings and infrastructure in the 'Mine Complex' should be designed to retain the historic architectural fabric and narrative. It is unclear how the proposed new use will support the historical narrative. More information on this proposal should be submitted and the State Party should again be requested to submit the 2015 Heritage Management plan/s to the World Heritage Centre and refrain from implementing these proposals until they have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies (Decision **44 COM 7B.121**).

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.132**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.121**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the completion of the Integrated Management Plans (IMP) for all three components of the property, of the Integrated Management Plan Framework (IMPF), as well as the continued monitoring of the risk reduction and risk prevention interventions at the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs (FHSSSKE) component;*
4. *Notes that the implementation plan of the IMPF and the IMPs for the individual components are planned up to 2026 and requests the State Party to ensure the Joint Management Committee is established and functioning and to provide an interim monitoring report of the implementation of the IMPF, as an annex to its next state of conservation report, so that the efficacy of the IMPF can be assessed;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to expedite the development of the Western Basin Treatment Works Long-Term-Solution (LTS), and submit the following: A specialist committee report on the Western Basin Treatment Works LTS at the FHSSSKE component; A report on the choice of the option selected for implementation and the design specification; The design specifications for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for LTS; for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as these are available and prior to implementation;*
6. *Further requests the State Party, with the support from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and with urgency and including through a Memorandum of Understanding with the local municipality, to address the function of the Percy Stewart Waste-Water Treatment Works to reduce the instances of bacteriological contamination in the surface water of the FHSSSKE component, and to continue monitoring surface water quality and to provide the Committee with a report thereon;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party for the submission to the World Heritage Centre the Heritage Management Plan, along with an updated masterplan and more detailed*

*information on the proposed renovation of these built attributes, including how they support the historical narrative of this component, and await the review of the Advisory Bodies before further implementation;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

**133. Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Togo) (C 1140)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**134. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## ARAB STATES

### 135. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1993-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 92,600

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for an international experts meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers (Japanese funds-in-trust)

#### Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: World Heritage Centre expert mission; September 2002: World Heritage Centre mission for evaluating the State of Conservation. From October 2003 to November 2004: 3 World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of training and capacity building activities. From November 2007 to November 2009: Seven World Heritage Centre missions financed by the State Party for the Safeguarding Plan and the issue of the metro. May 2013: ICOMOS Advisory Mission for the development and beautification works in the city of Algiers. June 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance: Lack of coordination of actions
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan: Non-operational safeguarding plan
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric; Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system: Loss of traditional conservation techniques
- Society's valuing of heritage: Uncontrolled land use, lack of maintenance of dwelling places, Change in the land use plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/>

#### Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property on 28 November 2022, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents>. The progress made in terms of conservation is presented as follows:

- The National Agency for Safeguarded Sectors (ANSS) has identified 18 buildings in a particularly worrying state of disrepair. The Wilaya of Algiers has taken the necessary emergency measures;
- Launched in June 2020 and then slowed down by the health situation, the process of controlling and monitoring the state of conservation of the property resumed in mid-2022. A joint commission (Wilaya and Ministry of Culture) assessed 1447 of the 2032 properties (71%), and found that 48% were in a very poor state of repair. An operation for securing and consolidation is underway, and the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorization of the Safeguarded Sectors (PPSMVSS) is due to be updated to establish regulatory provisions reflecting this situation;

- The work in progress concerns infrastructure, the restoration of numerous properties as well as the maintenance, development and enhancement of the property, undertaken largely as part of cross-sectoral cooperation. Cross-sectoral discussions are also being held on the allocation of 9 monuments, as well as consultations with local residents to help them undertake restoration and socio-economic and cultural revitalization projects;
- Despite a hiatus between December 2020 and March 2022 due to the difficult economic situation, the implementation of the priority action plan has made good progress, with studies and restoration work being carried out on a number of monumental units;
- The structure, recommended by the 2018 "International Experts Meeting for the Kasbah of Algiers, World Heritage Site" and placed under the aegis of the Prime Ministry, is not yet operational, as priority has been given to emergency intervention on buildings at risk and to extend the priority action plan;
- Two events, with a high level of public participation, were organized to initiate and encourage action by private owners and civil society. A number of cultural events were also organized to revitalize and promote the tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

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

The report shows the ongoing efforts made by the State Party to address the issue of conservation of the property in a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated manner, but also highlights the fact that additional buildings are reaching critical levels of degradation, and that overall at least 48% of the evaluated urban fabric is in an advanced state of degradation (almost 30% of this fabric has not yet been surveyed), which constitutes an ongoing degradation that continues to give cause for concern.

With regard to the physical conservation of the property, the joint efforts of the Wilaya of Algiers and the Ministry of Culture and the Arts currently underway to carry out operations to secure and protect immovable cultural property, as well as the updating of the study of the permanent plan for the safeguarding and valorization, including regulatory and technical provisions for its effective application, are to be commended.

It should also be noted that the actions taken to date to safeguard the property represent a necessary and "obligatory" response to a deterioration that is proving to be very critical and which, in the long term, could jeopardize the very integrity of the property. However, these actions do not seem to define a planning strategy for resolving the problems of widespread and progressive deterioration of the urban fabric, which is both a consequence and a cause of the impoverishment and marginalization of the economic and social fabric of the Kasbah, and which has been observed for decades. It should be noted in this respect that the report contains no socio-economic data on demographics, social composition, housing conditions or activities, particularly in the traditional trade and craft sectors.

After a slowdown between 2020 and 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a difficult economic situation, activities linked to the safeguarding, conservation, and enhancement of the tangible and intangible heritage of the property have resumed, using an approach based, as recommended, on the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011).

All of the operations and activities illustrated in the report show a very positive new heritage dynamism, which suggests a favourable impact not only on the state of conservation of the property but also on its socio-economic vitality, insofar as it is expected to develop cultural and tourist activities.

In particular, the updating of the PPSMVSS and the involvement of civil society in its implementation are welcomed, as is the support offered to private owners for the restoration of dwellings and the socio-economic and cultural revitalization of the urban fabric. The State Party is invited to submit the revised PPSMVSS to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for their opinion as soon as the update has been finalised.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.135**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.123**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Taking note of the activities carried out by the State Party for the safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of the tangible and intangible heritage of the property and the socio-economic revitalization of its urban fabric, as well as for the involvement of civil society and youth in particular, congratulates the State Party on the progress made in the preservation of the property by taking into account the social, economic and tourism dimensions of the safeguarding of the property and encourages it to continue its efforts;
4. Notes with satisfaction the initiative for intersectoral consultation and the dialogue established with citizens' associations and the inhabitants of the Kasbah, and also encourages the State Party to maintain an integrated coordination mechanism through the operational establishment of the structure placed under the aegis of the Prime Ministry;
5. Continues nevertheless to express its concern at the identification of 18 additional buildings in an advanced state of deterioration, and at the results of the expert assessment of nearly 70% of the properties, which show that 48% of them are in a worrying state of deterioration, and urges the State Party to continue its efforts to assess the entire urban fabric of the property and to continue to take the necessary measures to halt its progressive deterioration;
6. Welcomes the proposed revision of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorization of the Safeguarded Sectors (PPSMVSS), in order to establish regulatory provisions reflecting the current state of conservation, as well as the activities that have enabled civil society to be involved in its implementation, and invites the State Party to submit its revised version to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for their opinion;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 136. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 7,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,131,000 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust, 2002-2004 and 2008 (wall paintings restoration in the tomb of Amenophis III), and USD 400,000 in 2023 for Phase 3 of the conservation of wall paintings of the royal tomb of Amenhotep III; Special Account for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Egypt: USD 931,674 for 'Hassan Fathy New Gurna', and USD 310,381 for 'Memphis and Thebes Sites Management Support'; Euro 150,000 from the Government of France for Enhancing Capacities for the Protection of World Heritage Properties in Egypt (2020).

### Previous monitoring missions

2001: ICOMOS mission; 2002: hydrology expert mission; July 2006 and May 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; April 2008, May 2009 and April 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; January/February 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Demolitions in the villages of Gurna on the West Bank of the Nile and transfer of the population)
- Flooding: Risks of flooding (Valleys of Kings and Queens)
- Housing and agricultural encroachment on the West Bank of the Nile
- Human resources: Limited available technical and human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation: Absence of strategy to manage and control tourism sustainably
- Lack of a Conservation Plan for the property
- Major infrastructure and development projects taking place or scheduled
- Management Activities
- Management systems/management plan: Absence of a comprehensive Management Plan
- Natural decay and structural problems
- Neglect of important modern heritage, namely Hassan Fathy's buildings in New Gurna
- Uncontrolled urban development
- Water (rain/water table): Rising underground water level

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/>

### Current conservation issues

On 20 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- An Integrated Management Plan, including a comprehensive Tourism Mitigation/Management Plan will be prepared by the end of 2023. An outline of its contents has been provided and a request has been made for capacity building and technical assistance;



- Archaeological excavations continue and lists of recent discoveries, excavation works, and restoration projects have been provided. Further joint projects involving foreign missions are proposed;
- An extensive capacity building and training programme occurred in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH);
- Schedules have been provided outlining the tasks undertaken to implement the recommendations of the 2017 Joint Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission;
- An illustrated report was provided on excavations of the Sphinx Avenue, and a specialized department will continue the restoration work. The Sphinx Avenue was inaugurated by the President of Egypt in November 2021;
- A report was provided on cleaning works and the condition of the four Sphinxes, which were relocated to Tahrir Square in Cairo. A specialized team has been formed to monitor and advise on their condition, which is stable and showing no negative effects;
- Documentation was submitted on the lighting and security cameras project, the underground water project, works at the Temple of the Apt, the Temple of Medinet Habu, the Ramesseum, the Temple of Seti, disabled access works at Karnak, as well as the Flood Emergency Plan for the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, among other reports;
- Sustainable visitor services are to be pursued through a public-private partnership;
- A Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission will be invited later in 2023;
- A proposed retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property was submitted with the state of conservation report.

Although not noted in the State Party state of conservation report for this property, the Higher Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites has decreed that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are to be prepared for all projects on World Heritage properties.

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

The State Party continues to progress with significant projects and initiatives, responding to previous Committee decisions, and in compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines. It is welcome that HIAs must be prepared for all projects at the property, and that consistent with mission recommendations, an Integrated Management Plan has been initiated. It would be appropriate to draw the attention of the State Party to the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. Consistent with previous Committee requests, the forthcoming Integrated Management Plan should address risk preparedness and sustainable tourism and should be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to being finalised, adopted, and implemented.

The State Party has submitted an extensive set of documentation, including illustrated reports, which demonstrate significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2017 Joint Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission. The State Party has also undertaken the requested monitoring of the four sphinxes from the Karnak Temple that have been transferred to Tahrir Square in Cairo by May 2020, and has outlined arrangements for their ongoing conservation, management, and security. Information has also been provided regarding the lighting and security cameras project, the underground water project, works at the Temple of the Apt, the Temple of Medinet Habu, the Ramesseum, the Temple of Seti and the disabled access project at Karnak. The Flood Emergency Plan for the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens has also been provided. The submission of these documents responds to previous Committee requests, and it would be appropriate for these documents to inform and be reviewed by the forthcoming joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. This Reactive Monitoring mission was originally requested in 2021 and the advice from the State Party that the mission invitation will be issued during 2023 is welcome.

Documentation submitted regarding the proposed sustainable visitor services initiatives which are to be pursued through a public-private partnership is very high level and does not provide detailed information. Given the potential for impact on attributes which support the OUV of the property, it would be appropriate for the Committee to request further information and more detailed documentation in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Finalisation of the retrospective Statement of OUV for the property remains outstanding and the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to continue to liaise with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.136**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.126, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Commends the State Party on the progress made in relation to compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines, including its decision to require Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) to be prepared for all projects at the property, and requests that HIAs should be completed in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and reiterates its previous request that HIAs and relevant project documentation should be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
4. Welcomes the instigation of an Integrated Management Plan for the property, notes its previous request that this Plan should address risk preparedness and sustainable tourism, and also requests that the draft Integrated Management Plan be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to being finalised, adopted and implemented;
5. Also welcomes the advice from the State Party that the recommendations of the 2017 Joint Reactive Monitoring mission and 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission are being comprehensively implemented and also notes the progress reports provided by the State Party on the implementation of specific mission recommendations;
6. Further notes the reports submitted on the four sphinxes from the Karnak Temple that were transferred to Tahrir Square in Cairo, the works undertaken and ongoing conservation and management arrangements for Sphinx Avenue, as well as the extensive information submitted regarding the lighting and security cameras project, the underground water project, works at the Temple of the Apt, the Temple of Medinet Habu, the Ramesseum, and the Temple of Seti, disabled access works at Karnak, as well as the Flood Emergency Plan for the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit further information on the proposed implementation of the sustainable visitor services to be pursued through a public-private partnership for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Further welcomes advice that the State Party will invite a Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2023 to evaluate the property's state of conservation, assess implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 and 2021 missions, review ongoing and planned projects and assess how they may affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests furthermore that the extensive documentation submitted by the State Party with its state of conservation report be reviewed by the mission;

9. *Encourages again* the State Party to continue exchanges with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to finalize the retrospective Statement of OUV for the property;
10. *Requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

**137. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**138. Saint Catherine Area (Egypt) (C 954)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**139. Babylon (Iraq) (C 278rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Two missions to Babylon for the preparation of the “Final Report on Damage Assessment in Babylon”, by the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Iraq – Sub-Committee on Babylon (2008-2009)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system/ management plan: Lack of a comprehensive conservation plan for the property, including a priority intervention scheme for the most urgent conservation measures needed
- Management system/ management plan: Need to augment the management plan to include the comprehensive conservation plan
- Need to research the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape as the basis for consideration of further extension of the buffer zone to address challenges in the setting
- Interpretative and visitation facilities: Need to better communicate to visitors the revised boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- The activities undertaken under the project *Babylon, the cultural capital of Iraq* include tarring streets, constructing sidewalks and work on the ‘Babylonian Amphitheatre’, the acting palace, and the presidential cabin. The headquarters of the Babylon Inspectorate of Antiquities (BIA), a storage building and vehicle garage have been upgraded and vehicles have been provided. Fire extinguishing systems were supplied, and electrical installations have been completed. The city was fenced off. Wooden paths and shades were provided for visitors, and a paved and lit path links the temples area and the Babylon tower;
- BIA worked to reduce urban encroachment on protected areas through several measures, including bolstering the role of the legal department as advisor to the court, as well as increasing the number of civilian guards and Antiquities Police through mobile check points. Fixed and mobile cameras have been installed. The provincial authorities have been informed that building permits and property transactions require the approval of BIA. BIA received training through professional development courses, in excavation, visitor management and guidance;
- Some preparatory work appears to have been done on issues pertaining to the conservation of specific structures;
- Maintenance and infrastructural work were carried out by the World Monument Fund (WMF) and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) at the Ishtar Gate and the Ninmakh Temple. The work at the Ishtar Gate included stabilisation and consolidation actions. The work at the Ninmakh Temple focused on specific areas of the temple, documenting structural conditions and damage, identifying materials used in previous conservation work and identifying the character of the original mud (adobe) bricks and binding materials. Staff from the BIA were trained to distinguish between different materials and in the manufacture of adobe bricks.

The State Party report includes a brief discussion of the cultural landscape of Babylon with suggestions for further work.

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

The State Party report underscores its awareness of key issues and commitment to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. A series of actions are reported, but there has been limited progress in relation to the Committee’s past recommendations. While it is not clear whether all the work under the *Babylon, the cultural capital of Iraq* project is relevant to maintaining the OUV of the property, the work on the BIA facilities and provision of service vehicles is welcome, as is the provision of visitor facilities and work on electricity, sanitary and fire extinguishing systems.

Initiatives taken by the BIA in responding to encroachment on the property, the professional development of staff and preparatory work on the conservation of specific buildings are recognised and welcomed. It would be helpful to clarify if the newly installed fence follows the boundary of the property.

The first phase of the Ishtar Gate maintenance and infrastructure works element of the project was the subject of an ICOMOS Technical Review in September 2022, in which ICOMOS supported the project and concluded that the new and more adapted infrastructure was to be encouraged since it contributes to the sustainable protection and management of the site, enhances visitors experience and ensures safety. ICOMOS Technical Review also emphasized the importance of differentiating new material from original archaeological material both on the ground and in reports.

The Committee, at the time of inscription (Decision **43 COM 8B.13**) and in Decision **44 COM 7B.14**, emphasized its concern for the state of conservation of the property and determined that the absence of a coordinated, programmed conservation approach with urgent priority interventions constituted an ascertained danger to its OUV. This was the context in which the Committee recommended the development and finalization of a comprehensive conservation plan.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit such a comprehensive plan, as part of an augmented Management Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

There is mention of a suggestion to extend the archaeological survey within the property and in the buffer zone. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the importance of this research as the basis for consideration of extension of the buffer zone to address actual and potential future challenges to the integrity of the wider setting of the city.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate that the management of the 20th century constructions located in the buffer zone on top of archaeological remains in the property, as presented by the three-dimensional buffer zone would be critical to the preservation of the fragile condition of integrity. It may also wish to reiterate its request that the three-dimensional boundary concept be communicated to visitors.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.139**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in continuing conservation activities and in augmenting the management and presentation of the property;*
4. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:*
  - a) *Develop and finalize the comprehensive conservation plan for the property, and within this, address the various risk factors identified in the risk map previously provided. This should include proposals of concrete measures towards their effective reduction and mitigation as well as the establishment of a priority intervention scheme for the most urgent conservation measures needed,*
  - b) *Augment the Management Plan to include the comprehensive conservation plan so as to allow the management team to focus on priority, emergency interventions, and providing detailed implementation-oriented guidance as well as quality indicators for its successful implementation,*
  - c) *Research further the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape, in particular towards the Euphrates River, and based on the outcomes of this research, consider further extending the buffer zone in order to address actual and potential future challenges which can be identified in the wider setting of the archaeological city,*
  - d) *Communicate to visitors the three-dimensional boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property;*
5. *Reminds the States Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Welcomes again the willingness of the State Party to host as soon as possible a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist the State Party to develop a phased action plan for the conservation of the property;*

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

**140. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan) (C 1446)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**141. Petra (Jordan) (C 1326)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**142. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (i) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2007-2009)

Total amount approved: USD 34,750

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS mission; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; July 2008: World Heritage Centre expert mission for the Stylite tower

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan: Aspects need to be explored in more detail, including work-plan, Public Use Plan and archaeological research policy
- Unstable structures requiring conservation action
- Lack of security (issue being addressed)
- Lack of Management systems / plan / structure (issue resolved)
- Lack of comprehensive conservation plan (issue resolved)
- Important tourism development project with new constructions (issue resolved)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (issue resolved)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Work has commenced to update the 2017 Management Plan. A workshop was held and work is progressing to incorporate the necessary information (including a conservation plan, action plan, public use plan, and archaeological research policy) into one document. Priorities are being refined and related actions elaborated. The revised Management Plan will be translated into Arabic for effective implementation and will be provided to the World Heritage Centre before official endorsement;
- In February 2022, a detailed evaluation report of work undertaken to date, current condition issues, and challenges, was prepared. This established the current six priorities: 1) The Stylite Tower; 2) The Castrum fortification; 3) Restoration and maintenance of mosaics and archaeological features; 4) Interpretation of the site; 5) Public safety; and 6) Protection against illegal excavations;
- While the state of conservation of the Stylite Tower is continuously monitored, work is continuing in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Amman on drafting Terms of Reference for the Stylite Tower stabilization study to guide its structural consolidation, based on a range of analyses carried out in 2014;
- Conservation works at the Castrum have been constrained due to limited financial and human resources. Its documentation was completed in 2021, and planning for maintenance and restoration will be part of the current review of the 2017 Management Plan;
- Priorities 3 to 6 have already been progressed to a large extent, with conservation and protective work for the mosaics at four church complexes, the repair, replacement and augmentation of interpretative signage, and gridding of many wells that presented hazards to visitors and locals;
- Plans are being developed to instal wooden shelters over six church and mosaic sites to provide elevated visitor viewing platforms and therefore avoiding the need to walk on the mosaics;
- A training programme related to risk assessment and the mitigation of illegal excavations led to proposals for lighting and CCTV cameras to be set up along with a generator for electricity, as a deterrent to illegal excavation. A related programme was also established for community information and awareness, which stressed not only the heritage values but the importance of the site for tourism;
- The boundaries of the property and buffer zone have been further considered and found to be adequate to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Parcels of land both within and outside the buffer zone are being acquired to ensure protection and effective management of the property;
- The Department of Antiquities will invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission once the drafts of the projects are finalised with relevant stakeholders and partners, but prior their implementation, depending on the financial resources available.

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

Progress in updating the 2017 Management Plan is welcomed, as is the refinement of priorities in a list that can guide action, and the translation into Arabic for local use. The State Party should be encouraged to maintain this momentum and submit the draft updated Plan to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies when completed. The Plan is identified by the State Party as the basis for prioritising the urgent conservation work at the Castrum, which is not addressed in the report.

While the detailed documentation of the Stylite Tower and the Castrum, and the cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Amman are welcomed, and the resourcing issues are recognised, the apparent absence of any stabilization/conservation work based on the 2014 baseline studies, despite continued requests for information on the issue remains a major concern. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the planning for the urgent stabilization works be completed as quickly as possible and works implemented to ensure the ongoing protection of the Stylite Tower.

The proposed works related to the 'rehabilitation' of six churches (The Peacock Chapel, Church of the Lions, Church of Priest Wa'il, Church of the River, Church of the Palm Tree and Church of Saint Paul) and the construction of wooden shelters and platforms is not sufficiently described. The extent of the work and any potential impact on the property's OUV cannot be assessed. Therefore, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed plans for the construction of the shelters and viewing platforms before works commence.

The State Party is to be commended on the repair and augmentation of the visitor signage and the protective measures at wells to ensure public safety.

The efforts to address illegal excavation are to be commended as well, while it is recommended that the Committee request further information on the extent of illegal excavation taking place, and on the effectiveness of the camera and lighting system once installed and operating.

The further consideration and confirmation of the adequacy of the property and buffer zone boundaries was reported in the previous state of conservation report, and the continued process of land acquisition is noted.

The proposal to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission is welcomed, though the suggested timing to be 'once the drafts of the projects are finalised' is not very clear. It would be most useful to have a mission when the draft updated Management Plan is available, but before it is finalised. The mission should address the number of recurrent conservation issues identified in former state of conservation reports, such as the Management plan, the prioritisation of site work, the urgency of works at the Stylite Tower and Castrum, site security issues, and the long-term planning for church conservation.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.142**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.129**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's efforts in updating and expanding the content of the 2017 Management Plan, revising the priority ranking of the Implementation Action Plan, and making the Plan available in Arabic, and encourages the State Party to maintain this momentum and submit the draft updated Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, when completed;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the final conservation project proposal for the Stylite Tower as soon as possible for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and urges the State Party to continue monitoring the conservation situation closely;*
5. *Notes the detailed survey carried out of the Castrum, but reiterates its concern that the urgent conservation work at the Castrum identified in the Management Plan and highlighted in the new survey drawings does not appear to have taken place (including urgent conservation work to the south wall and the already excavated gates and walls);*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide greater detail and plans of the proposed 'rehabilitation' of six churches (The Peacock Chapel, Church of the Lions, Church of Priest Wa'il, Church of the River, Church of the Palm Tree and Church of Saint Paul) and the construction of wooden shelters and platforms, including the extent and nature of the work and an assessment of the potential impact on Outstanding Universal Value;*



7. *Commends the State Party on the repair and augmentation of the visitor signage and the protective measures at wells to ensure public safety;*
8. *Also commends the State Party on the steps being taken to address illegal excavation and also requests information on the extent of illegal excavation taking place, and on the effectiveness of the camera and lighting system once installed and operating,*
9. *Also welcomes the State Party's undertaking to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, possibly when the draft updated Management Plan is finalized and approved;*
10. *Also encourages the State Party to continue to review the boundaries of the buffer zone in keeping with the 2017 Management Plan and, if necessary, propose minor boundary modifications;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

#### **143. Byblos (Lebanon) (C 295)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001: Different missions for the evaluation of the state of conservation and project execution in Lebanon, including Byblos; November 2001: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2006: UNESCO expert mission to Lebanon; February 2017: World Heritage Centre mission; 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Port expansion project (issue resolved)
- Need for a Management Plan and a Master Plan (issue resolved)
- Plans for an extension of the jetty (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure: "Diplomatic Club" project with above ground structures of reinforced concrete built at the south of the property on potentially archaeologically sensitive grounds (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan: Unclear boundary definition of property and buffer zone
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition: Environmental risks - coastal erosion of the Byblos mound due to the heavy tidal impact of the sea

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Very limited progress has been made on the conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe economic crisis;
- The State Party reaffirms that all construction and archaeological work related to the 'Diplomatic Club' project adjacent to the property remain suspended since April 2017;
- Current conservation issues relate to the protection of some walls and archaeological elements of the property, which are threatened due to their fragile construction techniques and exposure to the environment because of previous large-scale excavations;
- The consolidation of these structures continues based on recent (2018) documentation activities;
- Harmful vegetation is controlled in accordance with a plan developed by the Nature Conservation Centre of the American University of Beirut;
- Except for minor reinforcement work on the eastern exterior walls of the exposed 19th century house no further works are reported.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the challenges currently faced by the State Party. The efforts of the Directorate General of Antiquities in this economically challenging and socially difficult context are highly commendable. However, under these circumstances, several issues raised by the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and reflected in previous Committee decisions, could not be followed up by the State Party and remain pending.

The State Party has reaffirmed the suspension of the 'Diplomatic Club' beach resort project and the associated archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the property. Given the potential impact that a project of such scale may have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, it is crucial that any future project planned in this area is preceded by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, taking into account the results of thorough archeological investigations.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its invitation to the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are made that would be difficult to reverse.

It is further recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to revise the boundary of the property, including a buffer zone, and to develop a Minor Boundary Modification proposal in consultation with the Advisory Bodies. The results of the archaeological investigations undertaken prior to 2017 should be considered in this proposal.

The findings and recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission are still relevant and need to be acted upon by the State Party. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party for the implementation of the mission's recommendations which focus on the conservation and management of the property, exploration of ways to collaborate with other UNESCO conventions, and the development of a sustainable tourism plan. Creating a natural resource management plan is a crucial step towards establishing sustainable site maintenance practices, particularly given the challenging environmental conditions at the property.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recognize the challenges faced by the State Party following the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing national economic and social crisis. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to request international assistance to address these issues, including the development of a management plan and other management tools.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.143**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.56**, **43 COM 7B.48** and **44 COM 7B.130** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the submission of the State Party's report in light of the severe national economic crisis affecting all sectors and society as a whole;
4. Notes that all works on the 'Diplomatic Club' touristic beach resort project remain suspended, as requested by the Committee in its previous Decision, and that no further archaeological investigations have yet been conducted in this location since;
5. Requests that any future projects that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property or its setting should be preceded by appropriate investigations and be subject to impact assessments prepared in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, prior to any decision on their implementation, to ensure appropriate environmental and archaeological outcomes for the World Heritage property;
6. Invites the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Exploring synergies with the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
  - b) Developing a management plan with provisions for sustainable tourism, conservation activities, and regular maintenance,
  - c) Establishing a national data management strategy that ensures making documentation and inventory information available for site management and research at the local level,
  - d) Considering the Historic Urban Landscape approach for integrating the management plan with the urban development for the Old Town of Byblos;
8. Encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to support efforts in the elaboration of the required management tools;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## 144. Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (Lebanon) (C 850)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 65,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 500,000 from the Italian funds-in-Trust for the rehabilitation and valorization of the Qadisha Valley

### Previous monitoring missions

June 2003: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance: Absence of coordination mechanisms
- Legal framework: Absence of legislative framework
- Management systems/ management plan: Absence of a comprehensive management plan
- Financial resources: Lack of resources for the management structure
- Human resources
- Degradation of the mural paintings and buildings
- Housing
- Illegal activities: Illegal constructions and urban encroachments
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure: Uncontrolled tourist development and absence of visitor management
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Land conversion
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Other threat: Degradation of the mural paintings and buildings

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented as follows:

- A new architect specializing in the restoration of historic monuments has been appointed by the Management Committee. He is responsible for planning projects in collaboration with the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) and other partners, for monitoring interventions to safeguard the site, for assisting the inhabitants in drawing up restoration requests, and for collaborating with the Federation of Municipalities of Bcharreh District in the maintenance and cleaning of the paths;
- The process of revising the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone has been delayed due to the financial constraints faced by the State Party;
- The "Rehabilitation and Enhancement of Ouadi Qadisha" project, financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, has improved access to the valley by building three paths (from Mazraat el-Nahr to Wadi Qannoubine, from Hadshit to the monastery of Deir el-Salib and from

Hasroun to the monastery of Mar Asia), as well as consolidating structures and restoring frescoes at the monasteries of Deir el-Salib and Mar Asia, where excavations have also been carried out;

- The restoration of four traditional houses in Qannoubine, according to established criteria, is planned;
- As for the project to improve access to the Hadshit cemetery, the DGA's alternative solution, positively assessed by ICOMOS-Lebanon, has been implemented.

According to the UNESCO Office in Beirut, the road project linking the village of Hadath el Jebbeh to the village of Qannoubine, which is not mentioned in the report, has been suspended due to a lack of available funding.

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

The progress made in implementing the action plan should be welcomed, particularly through the "Rehabilitation and Valorization of Ouadi Qadisha" project implemented by the UNESCO Office in Beirut in collaboration with the DGA, which has improved accessibility in the valley, as well as conservation and presentation at Mar Assia and Deir el-Salib. The monasteries are accessible via two of the three paths that have been developed. The restoration of the frescoes has also enabled the training of two young local experts.

It is also appreciated that the UNESCO Office in Beirut has planned to organize similar activities in order to provide support with appropriate solutions for the sustainable development of the valley, improving the livelihoods of the people, while contributing to the promotion of responsible tourism, as recommended by the 2012 mission.

The proposed alternative for access to the Hadshit cemetery, preserves the authenticity of the property, and confirms the importance of establishing a management and coordination mechanism that involves all stakeholders, including the DGA, which is responsible for ensuring the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is noted that the revision of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, already delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, has now been delayed due to the difficult context the country is experiencing and the resulting financial and social constraints. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue this process in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS when the situation permits, and to submit a proposal for Minor Boundary Modification, in accordance with paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the Advisory Bodies. A request for international assistance could be submitted for this purpose.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.144**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.131**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuhzou/online, 2021),
3. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party, despite a difficult financial and social context;
4. Welcomes with satisfaction the progress made by the State Party in implementing the Action Plan with the "Rehabilitation Valorization of Ouadi Qadisha" project, which has improved accessibility, conservation and presentation at Mar Assia and Deir el-Salib, and the restoration of the frescoes;
5. Takes note of other activities programmed with the support of the UNESCO Office in Beirut, which provide support with appropriate solutions for the sustainable development

of the property, improving the livelihoods of the populations while contributing to the promotion of responsible tourism, as recommended by the 2012 mission;

6. Welcoming the results of the project concerning access to Hadshit cemetery, recalls the importance of establishing a management and coordination system that involves all stakeholders;
7. Notes that the revision of the boundaries of the property and of the buffer zone has been temporarily interrupted due to economic and financial constraints, reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize this revision in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as the situation permits, and to submit it in the form of a Minor Boundary Modification, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, and invites it to submit a request for international assistance to the World Heritage Fund for this purpose;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

#### 145. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 29,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 19,173 (1997-2001) for the International Safeguarding Campaign; USD 362,391 (2015-2017) from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR); USD 320,673 from the Lebanese Government for capacity- building exercise

##### Previous monitoring missions

February 2004: Evaluation mission by the UNESCO Office in Beirut; September 2006: UNESCO mission following the 2006 summer conflict; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: visit of the property by the World Heritage Centre; October 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need for an international safeguarding campaign (issue resolved)
- Construction of a tourist complex (land fill of the bay) (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a large fish market (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a coastal motorway (issue resolved)
- Project to build a new tourist marina (issue resolved)
- Road construction project (issue resolved)

- Buildings and development: Uncontrolled housing development next to the property; need for an Urban Master Plan for the city
- Management systems/ management plan: Absence of a management plan, unclear property boundaries and legal status on the extent of the property; lack of management mechanism (including legislation)
- Legal framework: Insufficient legal framework for an efficient buffer such as lack of a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre
- Human Resources: Management system affected by the shortage of human resources directly leading to insufficient maintenance, vegetation control and fire prevention and lack of consistent preservation plan
- Transport infrastructure: planning of major highway near the property and repeated local intentions of the redevelopment of the port
- Sea-shore environmental local conditions affecting physical fabric, especially soft stone surfaces
- Water (rain/water table): Insufficient drainage of stagnating waters and uncontrolled surface water flows undermine wall foundations and stability of structures
- Tourism / visitor / recreation

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 23 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- Due to the complex situation in the country, discussions between the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) and the Municipality of Tyre on a municipal parking area within the archaeological zone are on hold;
- A new Management Plan is currently being prepared in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Beirut and ICCROM, for completion and approval in 2023;
- Day-to-day management practices have been adjusted following the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations. These include vegetation growth control, careful monitoring of the ground water table, and ensuring good overall water drainage within the archaeological precinct;
- Regular maintenance and conservation efforts are particularly focused on the preservation of mosaics;
- To clarify the property boundary, the maritime environment adjacent to the archaeological site was surveyed to determine the extent of underwater archaeological features. The definition of the maritime protection zone is to be determined in 2023 and included in the property boundaries;
- Clarification of the property and buffer zone boundaries is a key component of the management plan framework and is expected to be completed during 2023.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the challenges currently faced by the State Party. The efforts of the Directorate General of Antiquities, in this economically challenging and socially difficult context, to improve the management of the property and work towards finalizing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone during 2023 are highly commendable.

The State Party's report however provides very little details, which makes an analysis of the actions undertaken difficult. The 2018 mission identified deficiencies in the management system, partly due to insufficient human resources, with a resultant lack of maintenance on the entire property. Reported progress indicates that measures have been taken to improve the staffing situation, but these would need to be substantiated with figures. The 2018 mission had identified the following as necessary actions:

- The finalisation of the Management Plan for the property, including detailed staffing for its implementation;



- Completion of a detailed action plan as a core component of the future Management Plan framework;
- Creation of a detailed manual for the long-term preservation of mosaics and structures, describing measures according to the principles of minimal intervention and building on the numerous experiences gained from pilot projects in the context of the long-standing urban Cultural Heritage and Urban Development Project and the Baalbek/Tyre Archaeological Project;
- The regular maintenance of vegetation, drainage and sewage control through appropriate preventive measures;
- The establishment of a maritime protection zone around the coasts of Tyre to protect the underwater archaeological remains;
- An in-depth study of traffic and the urban road network.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recognize the challenges faced by the State Party following the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing national economic and social crisis. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to request international assistance to address these issues, including the development of a Management Plan and other management tools.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.145**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.45**, **39 COM 7B.54**, **41 COM 7B.83**, **43 COM 7B.50**, and **44 COM 7B.132** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the submission of the State Party's report in light of the severe national economic crisis affecting all sectors and society as a whole;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to implement the decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee, in particular Decisions **39 COM 7B.54**, **41 COM 7B.83**, **43 COM 7B.50** and **44 COM 7B.132**, and in line with the reporting requirements under the World Heritage Convention;*
5. *Notes that the process towards creating a partial agreement between the primary stakeholders (Directorate General of Antiquities, Municipality of Tyre) for the creation of municipal parking within the archaeological zone have been paused due to the complex situation in the country, and also encourages the State Party to submit the details of this arrangement and design details, when available, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before taking any decisions on the matter;*
6. *Also notes that the State Party is currently preparing a new Management Plan that includes provisions for a maritime protection zone to preserve the underwater archaeological remains, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit as a priority the revised Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and to expedite completion and implementation of the Management Plan;*
7. *Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to provide sufficient resources for the property to ensure regular maintenance in the long-term;*



8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, with particular attention to establishing a comprehensive management strategy for the property that covers all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring, summarizing the knowledge on techniques and procedures in a manual, with an updated action plan, as a core component of the future management plan for the property, including:
  - a) Defining approaches to improving current maintenance practices concerning vegetation, drainage and sewage control through appropriate preventive measures,
  - b) Establishing principles of minimal intervention in the conservation of mosaics and structures as lessons learned from the pilot projects,
  - c) Developing and implementing a monitoring protocol to be available for scientific conservation research and to enable evaluation of the efficacy of conservation measures,
  - d) Developing and implementing a comprehensive presentation strategy for the property to reflect the actual understanding of its values as reflected in the various architectonic technologies and funerary practices of past generations, as well as conservation challenges,
  - e) Considering integrating the Management Plan with regional and urban development and traffic-mobility plans to manage the development pressures in the long term;
9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to revise the proposed boundary of the property, identify a buffer zone and develop regulations and procedures for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in accordance with Decision **37 COM 8B.45**, and to submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107, 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to initiate an in-depth study of traffic and the urban road network, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, and reminds the State Party of the Committee's invitation, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to submit details for proposed road and infrastructure projects at the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for the Coastal Highway and other planned major infrastructure projects, to be conducted in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;
11. Further encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to support efforts in the elaboration of needed management tools;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

#### **146. Medina of Essaouira (formerly Mogador) (Morocco) (C 753rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## 147. Ḥimā Cultural Area (Saudi Arabia) (C 1619)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1619/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1619/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Lack of a monitoring system
- Projects related to tourism activities and infrastructure at Najd Khayrān
- Need to set up a conservation programme
- Restoration of the above-ground walling for the wells and water channels at Ḥimā
- Need to advance archaeological research in the buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1619/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1619/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session is presented in this report, as follows:

- Work on the inventory of the property and the establishment of a database to ensure adequate documentation and monitoring of the state of conservation is progressing;
- At present, no projects require Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA);
- The monitoring programme is under development;
- A conservation programme of the Ḥimā wells has been developed and is expected to be implemented in 2023;
- Several capacity building activities for staff have been organized;
- An inventory of the archaeological sites and rock-art panels indicates that a significant number of sites exist both within the buffer zone and beyond it. Based on these findings, the State Party has extended the buffer zone. Once the new boundary is officially approved, the State Party will submit a minor boundary modification request.

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

The State Party has made considerable progress towards implementing the World Heritage Committee's recommendations. A list of attributes, organized in typologies, has been defined to guide the State Party's efforts with regard to the inventory, mapping, research and monitoring programme for the property. The epigraphy inventory has been completed and a similar programme for rock-art is ongoing. The field recording is largely completed. However, the recording of the data in the database, which is still being developed, will take more time. Overall, the inventory is expected to be completed in 2023-2024. Two preliminary maps of the inventoried sites and the format of the upgraded database sheets were provided by the State Party, as examples of the work carried out so far.

The monitoring programme for the property is under development. The set of indicators, tools to be used, frequency of monitoring and who is responsible for it, have already been defined. Since the indicators cover different management aspects, it is recommended that conservation indicators are prioritized.

A conservation programme for the Himā wells has been developed, following digital surveys and field observations on their state of conservation, undertaken between March and April 2022. The objective is to restore the wells to their original condition. The programme details the conservation approach for each of the wells, the work that is required and an approximate implementation schedule. It is recommended that the State Party also develops a conservation programme for the property as a whole.

A tourism management strategy is also under development. The State Party informs that, at present, the scale and kind of projects that are being considered do not threaten the conservation of the property. HIAs will be developed in the event of larger project proposals. It is recommended that HIAs be conducted in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

The State Party also informs that it has organized a series of capacity building activities on visitor management, rock-art monitoring, and impact assessments for the staff at Najran. No information is provided on the recruitment of new staff, as recommended by the Committee.

Based on the mapping and research, which has been carried out, the State Party considers the most important rock-art panels to be within the boundaries of the six component parts which constitute the property. However, the ongoing inventory has shown that thousands of archaeological sites and rock-art panels exist both within the buffer zone and beyond it, although most seem to be of lesser importance and interest. Hence, the State Party has decided to extend the buffer zone. The new boundaries are presented in the maps included in the report. Once approved, the State Party will formally submit a minor boundary modification request.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.147**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.11**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online 2021),*
3. *Takes notes with satisfaction of the progress made by the State Party in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to set up the documentation system and to complete the inventory of heritage sites within the buffer zone and the wider setting;*
5. *Also encourages the State Party to complete the monitoring programme, commence its implementation as soon as possible, and refine it based on lessons learned, particularly in relation to the conservation indicators, which should be prioritized;*
6. *Further encourages the State Party to implement the conservation programme for the Himā wells, within the expected timeframe, and to develop a similar programme for the property as a whole;*
7. *Recommends the State Party to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, for any projects related to tourism activities and infrastructure that may arise in the future and requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational*

*Guidelines, detailed information on any such projects within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, which may impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse;*

8. *Also takes notes of the State Party's intention to submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a minor boundary modification, prepared in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, to expand the buffer zone and also recommends that the State Party consider the option of extending the property as well, in case information comes to light from the inventory and archaeological research, that would reinforce the integrity and understanding of the property;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

#### **148. Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia) (C 1361)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Detailed Conservation Strategy not finalized (issue resolved)
- High rate of decay of the historic houses
- Housing (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan: Management system not in place (issue resolved)
- Need for a risk management and prevention plan
- Projects and development work with the potential to impact the authenticity of the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- In June 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers passed the Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law by Royal Decree Number 655, which provides a legal basis to the Jeddah Historic District programme (JHD) for the protection of the property;
- Work has continued on the Geographic Information System (GIS), which focuses on the property and its buffer zone. A detailed assessment of 651 historic building was carried out during 2021 and 2022, providing information on different GIS layers, and directly related to the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Al Balad Regeneration and Development Plan (Masterplan) is not limited exclusively to the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone, but also integrates several areas of the historic city's environmental setting to achieve a carefully regulated area within a broader vision and strategy, oriented towards the Historic Urban Landscape approach (HUL);
- A comprehensive conservation strategy is supported by regulatory and administrative measures, in addition to operational and technical ones. The Masterplan regulates interventions in relation to public realm, non-heritage buildings and heritage buildings. In addition, regulatory measures in the form of different guidelines have been established aimed at the conservation and the tangible and intangible attributes of the urban heritage;
- In terms of operational and technical matters, following a first assessment and emergency consolidation campaign, a detailed assessment is underway and near completion, while restoration and rehabilitation works have been carried out for a number of buildings;
- A number of documents have been annexed to the report, including Al Balad Regeneration and Development Plan (Masterplan), in addition to documentation, restoration and conservation studies and assessments, public realm strategy and design manual, design guidelines for heritage and non-heritage buildings, a conservation handbook, and an emergency plan.

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

The Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law was passed by Royal Decree in June 2021, and, the State Party has continued to make significant progress at various levels to ensure the adequate conservation and management of the property, which is commendable.

Work on the GIS database has continued, comprising buildings and features situated within the property and its buffer zone. A detailed assessment has been carried out for 651 heritage buildings and a number of conservation projects have been completed.

Following the Committee's request, Al Balad Regeneration and Development Plan (Masterplan), conservation strategy, design guidelines, a heritage conservation manual, emergency plan and procedures, as well as other significant documents and information have been submitted. The State Party report recognises that the scale of the task of conserving and regenerating Al Balad (which includes both the property and a wider city area) is a long and complex process. It is recommended that the Committee request ongoing advice from the State Party on the experience of using the expanded management system in coordinating and utilising the wide range of guidance documents in what is a very complex conservation project, and of any problems or modifications arising.

The Masterplan comprises strategies to regenerate the area comprising the property, its buffer zone, and the larger environmental setting, with the surrounding waterfront area and the wider city to respond to infrastructure challenges. The scope of this Masterplan tackles three levels of regeneration at the scale of the property and the wider setting. The sharing of continuing information, as sought by the Committee, on the development and implementation of tools for management and regeneration of Al Balad underpinned by a HUL approach is welcomed. Future updates on the implementation of the HUL principles through specific management tools would also be welcomed.

A conservation strategy has been developed which supports legal and administrative issues, as well as operational and technical ones. The former covers the strategic framework of the Masterplan, regulates different types of interventions at the property's public realm, non-heritage buildings and heritage buildings (through guidelines and manuals), while also regulating the procedure for building classification and permitting. The aspect of the strategy concerned with operational and technical issues focuses on identifying and assessing the state of conservation of heritage buildings, implementation of emergency consolidation, documentation, training and communication.

In addition, a security strategy has been developed on the basis of identified threats, and a risk management plan is being developed. The documents provided are limited to security in relation to

human actions and disruptions, and first-response emergency planning. Noting that the property is particularly at risk from flooding and fire, and is located in a region prone to earthquakes and related tsunamis, though at a lower risk, yet no risk analysis or planning has been indicated. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request broader risk management planning in relation to such issues as fire prevention, suppression and recovery, flood risk assessment and preparation, and earthquake and tsunami preparedness and recovery planning.

With regard to HIA processes, a framework for carrying out a systematic HIA was put in place to guide any development at the property and has been included as part of the 'Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings'. The State Party mentions that no development shall be carried out without a full HIA screening, and that for development outside the property, a screening will determine whether a full HIA is required on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, it is important to recall Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, which stresses that HIAs are a prerequisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property, including its wider setting. Such HIAs should be conducted in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

Hence, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate the importance of integrating the HIA process in the implementation of the Masterplan for developments within the boundaries of the property, its buffer zone or the wider setting, and submit HIA studies to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the implementation of any major irreversible interventions, which could impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.148**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.136**, adopted at its 44th extended session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to strengthen its legislation to ensure better management and conservation of the property, including through the adoption of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law by Royal Decree (655);*
4. *Commends the State Party for the significant progress made with regard to the development of the Jeddah Historic District Geographic Information System (GIS), as well as the detailed assessments and conservation projects that have been executed, and encourages the State Party to continue with this work to ensure the protection and conservation of the property;*
5. *Acknowledges with satisfaction the State Party' submission of the complete version of the Regeneration and Development Plan (Masterplan), along with technical information on conservation and restoration projects, the conservation strategy, design guidelines and heritage conservation manual, and the emergency plan and procedures, and also commends the efforts made in developing the various plans, guidelines and procedures to ensure the adequate protection, conservation and management of the property;*
6. *Notes that the State Party recognises that the scale of the task of conserving and regenerating Al Balad (which includes both the property and a wider city area) involves a long and complex process, and therefore requests the State Party to provide ongoing advice on the experience in coordinating and utilising the wide range of guidance documents in the expanded management system, and of any modifications required;*

7. *Reiterates its request that the State Party submits to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a complete version of the risk management and prevention plan for the property, noting that the current documents only address security and first-response aspects; such a plan should assess risks, address minimisation strategies, and develop responses to such issues as fire prevention, suppression and recovery, flood risk assessment and preparation, as well as earthquake and tsunami preparedness and recovery planning;*
8. *Acknowledges again the State Party's efforts in the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach to the management and urban regeneration of the property and also welcomes the sharing of the new planning tool with the World Heritage Centre;*
9. *Recalls the importance of integrating the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process in the implementation of the Masterplan for developments within the property, its buffer zone or the wider setting, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about any major development that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

#### **149. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia) (C 37)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 213,315

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

International Safeguarding Campaign, 1973-1989

Previous monitoring missions

1980 to 2011: 15 technical missions; January 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports.

- Land development and infrastructures within the property
- Legal framework
- Housing
- Management system / management plan

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- Demolition of illegal structures has continued, including a partial demolition of the Police Academy. A list of demolished structures was provided but only in Arabic. A considerable number of demolition decrees remain to be executed;
- A boundary delineation has been finalised at a national level and officially adopted by decree (065) issued on 16 May 2022. It delineates the non ædificandi archaeological area of the park of Carthage-Sidi Bou Saïd inscribed in 1985 as a national park, the buildings inscribed as national monuments, and an area inscribed as a natural park;
- Accordingly, the revision of the 2014 Protection and Presentation Plan of Carthage (PPMV) is being finalized, and should be adopted soon;
- As part of a policy of land acquisition to control development pressures at the property, several plots of land have now been acquired. A map identifying their locations has been provided;
- The reports provides information about the conservation units in charge of the site and museum, which consists of 81 staff members;
- While work has been initiated on the development of a research, conservation, and enhancement strategy for the property, and on the launch of an inter-institutional programme to prepare a tourism management plan and a site presentation plan, no details have been provided and it is reported that challenges will remain in the absence of a site Management Plan ;
- A preventive archaeology team has been recently set up by the National Institute of Heritage (INP) to process building permit files in the urbanized zone that is now under control; a monumental building dated to the Roman period was discovered during preventive excavations;
- Current activities include a major rehabilitation project for the Carthage Museum, two major restoration interventions to rehabilitate the site of the Roman Villas and to undertake conservation work in the "Magon" district, and the presentation of the Didon district. International partnerships have been established for excavations, publications and exhibitions;
- Work to improve touristic itineraries and signage at the property is ongoing.

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

The ongoing programme for demolition of illegal structures is to be commended. Further demolition decrees remain to be executed, particularly to complete the demolition of the Police Academy, which the 2019 Advisory mission considered essential. It would appear necessary to implement existing decrees as soon as possible to maintain the momentum of this programme.

The policy of land acquisition to control development pressures is ongoing. Several new plots have been acquired since the last State Party report. This is a positive approach but, it is recalled that this policy needs to be integrated into wider urban development plans and tools, particularly those that relate to socio-economic development.

It is noted that a boundary delineation of the cultural park of Carthage has been approved at a national level and integrated into the PPMV of Carthage, which is being revised. It is recommended that the Committee recall the importance of establishing criteria for the definition of a buffer zone, as well as the regulations and measures that govern it, as requested in 2018, and also request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Committee's requests that have not been addressed as yet include the preparation and adoption of a Management Plan, the development of strategic approaches to ameliorate development pressures and the elaboration of communication strategies with local stakeholders. All of these are related to the need for the property to have a more symbiotic relationship with its surroundings, to allow it to contribute to the socio-economic development of the wider area.



The State Party reports on the development of two strategies: one for research and another for conservation and enhancement. As no details have been provided, the scope of these initiatives is unclear.

A major project that is only briefly mentioned is the rehabilitation of the Carthage National Museum in the former monastic buildings on Byrsa Hill within the property. This project, which was initiated in 2018, will cover both the rehabilitation and development of the museum buildings. It is supported financially by the European Union and technically by the 'Agence française de développement' through Expertise France. It encompasses a major architectural competition in conformity with the International Union of Architects (UIA) Programme, which was launched in October 2022. Details of the proposed competition were provided to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and over the past year, there has been on-going dialogue with the State Party on how the competition structure can accommodate the need to assess the potential impact of submitted designs on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any decision is made by the competition jury. A Technical Review of the winning project, announced in March 2023, is being carried out.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.149**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the continuing demolition of illegal structures and further land acquisitions to help control development pressures;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to implement all remaining demolition decrees as soon as possible to maintain the momentum of this programme, particularly the completion of the Police Academy demolition, which was considered essential by the 2019 mission;*
5. *Notes that a delineation of the archaeological park of Carthage has been approved at national level and integrated into the Protection and Presentation Plan of Carthage (PPMV), which is being updated;*
6. *Recalls the importance of establishing criteria for the definition of a buffer zone as well as the regulations and measures that govern it and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also notes that work has commenced on the development of strategies for research and for conservation and enhancement;*
8. *Urges the State Party to develop a Management Plan for the property at the earliest opportunity;*
9. *Also urges the State Party, notwithstanding a wide range of activities at the property relating to restoration, excavations and the development of the Museum, to address the Committee's requests relating to the modification of the urban development plan to control inappropriate development and the creation of a more symbiotic relationship between the property and its surroundings to support socio-economic development of the wider area, the elaboration of communication strategies, as well as all remaining requests from the 2019 mission;*

10. *Further notes* that a competition has been launched for the rehabilitation of the National Museum on Byrsa Hill within the property and that measures have been taken to ensure that any proposals to enhance and/or extend this museum do not impact adversely on Outstanding Universal Value, *commends* the engagement with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on the procedures for the competition, and *also requests* the State Party to ensure that the technical review's recommendations are integrated into the development of the winning project;
11. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

#### **150. Medina of Sousse (Tunisia) (C 498bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 151. Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia) (C 1532)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2014)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Need to clarify the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value with regard to the boundaries of the temples zone and the buffer zone; Need to augment the Conservation Plan, to refine the Management Plan and to complement the monitoring program)
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation (Need to revise the Tourism Management Plan; Need to prepare a visitor code of conduct; Need to prepare an interpretation and presentation plan for the Kampon Thom Museum; Need to improve signage; Need to improve visitor displays and interpretation information at the Sambor Prei Kuk Visitor Centre)
- Illegal activities (Need to continue implementing careful looting control)
- Other factors (Risk of collapse of some temples; Need to avoid herbicides in fighting weeds and replace them by masonry and environment-friendly methods)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, of which an executive summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/documents/>. The report presents progress with several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Over the last two years, activities have focused on site maintenance, conservation, restoration, archaeological investigations, improvements to the exhibitions, capacity building, and the finalisation of the Conservation Manual;
- Site maintenance works are detailed in the report and include ongoing vegetation management, tree removal and the updating of interpretation signs;
- Conservation and restoration works include:
  - Emergency works to several octagonal towers;
  - Removal of accumulated soil in the Prasat Yeay Poan Group;
  - Restoration of a tower and Mandapa in the Prasat Yeay Poan Group, which had collapsed during the 2006 rainy season;

- Restoration of towers in the Prasat Tao Group, the Prasat Sambor Group, the Robang Romeas group and the Srei Krup Leak Group;
- Conservation of towers with high-level risks in the Prasat Sambor Group;
- Restoration of Prasat Ashram Maha Russei, including consolidation of a damaged sandstone mandapa;
- Restoration projects are accompanied by archaeological excavations where required;
- Five archaeological surveys have been completed in the ancient, moated city area (buffer zone), resulting in new sites being added to the inventory;
- Ongoing research has deepened the understanding of the water management infrastructure of the moated city and main temple complexes;
- Training programmes have been provided for local communities and university students;
- Various visits by experts and official delegations are also mentioned.

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

The State Party has made commendable further progress towards carrying out the urgent conservation works for this property through prioritising structures and areas considered to be facing the most significant risks. The 2017 Risk Map has been used to organise the conservation and restoration works programme. The State Party has provided descriptions and photographs of the work and should be commended for its use of risk assessments in prioritising required conservation work and for the documentation of outcomes. The work undertaken since December 2020 has extended to the Robang Fomeas and Srei Krup Leak groups, which has enabled the route for visitors to be extended into these areas since 2022. Weed removal, pruning or the removal of trees and tree roots that pose a high risk to the temples and other structures remain key activities to safeguard the property's attributes, and a timetable has been developed. The finalisation of the Conservation Manual should also be welcomed.

It should also be appreciated that, after an interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Party has reactivated its training and education programmes, which aimed among others at raising awareness for the local community, providing training for archaeology and conservation students, supporting scientific researchers, staff exchanges, and providing on-the-job training for local community members.

Concerning the carrying capacity assessment requested by the World Heritage Committee, the State Party's report notes that current post-COVID visitor levels do not pose a risk to the carrying capacity of the property (i.e. the temple zone). The carrying capacity has been assessed to be 20 visitors maximum for each temple, and an upper limit of 8,000 visitors per day to the property has been set. However, given that visitors are not evenly spread throughout the site or the day, continued refinement of the carrying capacity assessment should be encouraged, especially in light of changes to visitor routes, as the property's state of conservation improves. Consequently, the Tourism Management Plan should also be revisited as necessary.

The State Party reports that looting has been prevented at the property for more than 20 years and that the Heritage Protection Police and the Tourism Police Units are making ongoing efforts to that effect. Furthermore, awareness-raising training with the local community also contributes to the prevention of looting, and efforts are also consistently deployed to safeguard and display any discovered artefacts to enhance the understanding of the site.

Overall, the State Party has made commendable progress towards addressing the Committee's recommendations on elements of the management system. The archaeological surveys and research on artefacts of the moated city area in the buffer zone are noted, and these surveys contribute to the work required to deepen the interpretation of the site and consider the long-term possibility of extending the property boundaries, which the World Heritage Committee recommended at the time of inscription. These longer-term possibilities understandably await the completion of the more urgent tasks outlined in the State Party's report. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee support the priorities established by the State Party to fully document the property, consolidate all the components of the management system, implement the sustainable tourism plan, and carry out the most urgent and ongoing conservation actions for the property and its buffer zone.

## **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.151**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.15**, **43 COM 7B.56** and **44 COM 7B.140**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions and its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021) respectively,
3. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's report concerning conservation, research and restoration of attributes in the temple zone, based on the risk mapping for the property, and the completion of the Conservation Manual for Sambor Prei Kuk;
4. Welcomes the resumption of the State Party's training and education programmes, which include awareness-raising programmes for the local community, training for archaeology and conservation students, support for scientific researchers, staff exchanges, and on-the-job training for the local community;
5. Notes the continuing, high-quality scientific work carried out to document the attributes of the property and its buffer zone, contributing to the longer-term possibility of deepening the interpretation of the site and extending the property boundary;
6. Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing the Committee's previous recommendations concerning the completion and implementation of the management system, and requests the State Party to continue its progress by:
  - a) Continuing to assess the carrying capacity of each of the temple zones, based on the collection of visitor data and the observation of changes to visitor routes and day-long fluctuation of visitor behaviour within the property, with a view to potentially revisiting the Tourism Management Plan,
  - b) Continuing to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring system through regular reporting on the conservation and restoration works, risk data, settlement patterns, ancient hydraulic structures, visitor satisfaction, community involvement, and broader environmental indicators,
  - c) Considering the long-term possibility of extending the property's boundaries, once the inscribed area and buffer zone have been thoroughly documented and assessed,
  - d) Continuing to enrich the interpretation of the property through museum displays and educational activities,
  - e) Continuing to develop and implement capacity-building programmes for a variety of audiences;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

## **152. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 153. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### 154. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (Including high-rise buildings on Calçada de Gaio and Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues which are part of visual corridors to the Guia Lighthouse; Potential visual impact of new developments including in the New Urban Zones)
- Underground transport infrastructure (underground/undersea transit line in the New Urban Zones)
- Land conversion (Land reclamation)
- Management systems / Management Plan (Inadequacy of the current management systems; Lack of Management Plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/documents/>. Progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report as follows:

- The Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2020-2040) was enacted in February 2022 following consultations, revised and integrated into the legal system;
- The draft administrative regulation, based on the Management Plan for the property, was received by the World Heritage Centre in November 2021, reviewed by ICOMOS, and is being amended. This regulation proposes stricter control measures for construction projects within the property buffer zones, through visual corridors and related building height restrictions;
- Following the launch of the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, new projects that might cause potential impacts to the property will be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will focus more on prevention of impacts on the overall 'setting', rather than focusing only on the property's boundaries and buffer zones. The undertaking of HIAs is legislated through the *Regulation of the Legal Regime for Urban Construction* enacted in August 2022;

- The design of the unfinished building at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio was revised, following a Technical Review by ICOMOS and the subsequent decision by the World Heritage Committee, with changes to façade material, colour and transparency;
- New building projects on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues were suspended and an urban study ('Heritage Impact Assessment and Urban Design of the Area around Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues') has commenced. This study will address compatible urban design concepts, HIA, urban design guidelines and specific projects, and will guide protection of the visual corridors to the Guia Lighthouse, consistent with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011);
- The planning study for the New Urban Zone Areas A and B has been completed, recognising that these areas are an extension of the 'hill-sea-city' viewsheds related to the property;
- Public consultation has occurred for the major transportation projects involving the New Urban Zones. The Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line project connecting the New Urban Zone Areas A and E is in the detailed design phase. The construction of a bridge connecting the New Urban Zone Area A and the Macao Peninsula has commenced;
- In effort to integrate an early warning system in the management of the property, the China Academy of Cultural Heritage developed a 'Plan for the Establishment of the Early Warning System for the Monitoring of the World Heritage of the Historic Centre of Macao' along with specific monitoring indicators, and construction of the 'Macao World Heritage Monitoring Centre' has commenced.

On 10 May 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to request information on resumed construction of the unfinished building at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio, following a receipt of third-party information. No response has been received at the time of drafting.

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

The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region has been actively implementing Decision **44 COM 7B.141** and the recommendations of ICOMOS' Technical Reviews. Enactment of the Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2020-2040) is an important milestone, as will be the forthcoming 'Administrative Regulation for the Protection and Management Plan of Historic Centre of Macao' which, consistent with the technical advice of ICOMOS, should be revised to include sections on typhoon threat, HIAs, interpretation, tourism and visitor management/monitoring and sustainability, and should again be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, once amended. The State Party should be encouraged to accelerate efforts to bring this body of work to its final legal conclusion, through promulgation of the revised Administrative Regulation in tandem with the final Management Plan for the property.

The implementation of a process to assess the potential impacts of projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through HIAs to be undertaken in accordance with the new legislation enacted in August 2022 and with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and the inclusion of potential of impacts on the overall 'setting' of the property as well as its boundaries and buffer zones, will contribute to ensuring that new projects do not adversely affect the attributes which support and convey the OUV of the property.

The State Party has implemented previous advice about the unfinished building at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio, recognising that finishing the project to the existing built height and amending the remaining exterior walls to make the building less visually prominent would not fundamentally affect the OUV of the property. The suspension of new building projects on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, as requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.141**, will avert potential additional threats to the setting of the property. The forthcoming study 'Heritage Impact Assessment and Urban Design of the area around Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues', which is to address the relevant principles of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), is welcome, and a draft of this study should be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised and implemented.

In view of the importance of the New Urban Zones as an extension of the 'hill-sea-city' viewsheds related to the property, it would be appropriate for key documents to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, such as the planning study of the New Urban Zone Areas A and B and the proposed design of the LRT East Line project connecting the New Urban Zone Areas A and E. The Committee may also wish to request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre up-to-date information about the 'Plan for the

Establishment of the Early Warning System for the Monitoring of the World Heritage of the Historic Centre of Macao' and the 'Macao World Heritage Monitoring Centre', for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.154**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.141**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the enactment of the Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2020-2040) as an important milestone for the conservation and management of the property;
4. Takes note of progress made with the 'Administrative Regulation for the Protection and Management Plan of Historic Centre of Macao' and, keeping in mind that it will be revised in line with the technical advice of ICOMOS, requests the State Party to re-submit the amended Administrative Regulation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption and implementation, and encourages the State Party to accelerate its efforts to bring this body of work to its final legal conclusion, through the promulgation of the revised Administrative Regulation in tandem with the final Management Plan for the property;
5. Welcomes the legislation requiring Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and the integration of the process to assess the potential impacts of projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a property through HIAs to be undertaken in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
6. Welcomes the approach to deal with the unfinished buildings at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio, the suspension of new building projects on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, and the instigation of the new study 'Heritage Impact Assessment and Urban Design of the area around Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues', and requests that a draft of this study be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised and implemented;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre key management and planning documents for the New Urban Zones, along with documents pertaining to the monitoring of the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including:
  - a) the planning study of the New Urban Zone Areas A and B,
  - b) the proposed design of the Light Rail Transit East Line project connecting the New Urban Zone Areas A and E,
  - c) up-to-date information about the 'Plan for the Establishment of the Early Warning System for the Monitoring of the World Heritage of the Historic Centre of Macao', and
  - d) information about the 'Macao World Heritage Monitoring Centre';
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## **155. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707ter)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

March 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; April 2003: UNESCO/ICOMOS expert mission; May 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Expansion of tourism-related facilities in and adjacent to the boundary of the property)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Negative impact of the rehabilitation projects on the protection of the traditional urban tissue of the historic centre)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Housing (Uncontrolled urban development in and adjacent to the boundary of the property)
- Fire (Fire damage to the Jokhang Temple Monastery in February 2018)
- Localised utilities (Potential impacts of proposed television tower)
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses (Visitor experience for pilgrims and tourists)
- Management activities (Protective structures in the vicinity of Jokhang Temple Monastery)
- Management systems / management plan (Buffer zone modification for Norbulingka and buffer zone regulations; Conservation Plans required for three property components)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Conservation plans for the Potala Palace, the Jokhang Temple Monastery and Norbulingka for the period of 2017 and 2035 have been completed and approved by the National Cultural Heritage Administration. The People's Government of Tibet Autonomous Region is organising relevant expert institutions to examine the conservation plans, which will then be published and implemented, although regular conservation and management already follow these plans. Abstracts of these plans are included as annexes to the State Party report;

- Boundary landmarks of the buffer zone of Norbulingka have been clarified during preparation of the conservation plan. Detailed protection and management rules restrict construction activities inside and outside the buffer zone. The buffer zone boundary of Norbulingka will not be modified;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has assessed the protective facilities for the three historic stelae near the Jokhang Temple Monastery. An abstract of the HIA is annexed to the State Party Report. The HIA justifies installation of the protective facilities, noting that although alternatives have been considered, the traditional Tibetan architectural style keeps harmony with landscape features of the Jokhang Temple Monastery, and allows overall structural reversibility;
- An online booking system has been established to manage visitor carrying capacity. An auto gate and facial recognition system have been installed providing separate access for pilgrims and tourists. Staggered opening hours have been introduced with pilgrim access before 11:30am and tourists after 12:00pm noon daily to minimize tourism disturbance to religious activities;
- Relocation of several support facilities has been proposed including the TV tower at Chakpori Hill. The proposed location for the new tower is beyond the property's buffer zone and will not negatively impact on the property, its landscape features, or important visual corridors. An explanatory report will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, once the new tower design is completed;
- Other work at the property includes inventorying, protection of attributes which support heritage values, digital documentation and the gathering of archival information, and improving the monitoring and early warning system, with priority given to the Potala Palace.

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

Concerns remain regarding the design of the protective pavilions which cover the stelae in the immediate vicinity of the Jokhang Temple Monastery. Further to the regret previously expressed that plans and a HIA were not submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to the construction of these pavilions, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party has submitted an abstract of the HIA, which does not appear to conform with the *ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties*, as requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.20**. The technical review of the project, conducted by ICOMOS in November 2021, acknowledged that if the stelae were to remain in their current location, it was advised to replace the Chinese-style pavilions with a small and simple type of cover made of transparent material so that the stele protection structures do not stand out and do not negatively affect the temple's contribution to Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This advice does not appear to have been followed. The Committee should request submission of the complete HIA, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The completion of the conservation plans for the three component parts of the property is welcome, but it is regrettable that these have been approved by the National Cultural Heritage Administration, prior to submission for technical review, as requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.20**. The three abstracts provided with the State Party report are informative, but the entire conservation plan documents should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. As part of this review, it would be appropriate for specific consideration to be given to the assessment of the buffer zone of Norbulingka, and the rationale for the decision not to adjust it to conform more closely to identifiable landmarks, as previously requested by the Committee. Consideration should also be given to buffer zone regulations, which do not appear to have been clarified. It should be also noted that up-to-date maps clearly showing the boundaries of the property as inscribed, as requested by the World Heritage Centre in its letters of October 2020 and November 2021 and in Decision **44 COM 7B.20**, have not been submitted. The Committee should reiterate its request to the State Party to submit up-to-date maps for the property, including detailed maps of each component part and their buffer zones, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

The State Party should be commended on its efforts to manage visitation at the property, noting that provision appears to have been made to facilitate respectful pilgrimage in accordance with previous Committee requests. The effectiveness of the new arrangements should be monitored and reported. Confirmation of the proposed demolition of the TV tower at Chakpori Hill is acknowledged. It would be appropriate to undertake a full HIA for the proposed replacement tower, even though it is outside the buffer zone of the property, to ensure there is no negative impact on the property's OUV. This HIA should follow the methodology of the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*.

The Committee has previously received positive reports on emergency stabilisation, damage assessment, and repair following the fire which occurred at the Jokhang Temple Monastery in 2018. It would be appropriate for the Committee to request an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the current programme for improving the monitoring and early warning system at the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.155**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.20**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes the advice provided by the State Party regarding the three pavilions erected close to the Jokhang Temple Monastery to protect three historic stelae, and requests the State Party to submit the complete Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which has been prepared to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with the provisions of the Operational Guidelines,
4. Welcomes the completion of the three conservation plans for the three component parts of the property, and also notes that abstracts of these conservation plans have been provided, but reiterates its request to the State Party to submit all three complete conservation plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes with concern that, despite its previous decisions, the buffer zone of Norbulingka will not be adjusted to conform more clearly to identifiable landmarks, and that the regulations that will apply to the buffer zones have not been clarified, and also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to review the buffer zone assessment as part of the technical review of the Norbulingka conservation plan;
6. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit up-to-date maps of the property as inscribed, including detailed maps of each component part and their buffer zones, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2023**, for examination by the Committee at its 46th session if the technical requirements are met;
7. Commends the efforts of the State Party to manage visitation at the property and to ensure that the Jokhang Temple plaza is being managed in a manner which facilitates respectful pilgrim visitation, and further requests the State Party to monitor and report on the efficacy of the new visitation management measures;
8. Also notes the advice of the State Party about the proposed demolition of the TV tower at the Chakpori Hill, but further reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare an HIA for the new tower, in accordance with the methodology of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to ensure that, even though it is outside the buffer zone of the property, the new tower does not have any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide a status update report on implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the programme for improving the monitoring and early warning system at the property;

10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

**156. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**157. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**158. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) (C 247rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**159. Historic City of Ahmadabad (India) (C 1551)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**160. Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (India) (C 1570)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (i)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Inadequate boundaries of the property and the buffer zone;
- Limited conservation approach regarding some architectural and engineering features;
- Lack of effective management and adequate protection – require the finalization of the integrated conservation and management plan and the constitution and functioning of “Palampet Special Area Development Authority”;
- Lack of a schedule and detailed methodology for the reassembly and conservation of Kameshwara Temple.

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/documents/> and addresses recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2021 (Decision **44 COM 8B.12**), as follows:

- The State Party considers that no modification to the boundaries of the property is needed, based on a study of the built structures and natural features in the buffer zone and wider setting of the property (included as an Annex to the report);
- The first part of the comparative study of other Kakatiya temples has been completed;
- A detailed project report for the tourism development master plan for the property and surrounding region has been prepared;
- The Palampet Special Area Development Authority has been constituted and made responsible for planning and regulating the area around the property;
- A schedule and overall approach for the reassembly and conservation of Kameshwara Temple following the principle of anastylosis has been prepared;
- Two capacity-building initiatives for local communities were implemented;
- Meetings in view of expanding the conservation approach to cover all amenities at smaller temples were conducted by the State Party.

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

The efforts undertaken by the State Party to respond to the Committee’s recommendations are acknowledged. However, some of the critical recommendations remain insufficiently addressed. The State Party considers that modifications of the property’s boundaries and buffer zone are not required. This position is justified on the basis that the Gollalagudi and Shivalayam temples are already within the 100 meters prohibited area, which is part of the buffer zone. These two temples are among the built structures and natural features identified in the study submitted by the State Party in the annexes of the report.

The Committee’s recommendation to modify the boundaries of the property was related to the integrity of the property, which could not be considered complete without other elements of the wider temple context. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for the State Party to submit a boundary modification of the property.

The State Party has submitted the first part of the comparative study of Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple and other Kakatiya temples, in the national and regional contexts. It is noted that the second part, comprising other places at the international level, will be done in 2023-24.

In its report, the State Party states that the Integrated Conservation Management Plan has been finalised. However, what has been submitted is a document entitled Tourism Development Master Plan for Region of Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple. While it is noted that this Plan includes provisions on risk preparedness and visitor management, as recommended by the Committee, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the finalised Integrated Conservation Management Plan.

The establishment of the Palampet Special Area Development Authority is noted, and it is recommended that the role and responsibilities of this body be further clarified in relation to the overall governance arrangements of the property and the roles of other institutions responsible for the management of the property and its buffer zone, particularly in view of the requested boundary modification. The Palampet Special Area Development Authority has been made responsible for undertaking Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs). Considering some of the graphic information submitted as part of the Tourism Development Master Plan, it is recommended that impact assessments be undertaken as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around the property, including in the wider setting, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and be conducted in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*. The Committee may also remind the State Party of its obligation to submit prior notifications of major projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Regarding the reassembly and conservation of Kameshwara Temple, the State Party has submitted a schedule and overall approach, as recommended by the Committee. Works are expected to be completed by June 2025. The State Party's efforts to provide capacity building for members of the local communities are appreciated. However, it is recommended that the State Party give further consideration to the involvement of local communities, particularly religious communities, in the governance and management arrangements for the property and its buffer zone.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.160**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 8B.12, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Takes notes with satisfaction of the progress made by the State Party to complete the comparative study of the Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple and other Kakatiya temples, and to update the Tourism Development Plan;*
4. *Takes notes of the work schedule submitted for the reassembly and conservation of Kameshwara Temple, and urges the State Party to complete the works within the timeframe provided;*
5. *Notes the constitution of the Palampet Special Area Development Authority, and requests the State Party to further clarify the role and responsibilities of this body in relation to the overall governance arrangements of the property and the roles of the other institutions responsible for the management of the property and its buffer zone;*
6. *Requests that the State Party give further consideration to the involvement of local communities, particularly religious communities, in the governance and management arrangements for the property and its buffer zone;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit the finalised Integrated Conservation Management Plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Urges the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments for all development projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as well as detailed information on any current or future works, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational*

*Guidelines and conducted in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;*

9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a boundary modification of the extended boundaries of the property and the buffer zone, with a view to including relevant elements of the wider temple context of the Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, 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 46th session.*

## **161. Mountain Railways of India (India) (C 944ter)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999, 2005, 2008

Criteria (ii), (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/documents>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2001 to 2004)

Total amount approved: 58,000 USD

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 533,332 via a self-benefiting Funds-in-Trust project by the Indian Railways, set up at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi for the establishment of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Framework (2021)

### Previous monitoring missions

December 2019: Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan (Lack of an adapted management plan; Lack of a heritage conservation unit; Absence of a Buffer Zone)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/gallery/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/documents>, and presents progress with several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The report covers the state of conservation of all three components of the property: the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR), and the Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR);
- All three railways:
  - are equipped with engineers, multi-disciplinary management units and heritage committees at zonal level;

- have consultation mechanisms in place with community stakeholders as part of decision-making and implementation processes. Encroachment and rubbish issues within the property and buffer zones have been or are being managed;
  - have made substantial investments in maintaining authentic and new locomotives and rolling stock, and on the NMR new and existing locomotives are being converted from coal- or oil-fired operation to diesel-fired operation beginning in 2022;
  - have baseline inventories of relevant plans, documents and moveable objects. KSR's digitised documentation is available on the website. Heritage museums are being developed or upgraded for the NMR, and museums exist for the other two railways;
  - indicate that the property boundaries have been defined and the mapping documentation submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as have the buffer zone definition for the DHR and the KSR, for which cartographic documentation is still being prepared. The NMR's buffer zone is still being negotiated, and the final boundaries will be submitted with the Conservation Management Plan;
- A Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the DHR has been submitted to the Railway Board. A separate CCMP is being developed for the other two components and will be submitted to the Railway Board when completed. Each of the component railways provides assurances that their operations are guided by specific conservation guidelines. So far, no CCMPs nor guidelines have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
  - Restoration works of the Ghum and Darjeeling railways stations along the DHR are not considered a 'major restoration and new construction' by the State Party, but rather minor activities with no impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Minor track safety works are also being undertaken.

Two letters have been sent to India on 31 August 2021 and 24 June 2022, relaying third-party information about the DHR privatization process, which reportedly does not ensure that specific provisions are included in contract(s) with private entities to safeguard the heritage values, including a commitment on the part of the companies to adhere to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions. No response has been received from the State Party at the time of drafting this report.

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

The State Party's investment in the maintenance of steam engines and historic rolling stock, and in one case the construction of new engines, is to be commended. The actions taken on the NMR to convert oil-fired engines into diesel-fired engines is potentially a major step towards making the long-term conservation of steam railways environmentally sustainable and is also to be commended.

The report indicates that all railways have taken action to document important archives and objects relating to the railways, which is welcome. The development of accessible online presentation materials for each railway is also welcome, and the State Party should be encouraged to continue its actions to conserve the documentary and artefactual components of the railways and make them accessible to the public.

The three railways have outlined their management systems for heritage conservation, but the degree to which professional heritage expertise is actively involved within the systems remains difficult to determine. The State Party should again be requested to ensure that appropriate heritage expertise is involved in the development of conservation and management guidelines for heritage assets and is directly involved in decision making relating to key issues and assets.

The CCMPs for all components are in varying stages of development, and the State Party should be requested again to finalise these management plans and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. They should include the conservation guidelines said to be currently used.

While the State Party's report does not refer to the privatisation of the DHR, the World Heritage Centre has sought comment on this reported development. If privatisation is to occur, the State Party should be urged to clarify how protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and compliance with the Committee's decisions will be achieved through contractual agreement with private entities, and what additional provisions might be required in the CCMP to support this change.



The mapping of property and buffer zone boundaries has not been completed for some components. The State Party should be requested to complete the boundary definition and submit the outcomes to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Committee and, upon positive review, endorsement by the relevant management agencies.

The State Party considers that the proposed restoration of the railway stations at Ghum and Darjeeling on the DHR does not constitute 'major restoration and new construction' and is therefore not subject to the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. However, the 2021 state of conservation report found it regrettable that the modernisation of two stations on the KSR was carried out without any apparent input from heritage experts nor consideration of the obligations under Paragraph 172. Therefore, the Committee may wish to urge the State Party to rely on inputs from heritage specialists to ensure the protection of OUV at the Ghum and Darjeeling railway stations, including in the framework of Paragraph 172.

In summary, a number of the recommendations of the 2019 joint Reactive Monitoring mission have not yet been consistently acted upon. In the absence of CCMPs in place for all three railways, and without being able to review the management guidelines said to be in place, it is difficult to gauge the quality and consistency of heritage protection and management across the three components of the property. The lack of clear involvement of heritage experts in decision-making processes in most cases is concerning, especially as the programmes for staff training in heritage management and the existence or application of guidelines for the conservation of railway stations are inconsistent across the property.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.161**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.62** and **44 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its investment into the maintenance of steam engines and historic rolling stock, the construction of new engines at the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR), and the conversion of oil-fired engines to diesel-fired engines, which is a potentially major step towards making the long-term conservation of steam railways environmentally sustainable;*
4. *Welcomes the documentation of important documents and objects relating to the railways and the development of accessible website presentations of each railway, and strongly encourages the State Party to continue its actions to both conserve the documentary and artefactual components of the railways and make them accessible to the public;*
5. *Welcomes the State Party's advice that the management structures at the three railways include heritage units, and requests the State Party to provide information on how in-house heritage conservation expertise is represented within those structures at the property component level and at zonal railways level;*
6. *Reiterates its request that the State Party submit the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption;*
7. *Requests the State Party to complete the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR) and the NMR and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the relevant management bodies formally endorse any of the plans;*
8. *Requests that the State Party inform the Committee, via the World Heritage Centre, of the specific conservation guidelines used to guide the conservation of the three railways in the absence of endorsed CCMPs;*

9. *Urges the State Party to determine what provisions would be required in the CCMP for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the component railways of property if private operation is considered, and recommends that specific clauses be included in any contract to ensure compliance with the CCMP policies along with commitments to implementing any measures included in the Committee's decisions, protecting identified heritage attributes, submitting proposed actions to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and complying with the recommendations formulated by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
10. *Requests the State Party to complete the mapping of property and buffer zone boundaries for all property components and, when they are endorsed by the relevant management agencies, to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
11. *Takes note that the State Party does not regard the proposed conservation of the DHR stations at Ghum and Darjeeling as falling under the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, but urges the State Party to ensure inputs from heritage specialists to ensure the protection of the property's OUV and to consider submitting information about these conservation actions to the World Heritage Centre, in line with the aforementioned Paragraph 172, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
12. *Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party with the implementation of some of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its request that it fully implement these recommendations;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## **162. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **163. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) (C 1194rev)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012*

*Criteria (iii)(v)(vi)*

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A*

*Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/>*

### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 1 (2001)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 20,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust provided for a preparatory assistance to the nomination process (2001).

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2015: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems (Vulnerability of the Subak system)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Lack of support for traditional farming systems and of benefits that would allow farmers to stay on the land)
- Land Conversion (Protection of the setting of the landscape to protect the water source that underpins the Subak system)
- Housing (Development pressures)
- Governance, Management systems/management plans (Lack of functioning governance system to implement the Management Plan; Absence of a strategic tourism plan)
- Society's valuing of heritage

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Bali Province and the Regency governments have taken actions to strengthen the governing bodies for the *Subaks*;
- The Tabanan Regency has introduced regulations to assist *Subak* farmers to maximise their production of rice. The Balinese government has introduced regulations to encourage the use of local agricultural products in hotels and restaurants, as well as retail establishments;
- The Traditional Society Development Service of Bali Province is currently re-registering *Subaks* in each of Bali's Regencies, and has provided financial support to *Subaks*;
- Planning for the draft National Strategic Area Spatial Plan is continuing, and this will be part of the programme of drafting Presidential Regulations in 2023;
- Technical guidance for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was completed in 2021 and will be updated to incorporate the recently released revised guidance;
- Detailed Spatial Plans are being prepared in several districts;
- No developments with the potential to impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are planned in the property or its buffer zone.

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

The report provided by the State Party underlines the importance of supporting the economic viability of *Subak* farming, and regulations have been developed by the Tabanan Regency and Balinese Provincial Government. The implications for the World Heritage property of the Balinese Government's re-registration of *Subaks* across all Regencies are not explained, and the State Party could be requested to provide additional information. The development of a guidance document on operational directives which incorporates HIA is welcomed, although to be effective in practice, this will need to be accompanied by local capacity building.

In previous decisions, the World Heritage Committee considered the designation of a National Strategic Area to be an important means of ensuring the protection of this property. The brief information provided by the State Party indicates that this process is progressing, although the previously estimated timeframe has not been achieved. The State Party should be encouraged to finalise the process of designating the property as a National Strategic Area as soon as possible.

The State Party advises that there are no developments with the potential to impact the OUV. The strength of traditional management practices such as the *awig-awig* is acknowledged. However, some areas within the serial property are subject to development pressures, and it is not clear how the

traditional and institutional decision-making structures work together to ensure that the requirements arising from Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines are met. There is mention of the development of Detailed Spatial Plans in some districts which should further support effective local decision-making although further information about how this is ensured is needed. These should be encouraged in all parts of the serial property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.163**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.143**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the advice of the State Party regarding the Provincial and Regency regulations and initiatives developed to support the economic viability of Subak farming;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to finalise the process of designating the property as a National Strategic Area as soon as possible;*
5. *Notes the process for the re-registration of Subaks across all Balinese Regencies, and the information provided by the State Party regarding the completion of the operational directives materials that include Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), and encourages the State Party to develop associated capacity building activities;*
6. *Also notes the advice from the State Party that local traditional decision-making structures will be further supported by the development of Detailed Spatial Plans in several districts, requests that further information is provided to explain how local traditional decision-making will be specifically supported through these Plans, and recommends that these are developed for all component parts of the serial property;*
7. *Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to ensure that all development projects within the property and buffer zones are subject to HIAs, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that information about any project that could have an impact on the OUV of the property is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## 164. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 115)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i) (v) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 13,321

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 5,710 Euros (France/UNESCO Cooperation Agreement)

### Previous monitoring missions

July 2002: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2002: joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission; June 2004 and May 2005: fact-finding missions by the UNESCO Office in Tehran; May 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; June and December 2006, April 2007, October 2008, and October 2009: Advisory missions by the UNESCO Office in Tehran; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2013: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development (issue resolved)
- Underground transportation infrastructure
- Housing
- Urban sewerage and water infrastructure
- Disaster Risk Management (anti-earthquake structural consolidation)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents>. The report presents progress with several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The final version of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) in Persian for Imam Square has been prepared and approved. An English-language translation of the Plan is underway and will be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is completed, as requested by the Committee;
- The draft Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) and the Preliminary Studies of Water System and Sewage System Reorganization Plan for Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Isfahan (Imam Square), requested by the Committee, have been prepared and were attached to the report;
- A brief paper entitled 'Pedestrian route on Imam Square Complex' showing the current condition of the main pedestrian access routes was enclosed in the Report.

The State Party report refers to other actions, including:

- Ongoing conservation and restoration of the decorations of the dome of the Abbasi Grand Mosque, which was damaged in 2010;
- Restoration and conservation of the mural paintings along the Royal route of Ali Qapo palace since 2019;

- Continuing work on the re-installation of painted decorations at Ali Qapo mansion, along with repairs and arrangement of CCTV cameras and audio protection systems, installation of fencing around the copper pond, and construction of a restroom;
- Ongoing installation of lighting, organisation of ramps, shop signage, security patrols, and educational and interpretative activities in the Imam Square complex;
- Continued conservation and restoration of the second and third sections of the tile working decorations of the dome of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque;
- Printing of tourist guide maps in English, Spanish, Arabic, and French.

The State Party also indicated that national and international visitors have been returning to the site since 2022.

On 8 August 2022, the World Heritage Centre received third-party information concerning the Shah Mosque, which was reportedly damaged during restoration works. The State Party responded on 22 October 2022, indicating the ongoing conservation process to address the damage. On 18 October 2022, the World Heritage Centre received further third-party information on a physical intervention that may have led to alterations to an entrance at the Qeyssariyeh portico and forwarded this information to the State Party for verification. At the time of writing the present document, the World Heritage Centre has not received any response from the State Party on this question.

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

The adoption of the Persian-language CMP, and it is recommended that the Committee note this development and request the submission of its translation.

The Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) is a substantial and sophisticated document that identifies, analyses and evaluates the risks facing the property and classifies them by magnitude. This analysis can be utilised as a means of determining the priorities for action to protect against risks. A table of prioritised actions to address the assessed risks is provided, but the State Party recognizes that the DRMP is the first part of the process to address risks, and that the next part of the process is to provide measures to reduce the identified risks and be able to respond to disaster. The Committee's previous request that the DRMP include planning for specific anti-earthquake measures is no longer appropriate, given the larger range of high risks identified in the Plan. It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for completing this first part of the risk assessment planning and request that the next part is undertaken, and that a prioritised work plan be prepared to address the extreme and high priorities identified in the DRMP.

The Preliminary Studies of Water System and Sewage System Reorganization Plan for Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Isfahan (Imam Square) is an exhaustive study identifying the scale of the water and sewage leak problem. This problem is caused by ageing and damaged pipes sitting over or under the fill layer of soil in which the building foundations sit, and which is underlain by a clay layer that inhibits water drainage. This results in rising damp, made worse by the presence of nitrate and sulfate ions from the sewage, which accelerates buildings' decay. This study identifies the nature and scale of the problem and highlights that around 255 of the existing sewers had not previously been mapped, and that 16% of manhole access points were flooded, indicating downstream blockage. However, further study is now needed to map and assess the physical condition of the pipelines themselves and to facilitate the planning of repair and replacement programs. The cost, based on the current large sewer collector pipe system replacement program, is estimated to be in the order of 500 million Euros, but the State Party has not provided any prioritisation of works to address the highest risks to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is therefore recommended that the Committee welcome the Water System and Sewage System Reorganization Plan and reiterate its request that the State Party submit a prioritised programme of works to implement this plan.

The three-page paper 'Pedestrian route on Imam Square Complex' identifies the main pedestrian routes around the property from other parts of the buffer zone. It is solely a statement of current condition and does not address the historical and cultural access issues raised in the State Party's report in 2018. It is recommended that the Committee take note of this report and reiterate its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the final plan for the development of spatial structures for motorized and pedestrian access to the property. This plan should focus on resolving historical changes made to enable access for motorised vehicles, which have proven detrimental to the conservation of heritage values, and on improving pedestrian movement in and around the property.

The Committee may wish to thank the State Party for the information it provided on the works undertaken at the Emam Mosque dome, yet request the State Party to submit more information on the conservation measures, including details of the mortars being used and the structural causes of the deformation of the dome. The Committee may also wish to request information on the proposed actions to address the issues reported at the Portico of Qaysariyyeh, which could be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment carried out in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*. Advice should also be added in the Conservation and Management plan to counter future potentially problematic changes to the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.164**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.144** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes the completion of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), and requests the State Party to submit the translated plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption and implementation;
4. Commends the State Party on the completion of the first part of the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP), and requests the State Party to provide information on the development of the next part of the DRMP, to prepare a detailed prioritised work plan to address the extreme and high priorities identified in the DRMP, and to submit these to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption and implementation;
5. Welcomes the Water System and Sewage System Reorganization Plan, and reiterates its request that the State Party submit a prioritised work programme for the implementation of this plan to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes the submission of a paper on pedestrian access routes, and reiterates its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre the final plan towards the development of spatial structures for motorised and pedestrian access to the property, which should focus on resolving historical alterations that enabled access and circulation for motorized vehicles and are detrimental to the conservation of heritage values, and on improving pedestrian movement in and around the property, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the conservation work for the Emam Mosque dome, including the mortars being used and the structural causes of the dome's deformation, as well as on proposed actions to address the conservation of the Portico of Qaysariyyeh, which could be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment carried out in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;
8. Further requests the State Party to add advice in the Conservation and Management Plan to counter future problematic changes to the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## **165. Trans-Iranian Railway (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 1585)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **166. Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Japan) (C 972)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fire

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, in response to World Heritage Committee's Decision **44 COM 7B.29**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/documents>. The report presents progress made with several points highlighted by the Committee in its previous decision, as follows:

- The restoration work of the archaeological remains has completed, followed by regular monitoring;
- The reconstruction process for replica structures, especially the State Hall, has progressed in line with the "Work Schedule for the Rebuilding of the Replica of the State Hall and Other Replica Structures of Shuri-jô site". The reconstruction of the State Hall began in November 2022 and is planned to be completed by 2026;
- The reconstruction of the structures, including the State Hall, is carried out in line with the "Fire Prevention Measures for the State Hall of Shuri-jô Site" developed in 2020 to avoid future fire risks. It specifies measures to be taken depending on the stage of the fire, based on various fire breakout factors;
- Various community engagement opportunities have been secured, ranging from experts committing recovery process to local people participating volunteer activities.



At the request of the Committee, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 12 to 14 June 2023. At the time of preparing this document, the mission report is undergoing finalization.

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

The State Party has made progress towards the implementation of the Committee's previous decision and has provided useful clarifications about the progress accomplished thus far.

Completion of the restoration work of the archaeological remains is noted with satisfaction. In accordance with the national law, all the necessary measures, including the investigation of the damage, resin reinforcement, and the installation of a temporary shelter, have been implemented under the guidance and supervision of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the local government. It is also appropriate that the remains were backfilled with sand capping to protect them from any potential risks associated with the reconstruction of the State Hall.

The progress accomplished with the reconstruction of replica structures is appreciated and appears to have advanced as scheduled. It is noted that the reconstruction of the State Hall is intended to rebuild it in its original condition, before the fire, by developing the design and choosing the tree species for structural lumbers based on historical records and documentation and the basic policies of the previous replications. The Committee may wish to request that the State Party continue its efforts for the reconstruction while keeping the authenticity of design, form, and artisanship, and to ensure that these works would not cause any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The development of "Fire Prevention Measures for the State Hall of Shuri-jō Site" should be welcomed, and the Committee may therefore wish to request the State Party to ensure that these measures are integrated into the reconstruction of all replica structures when designing specific fire prevention measures for each building, while not attempting to create 'in-style' elements or details that never existed in an effort to hide or screen contemporary fire prevention devices. It is also acknowledged that, according to the fire prevention measures, the design and layout of fire prevention equipment must protect the atmosphere of the historical space and landscapes, which are important aspects for the recovery of the Shuri-jō site.

The State Party is expected to continuously facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the recovery process of the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.166**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes with satisfaction that restoration work for the archaeological remains has been completed and that the reconstruction of replica structures damaged in the fire, especially the State Hall, has progressed as scheduled;
4. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to reconstruct the replica structures in accordance with the recovery work schedule and retain the authenticity of design, form, and artisanship, while ensuring that these constructions do not have any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Welcomes the development of "Fire Prevention Measures for The State Hall of Shuri-jo Site" as the basis of the fire prevention concept, and encourages the State Party to fully implement them at every structure, and also encourages the State Party to continue facilitating the involvement of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the recovery process of the property;

6. Takes note of the fact that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in June 2023;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 46th session.

## **167. Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Japan) (C 1484)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## **168. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 13,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project: USD 379,040 (1996-1997); Projects funded by Italy through the Lericci Foundation: USD 482,194 (1996-2004, 3 project phases): Phase I (1996-1997), USD 161,124; Phase II (1998-1999), USD 164,000; Phase III (2003-2005), USD 157,070; UNESCO/France Cooperation Agreement: 20,000 EUR (2020-2021) jointly for Vat Phou and the Plain of Jars

### Previous monitoring missions

January/February 2011: UNESCO Mission; November 2011: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission, March 2014: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (New infrastructure construction, including new proposed roads)
- Housing (New constructions contributing to the haphazard densification of the main monumental complex)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of a coordinated management mechanism)
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation
- Interpretative and Visitation facilities (Parking lot and visitor centre)
- Human resources (Lack of sufficient professional staff)
- Water infrastructure (Water supply; Hydroelectric development)
- Land conversion

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/>

### Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021).

On 22 February 2022, the State Party submitted an updated Management Plan for the property, which was subsequently reviewed by ICOMOS. On two separate occasions, the World Heritage Centre requested additional information under the provisions of Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines.

On 11 August 2021, 20 May 2022 and June 2023, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the State Party to request additional information on the reported construction of the hydropower dam at Phou Ngoy (formerly Lat Sau), located 10 km downstream of Pakse, close to the northern buffer zone of the World Heritage property. In these letters, the World Heritage Centre also recommended that the State Party adopt a proactive approach and conduct adequate Impact Assessments, such as a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and/or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), with a specific analysis of potential threats and the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts (in relation to other infrastructures) of the development project on the World Heritage property, carried out in line with the most recent *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*.

On 16 June 2022, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the State Party to request further information on third-party reports of potentially inappropriate landscape interventions, such as alien tree planting at the property, which has been funded by the European Union.

At the time of writing the present report, the State Party has not responded to any of these letters.

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

The progress made by the State Party on updating the Management Plan for the property is welcome. The ICOMOS Technical Review noted that the Management Plan has been done well, as it provides a major framework for discussion and the identification of challenges, while also including some additional material. The Technical Review noted that this is a preliminary plan that still requires augmentation to create a comprehensive document. Principle concerns are the embedding of clearly defined processes for protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including due to urban development and illegal land conversion. The Technical Review identified several areas for improvement, including inconsistencies to approaches to for instance logging and farming in Zone 2 (which are prohibited but occur), the need for application of the enforcement remedies for all illegal activities and the clarification of the boundaries of the buffer zone. The Technical Review also identified the need for a review of the 2022-2026 Action Plan to align it with the Management Plan. It also recommends the 2016 Champasak Cultural Landscape Master Plan be updated.

In the absence of the requested State Party report on the state of conservation of the property, it is not possible to provide further analysis on the Committee's past requests to the State Party, which included:

- Concern on the lack of funding to construct the planned road network, the delay of which leads to continuous vehicular traffic through the property, with consequent systemic negative impacts;
- An up-to-date topographic map of the property as inscribed in 2001, requested by 1 February 2022;
- A report on the state of implementation of the mitigation measures that were suggested in the HIA on the water supply extension undertaken by Champasak Water Supply State Enterprise;
- The establishment of a legal framework which would require that appropriate Impact Assessments are carried out proactively for all development projects that could have potential impacts on the OUV of World Heritage properties in the Lao PDR.

The absence of a State Party response to several letters from the World Heritage Centre sent in the framework of Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, notably regarding the European Union-funded tree planting project and the Phou Ngoy Dam hydropower development project, is regrettable. Both projects could potentially have permanent negative impacts on the OUV of the property. In the case of the tree planting project, this may affect a number of natural and human-made attributes that form the endemic environment and are an integral part of the property.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Phou Ngoy Dam hydropower development project predicts various direct and indirect impacts of this dam on the environment, surrounding populations

and their livelihoods. Therefore, both direct and short-term impacts on the OUV of the property, as well as indirect and cumulative impacts over time, are anticipated. It is imperative that a full, independent HIA or EIA that includes cultural, environmental and social components be commissioned before any further decision is made on this project. Considering the current, critical potential for highly negative impacts on the OUV of this property, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and evaluate the threat that Phou Ngoy Dam hydropower development project poses to the OUV of the property.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.168**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7**, **43 COM 7B.68** and **44 COM 7B.146**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) session respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report for this property, as requested by this Committee;
4. Notes with appreciation the submission and review of the 2022 Management Plan for the property, also noting that the ICOMOS technical review concluded that this is a preliminary plan that requires augmentation to create a comprehensive document and that concluded that the plan should be augmented to embed a clearly defined processes for protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:
  - a) An update of the Management Plan which specifically provides the tools to effectively halt the erosion of the OUV of the property,
  - b) An update of the 2022-2026 Action Plan that comprehensively reflects the recommendations and actions in the Management Plan,
  - c) An update of the 2016 Champasak Cultural Landscape Master Plan;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:
  - a) Mobilise the necessary resources required for the implementation of the road network, including Roads 14A and 14B,
  - b) Submit an up-to-date topographic map of the property as inscribed in 2001 by **1 December 2023**, for examination by the Committee at its 46th session if the technical requirements are met,
  - c) Submit a report on progress with the implementation of the mitigation measures suggested in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the water supply extension implemented by Champasak Water Supply State Enterprise,
  - d) Consider the establishment of a legal framework which would require that appropriate Impact Assessments are carried out proactively for all development projects that could have potential impacts on the OUV of World Heritage properties in the Lao PDR;
6. Notes with concern the tree planting project and the Phou Ngoy Dam hydropower development project and also requests that the State Party to:

- a) *Provide clarification on the planting project, including whether potential impacts of this project were evaluated, notably through a HIA or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and how it intends to take necessary measures to avoid impacts on the OUV of the property,*
  - b) *Before taking any further decisions, granting further rights or entering into any commitments with regards to, or dependent on, the development of the Phou Ngoy Dam hydropower project, develop an independent multidisciplinary HIA or EIA, which should include cultural, environmental and social components, in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and provide as soon as possible the Impact Assessment along with complete details, technical documents and any other relevant material to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, the efficacy of its management system and the threat that the Phou Ngoy Dam hydropower development project may pose to the OUV of the property;*
  8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

## **169. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (ii)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1982 to 2022)

Total amount approved: USD 176,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 23,500,000 (total of contributions for the International Safeguarding Campaign for Moenjodaro)

### Previous monitoring missions

Following the closing of the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign (1974-1997), numerous UNESCO and expert missions have been carried out. November/December 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2010: post-flood World Heritage Centre expert assessment mission; November 2022/January 2023: emergency World Heritage expert mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (Suspension of management system; Lack of appropriate conservation work)
- Other threats (Deterioration of structures)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 3 March 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/documents> and reports on progress of works carried out from August 2022 to March 2023 following the August 2022 monsoon flooding (totalling about 0.64 metres of rain) and presents a framework for preservation efforts in the coming years, including as a strategy to cope with natural hazards and the effects of climate change:

- The property has chronically suffered from multiple causes of decay since its discovery, including salinity, drainage and thermal issues, the rising ground water table, and capillary action. The walls' surface decay has led to the risk of collapse and structural damage by hydration/dehydration process of salt, rain and extreme thermal stress. The UNESCO International Campaign dealt with these technical issues for years;
- The Indus River shows a tendency to move westward toward the archaeological remains, threatening the existence of the site;
- The August 2022 monsoon flooding resulted in severe structural damage to several parts of the property, including the collapse of walls (25 to 30 cases) and cavities in structures due to the loss of mud and bricks. The erosion of slopes and mud *pushta* weakened the foundations of walls and structures. The drainage system was also affected, causing an accumulation of water in the ruins up to the level of two feet. Overall, the damage remains minimal, despite the magnitude of the natural disaster. All significant attributes are still present and maintained;
- The management authority of Sindh took prompt action in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, which provided emergency assistance funding to send two emergency technical missions in October 2022 and January 2023;
- Works carried out from August 2022 to March 2023 include, amongst others, de-slitting and removal of debris, renewal of mud cappings and resetting loose bricks, repointing, and construction of burnt brick buttressing and steel shoring. Conservation and rehabilitation works continue, including improvements to drainage channels and strengthening foundations;
- This situation prompted the State Party to start updating the management tools (50 year-old Master Plan, 25 year-old Conservation Manual) to cope with the current conservation issues and integrate risk preparedness due to climate change and natural disasters, along with capacity building.

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

UNESCO launched one of its earliest international heritage preservation campaigns for this site from 1974, in response to an appeal from the Pakistani Government. After the site's inscription on the World Heritage List in 1980, the campaign lasted until 1997 and mobilised around USD 8 million and included large-scale conservation measures and national capacity-building activities. Thanks to the campaign, an estimated 150 million people around the world were informed about Moenjodaro and the ancient Indus civilization.

While the international campaign continued the monitoring and preservation work for this 240 ha-large site, the property continued to suffer from complex conservation issues. Although the natural disaster of August 2022 did not definitively destroy the attributes of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the impacts are reportedly significant across the site, with issues of drainage and water stagnation. In addition, several quarters suffer from damages to foundations and walls. These issues have also been exacerbating persisting concerns, such as the fragilized foundations, salinity, humidity and surface erosion.

Following the visit of the UN Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres on site on 10 September 2022, the UNESCO Director-General announced the mobilization of USD350,000 to help recovering flood-damaged cultural heritage sites in Pakistan. The Committee may wish to appreciate the two emergency missions sent to Moenjodaro from 21 to 29 October 2022 and from 13 to 24 January 2023 under the World Heritage Emergency Assistance scheme, which provided rapid assessment and established a roadmap for future recovery actions. The UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) also contributed to include culture and heritage into the [Post-Disaster Needs Assessment](#) (PDNA) for Pakistan.

The emergency missions concluded that both the physical damages resulting from the flooding and the need to revisit the overall conservation strategy should be addressed in the short-, medium- and long-term. The remedial actions taken by the management authorities and motivated staff have provided valuable first aid, and the property needs regular intervention and funding to support the normal preservation actions and strengthen its resilience towards possible future threats, which may be worsened by the impacts of climate change and the increased recurrence of natural disasters.

Therefore, the State Party should be requested to take action, starting by finalising the identification of the damages resulting from the August 2022 rains and the associated condition assessments. This is a prerequisite to validate the urgent actions that must be conducted to safeguard the most vulnerable segments of the property. The analysis of the major deterioration factors should continue, which will help improve the treatment materials. The emergency measures applied following the flooding should be reviewed for efficacy and appropriateness before they are adopted as a conservation framework.

The Committee could invite the State Party to request UNESCO's collaboration in launching a fundraising and international cooperation appeal to secure financial and technical resources. Such an appeal could lead to the elaboration of a multiannual technical project, which should include the restoration of the fragilized parts of the property, necessary work to rehabilitate the site-wide drainage system, lead to a thorough review and updating of the existing management tools and to the establishment of a Management Plan listing the actions to address the short-, medium- and long-term conservation issues. The work on the revision of the 1997 Conservation Manual is welcomed and will need to cope with contemporary needs, and human capacities must be enhanced to cope with the current and future needs of the property.

The Committee may wish to request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, provide advice on the planning of the abovementioned work and assist the State Party in planning technical interventions.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.169**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.77** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Notes with great concern the damage suffered by several parts of the property following the exceptionally heavy rain of August 2022 and commends the great efforts deployed by the management authority to cope with the most urgent needs for consolidation of these affected segments;*
4. *Expresses its appreciation for UNESCO's two emergency missions funded by Emergency International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to the property in October 2022 and January 2023, as well as the support through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) to integrate evaluation on culture and heritage into the Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) of Pakistan after the August 2022 monsoon;*
5. *Takes note of the analysis provided by the State Party based on UNESCO's abovementioned two emergency missions, and requests the State Party to consider their recommendations and pursue its efforts, in particular for the followings:*
  - a) *Completion of the overall condition assessments of the property with maps by quarters and by damage and risk item to plan prioritized actions,*
  - b) *Continuation of the short-term conservation actions to cope with the most vulnerable and damaged parts of the property where quick deterioration is suspected,*



- c) *Research to deepen the understanding of major causes of deterioration, such as water stagnation, capillary action salinity and ground water effects on the foundations, as well as to improve conservation materials,*
  - d) *Elaboration of a full technical proposal, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and designated expert(s) to launch an international appeal and to secure funds for a multi-annual preservation project to cope with short-, medium- and long-term conservation needs, to review and update the existing management and conservation tools, as well as to establish a management plan to strengthen emergency response and preparedness to the multiple effects of climate change and extreme natural hazards,*
  - e) *Provision of necessary human resources and workforce to cope with the immediate preservation needs as well as with the longer-term conservation actions as necessary;*
6. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, review the overall management and conservation framework, assist in elaborating and updating the necessary management and conservation tools, and review the efficacy and appropriateness of emergency measures applied following the flooding emergency;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

**170. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**171. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines) (C 677bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add



## 172. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,334

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

2002: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2007: UNESCO expert Advisory mission; April/May 2008: UNESCO New Delhi Office Advisory mission; February 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Illegal activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/>

### Current conservation issues

On 9 December 2022 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Staff increases have been made at the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF) and, overall, the GHF's annual budget has increased over the last few years, while new income streams are providing fairly steady self-generated funds;
- To date approximately 40% of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and 30% of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP) have been implemented;
- The Planning Committee for Galle Fort meet regularly to consider applications for developments within the property on the basis of their potential impacts on the property;
- A traffic plan for the property is being developed with the Municipal Council, while large vehicles are already prohibited;
- A senior officer of the Southern Province Tourism Bureau is now permanently attached to the GHF's visitor centre;
- A significant conservation project was funded within the World Bank's Strategic Cities Development Programme, which saw the creation of a paved path along the entire rampart walls; repairs to ramparts; the conversion of several dungeons to museum galleries; the installation of a lighting system; and landscaping of green areas;
- Conservation plans have been prepared for five heritage buildings, of which one is completed and three are underway;
- Additional areas within the property made accessible to the public through the opening of gallery spaces in the Moon and Star Bastions and the Black Fort, and through adaptive reuse of historic buildings for commercial purposes, such as two structures in the Dutch Cemetery;

- Capacity building activities, in particular awareness-raising initiatives, have been carried out with a range of actors, including government officers, tour guides, students, school groups, police, vendors and other local stakeholders.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) was finalised in May 2023 in view of its adoption by the extended 45<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee.

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

It is recognized that the site management team continues in its efforts to respond to the previous decisions of the Committee in preserving the property despite the challenges caused by the pandemic and the country's ongoing economic crisis. While recognizing the difficulties of implementing the 2016-18 IMP and the STMP without sufficient funds, it is of concern that more than half the identified actions have not yet been implemented, nor has the Conservation Plan yet been drafted or work started on a Master Plan. It is also noted that although the number of approved development proposals has been submitted, no details of the approved projects have been provided, including extensive conservation projects at the Fort, the scope of these project is unclear as is how they have been assessed in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

There remain a number of areas of concern that need addressing without further delay in order to ensure the effective long-term management of the property. These relate to the outstanding actions, Conservation Plan, the Master Plan, and assessment of conservation and development projects.

The RSOUV can provide a foundation for all other management and conservation activities at the property, enabling to identify necessary measures to preserve OUV and values-based management based on a shared understanding of what constitutes OUV and the attributes that convey it. In particular, the RSOUV can help identify the priority actions that need to take place within renewed management and conservation planning processes. The RSOUV should also be used when reviewing development projects proposed within and outside the property; as well as projects for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings and for improving the visitor experience. As there is already a range of activities underway, the State Party is invited to inform the World Heritage Centre in advance of any projects that may affect the OUV of the property in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. It should be noted that it is not only development projects that might affect OUV, but even conservation and adaptive reuse projects may have impacts.

In light of the economic crisis, it is suggested that the outstanding tasks within the existing plans are reviewed and a rapid conservation survey carried out. In this way, urgent actions within the plans can be prioritized; management and conservation planning can be updated; and required financial and other resources quantified. This should include carrying out previously requested studies on issues such as traffic, visitor capacity, etc., so as to inform master planning for the property. Hence, the available resources can be best distributed according to the priorities for protecting the OUV and other potential funding sources can be identified.

Despite the additional information provided on the GHF's structure, increased staff and budget, it is still not clear if these increases correspond to the needs of the property or if the GHF is consequently able to fulfil its role effectively. It would be useful to carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the management system for the Old Town of Galle in order to identify the amounts and types of human and financial resources required. Moreover, an effectiveness evaluation would identify areas where different actors involved in management activities would benefit from targeted capacity building that meets specific needs. This is an area where ICCROM could be invited to contribute within its mandate for capacity building.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.172**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.37, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),

3. Requests the State Party to use the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as a foundation for identifying and prioritising all actions for preservation and management of the property, as adopted by the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to respond to the previous decisions of the Committee concerning the management of the property, notes the ongoing management efforts; however, in light of the challenges in implementing the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP) and also requests that a review and prioritisation of outstanding actions in the existing plans is undertaken and submitted;
5. Further requests the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Conservation Plan and a rapid conservation survey is carried out in order to identify any urgent conservation priorities that have arisen while conservation planning has been delayed and to use this as a basis on which to draft the outstanding Conservation Plan;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details of development and conservation projects that have been approved over the past three years and reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any significant projects, including conservation or adaptive reuse projects, that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.
7. Requests furthermore that a management effectiveness evaluation is undertaken to understand if the financial, human and intellectual resources correspond to the needs of the property, and to identify where additional resources and capacity building are required for Galle Heritage Foundation;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

### 173. Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (Sri Lanka) (C 561)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,333

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2021-2013: USD 48,229 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for "Assistance to the World Heritage property of Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (Sri Lanka)"

### Previous monitoring missions

November-December 1994: ICOMOS mission to Sri Lanka; December 1998: ICOMOS Monitoring mission to Dambulla, Kany and Galle, Sri Lanka; March 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2023: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Impact of water ingress, insect activity and other natural forces)
- Management systems / management plan (Lack of tourism strategy and interpretation; boundary issues)
- Pests (Impacts of insect activity)
- Newly (1999) constructed temple, alien to the World Heritage complex (issue resolved)
- Others (Continued deterioration of the paintings, general deterioration of the Golden Temple)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/> and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Management Plan is being implemented by the Management Committee, which is headed by the Chief Incumbent Monk as Chair, and on which the government heritage agencies are represented. However, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented formal meetings. Progress in implementing the Management Plan is reported in some areas, such as material conservation on damaged Buddha figures, but the majority of the actions are 'still under consideration', lack funding, or are not reported on;
- The development of a Visitor Management Strategy has not progressed, in part due to the view by Temple authorities that pilgrimage practices cannot be managed without taking into account the nature of this property as a living heritage and worship place (see comments in the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission report below);
- A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place from 8 to 13 January 2022, and its report was submitted to the State Party (available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>). The mission acknowledged the commitment of all parties of the management authorities in their aims to conserve the property, but identified the following conservation issues:
  - The general conservation approach is mostly reactionary to most known problems, and the speed of remedial actions is slower than that of deterioration and damage. The current focus is on the symptoms rather than the root causes of damage to mural paintings and sculptures,
  - Lack of benchmarking for condition assessment and monitoring, facilitated by modern and systematic documentation methods,
  - Less attention given to some attributes that contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) within the property and buffer zone boundaries and their integration into the management framework; for instance, historical habitations of religious communities (90+ rock shelters, small caves) and other significant features, outside the five main cave shrines,
  - Concern over major infrastructure proposals (expressway) in the vicinity of the property,
  - Risk of forest fires caused by faulty electrical work – there is no Risk Management Plan;
  - The mission report also recommends the restructuring of the Management Plan to include clear mission and role statements, to refocus actions on the conservation of attributes of

OUV instead of solving discrete conservation issues, as well as by broadening to include conservation of all attributes of the site that contribute to OUV. The identification and remediation of the root causes of many of the conservation issues (such as high humidity, water ingress, condensation, microbiological activities) should have a higher priority and a clearer focus.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS*

The mission report highlights issues in the relationship between the two main management bodies – the Department of Archaeology and the Temple Authority, arising from the very nature of the property, which has important tangible and intangible values. This relationship and the related decision-making processes require resolution, and joint commitment to the management of the property in a manner that retains and conserves the attributes that support its OUV and its nature as a living worship place.

The property faces substantial conservation challenge, and the extent and rate of available conservation action to date will not, in the long term, be sufficient to conserve the attributes which support its OUV. The conservation approach has been targeted at resolving specific symptoms of larger problems. The mission proposes that addressing the cause of the problems (such as high humidity, water ingress, condensation, microbiological activities) should be given urgent and greater emphasis. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to further address the cause of the problems, and reflect them in a revised Management Plan.

The use of manual documentation techniques and lack of documentation of management systems, should be reviewed to increase the management bodies' capacity to produce and access good baseline information. This will allow to monitor change in both state of different parts of the property and effectiveness of conservation actions over time. The State Party should be urged to gain an understanding of these methods and their effectiveness, and to develop good digital documentation methods, including by means of the on-going UNESCO's assistance funded by The Netherlands.

The range of archaeological sites, rock shelters and caves that surround the five main cave shrines are also attributes related to the history of the site, from megalithic times to date, conveying the OUV of the property. Their protection and conservation also need to be considered to maintain OUV.

The adoption of an effective visitor management framework, previously urged by the Committee as a Visitor Management Plan that includes a Tourism Management Strategy and a Pilgrim Management Strategy, remains critical, but would appear to be effective only on the development of a better mutual understanding of the two major stakeholders on the objectives of the mechanism. The State Party should facilitate dialogue to reach that understanding, and its involvement should be urged. A monitoring programme is needed to establish the current visitation pattern and impacts, to inform a basis for regulating the flow and conducts of visitors across the different segments of the property.

The State Party indicates that implementation of substantial parts of the revised Management Plan has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, financial constraints, and technical resources gaps. The mission report further suggests that the Management Plan has serious deficiencies and would be better targeted if it were restructured based on a review of the attributes conveying the OUV and focused on works from that perspective, enabling actions to be grouped and their cumulative impact monitored. The issues relating to a revised conservation approach to several issues, outlined above, should also be incorporated in a revised Management Plan. It is also suggested that the Plan should include a mission statement for the Management Committee, and a clear definition of the roles and interconnected responsibilities between the religious and secular management bodies, and a decision-making process.

The various documents provided to the Committee over a number of years differ in their presentation of the property and buffer zone boundaries. The mission was not able to determine a definitive understanding of the boundaries, especially the purpose and extent of the buffer zone and proposed changes. It is apparent that there is a lack of recognition and inclusion of attributes that convey the OUV within the property and its buffer zone boundaries. The State Party should be requested to define both the boundaries of the property to encompass all attributes, and the boundaries of a buffer zone that effectively protects the attributes from future changes of use and environmental threats.

The relationship of a proposed expressway development and the property and its buffer zone should also be clarified.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.173**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.75**, **43 COM 8B.1** and **44 COM 7B.150**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the efforts and progress made by the State Party to continue to improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property;
4. Commends the State Party on inviting a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and urges the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the mission;
5. Requests the State Party to further restructure and revise the Management Plan for the property, in collaboration with the key management stakeholders, in line with the recommendations of the 2023 mission, and in particular to ensure that all attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are identified and protected, and the root causes of their deterioration are identified and acted on;
6. Also urges the State Party to facilitate an improved and effective relationship between the Department of Archaeology and the Temple Authority and common commitment to conservation of the OUV of the property, to encourage dialogue between the key stakeholders in the management of the property, and to develop a mutually acceptable and clearly outlined decision-making process;
7. Also requests the State Party to adopt systematic and coherent documentation methods to enable the establishment of baseline data leading to the regular monitoring and understanding of changes and effectiveness of adopted conservation actions;
8. Further urges the State Party, in consultation with the key management stakeholders, to establish a visitor management framework including appropriate codes of conduct for visitors, pilgrims and tourists to regulate the flow and sensitive to the needs of both pilgrims and the conservation of all attributes of OUV; such framework and codes of conduct to be based on the information collected through a visitor monitoring programme which clarifies the current visitation pattern and impacts, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also requests the State Party to clearly define the boundaries of both the property and the buffer zone, define the purpose of the buffer zone, and submit, when completed, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
10. Further requests the State Party to advise the Committee on the reported development of the proposed Central Expressway Project, Kadawatha to Dambulla, and its relationship to the property and the buffer zone;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session.

## 174. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis)

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 N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1995-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 130,960

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/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 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties 'Historic Centre of Bukhara' and 'Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures'; 2019: USD 43,115 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project "Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan and Central Asia"

### Previous monitoring missions

1998: ICOMOS Reactive Assessment mission; October 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: ICOMOS Advisory Mission; January 2020: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground Transport Infrastructure (Roads)
- High impact research / monitoring activities
- Housing, Development (Use of new building material and methods, inappropriate restoration and reconstruction methods; utilities or service infrastructure)
- Management deficiency (Lack of coordination with regard to the conservation and restoration activities carried out as part of the State Programme; Lack of on-going routine maintenance and varying state of conservation of monuments)
- Managements systems/Management Plan (Lack of a proper conservation and management plan; Lack of guidelines for rehabilitation of housing and lack of integration of Management Plan with City Master Plan and HUL Recommendation)
- Archaeological excavation and rebuilding on the Shakhristan Market site
- Implications of the Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Bukhara Development (PDP)
- Recent hotel constructions which would negatively affect the integrity of the property (issue resolved)
- Heavy traffic, pollution and poor sewerage system (issue resolved)
- Others: Degradation of traditional houses

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/>

### Current conservation issues

On 24 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Agency for Cultural Heritage (ACH) has been established under the Ministry of Tourism, which now co-ordinates protection for World Heritage properties and implements decisions of the Committee. An Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage has also been established;



- The first technical session of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) was held in July 2022 also saw the passing away of its leading member Professor Michael Jansen. A delegation from the IAC previously visited Bukhara in March 2022;
- The 'Detailed Planning Project' for the Master Plan is addressing the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in January 2020 and a 'road map' approved by the Cabinet of Ministers is guiding implementation of Committee Decision **44 COM 7B.38**;
- The previous moratorium on development and new work has been extended to the property's buffer zone and will remain until the Master Plan and the Management Plan have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and it is agreed that adequate conservation and management systems are in place;
- A Public Scientific Advisory Council, comprising local experts, advises the Bukhara Regional Department of Cultural Heritage about proposals for demolition, construction, and reconstruction within the property and its buffer zone, and advises on local resident projects and works, with a view to supporting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Plans for restoration and conservation of Abdulazizkhan Madrasah have been reviewed and progressed in light of advice provided in an ICOMOS Technical Review;
- International Assistance was approved for "Restoration and conservation of Abdullakhan Madrasa" in April 2021;
- Other planned restoration and new constructions projects include the restoration of the Abdullakhan, Ulugbek, Miri Arab, Amir Olimkhan, and Rashid Madrasas and Kalon Mosque, Khoja Kalon Hauz and reconstruction of the Shakhristan Market. Documentation, drawings and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for these projects have been re-submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. Projects, which received a positive review are proceeding, whereas others are being revised. Archaeological research continues at the site of the Shakhristan Market;
- Guidelines for conservation, renovation, infrastructure installation, and the location, scale and form of new developments, alterations and additions have been prepared in Uzbek, and presented to local people, including the Mahalla leaders;
- Much of the physical cultural heritage of the property remains in a deteriorated state and salinity and groundwater challenges are to be addressed through installation of 15 vertical drainage wells.

The State Party would welcome a visit to Bukhara by experts from the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the IAC.

In February 2023, the World Heritage Centre received a third-party petition relating to the reported construction work approved by the local authorities and requested the verification of the State Party on 1 March.

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

The State Party and its agencies continue to address previously identified threats to the OUV of the property through regulatory change, capacity building, preparation of additional guidance documents, proposed conservation works and other initiatives. This progress should be supported through the newly established IAC for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which organized its first technical session in July 2022. The Committee may wish to welcome the establishment of the of the ACH, the local Public Scientific Advisory Council and the IAC for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, noting that the IAC's role is to advise the national authorities on the conservation of cultural heritage properties and the implementation of Committee decisions and previous mission recommendations, without superseding the capacity of the World Heritage Committee.

The continuation of current moratorium on development and new work and its extension to include the buffer zone of the property, pending the finalization of key management documents and other conservation/design guidelines is welcome. Additional work remains necessary to integrate the approach of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) and to ensure the adequate recognition of the property's World Heritage status within the Master Plan for the City and a better process for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), in accordance with Decisions **42 COM 7A.4** and **44 COM 7B.38**. The moratorium should remain in place until the Master Plan for the City and the Management Plan for the property have been finalized, following submission to the World Heritage



Centre and positive review by ICOMOS. It is also welcome that guidelines for conservation, renovation, infrastructure installation, and the location, scale and form of new developments, alterations and additions have been prepared and distributed in local language to local communities.

Previous technical reviews of conservation projects proposed at Shakhristan Bazaar, Kalon Mosque, Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah, Amir Alimkhan Madrassah, Mir Arab Madrassah, within the Ark Citadel and for Khoja Kalon Hauz, identified the need for changes. The revised documentation for these projects should also be subject to Technical Review. Stabilisation of the Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah is an urgent priority, to be followed by long-term conservation and the State Party should be invited to provide a further update on this project. The State Party is also requested to provide the final report on the International Assistance funding that has been provided to Abdullakhan Madrasa.

For major projects, HIAs should be prepared and should follow the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and detailed project documentation should continue to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. This approach should be adopted for the proposed installation of 15 vertical drainage wells, which are intended to address salinity and groundwater issues. As reported to previous sessions of the Committee, vernacular architectures, which are highly important yet insufficiently protected elements of the property remain under threat. The 2016 and 2020 Reactive Monitoring missions noted that there was insufficient control over development in mahallas, especially for traditional houses with no national protection. There is a continuing need for stronger legal protection and planning codes for cultural heritage and appropriate incentives for building owners. In light of the regular advices from local inhabitants, the State Party is also requested to continue assisting the regional authorities in undertaking appropriate dialogue with local stakeholders, including developers, investors and populations, notably on the rules and policies about the conservation, demolition and construction towards the local authorities and inhabitants on the obligations, procedures, roles of each stakeholder in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at national and local level.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.174**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.38 adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made to address previously identified threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through regulatory change, capacity building, preparation of additional guidance documents, and proposed conservation works;*
4. *Also welcomes the establishment of the of the Agency for Cultural Heritage (ACH), the local Public Scientific Advisory Council and the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan and emphasizes that the IAC with the support of its experts should advise the national authorities on the conservation of the cultural heritage properties and implementation of Committee decisions and previous mission recommendations;*
5. *Notes that substantial revisions are necessary to incorporate the outcomes of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission into the Management Plan and integrate the principles of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) within the Master Plan, and further welcomes advice from the State Party that the moratorium on development and new work has been extended to include the buffer zone of the property and will remain in place until the integrated Master Plan and Management Plan are finalised, submitted to the World Heritage Centre and positively reviewed;*
6. *Reiterates its previous request that the State Party implement fully the recommendations of the 2020 mission;*

7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, revised detailed project documentation for proposed works to Shakhristan Bazaar, Kalon Mosque, Amir Alimkhan Madrassah, Mir Arab Madrassah, within the Ark Citadel and Khoja Kalon Hauz, and further requests the State Party to provide a report on urgent conservation works to Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah, as well as on the implementation of the project for Abdulakhan Madrassa, which have been supported through International Assistance;*
8. *Encourages the State Party to continue to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for all major conservation or development projects, and to adopt the methodology of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and to continue to submit detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including for the proposed installation of 15 vertical drainage wells, which are intended to address salinity and groundwater issues;*
9. *Also encourages the State Party to ensure that stronger legal protection, planning codes and owner incentives are provided to control development in mahallas, including protection for individual traditional houses, which are not listed under national protection, as these are attributes supporting the OUV of the property, as well as the continued efforts to deepen the understanding of all stakeholders on the rules, regulations and role of each stakeholder relating to the World Heritage properties, especially the local authorities and inhabitants;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

**175. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland) (C 1321rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**176. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**177. The Great Spa Towns of Europe (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1613)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**178. Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace (Azerbaijan) (C 1549rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**179. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**180. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95ter)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**181. Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries: *Stato da Terra* – western *Stato da Mar* (Croatia, Italy, Montenegro) (C 1533)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

## 182. Historic Centre of Český Krumlov (Czechia) (C 617)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/617/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2003-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/617/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Revolving theatre located in the castle garden
- Road tunnel and bridge projects (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/617/>

### Current conservation issues

In 2013, the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision **37 COM 7B.103**, noting the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage properties concerned, including 'Historic Centre of Český Krumlov', and encouraged the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage properties. The state of conservation report presented to the Committee at its 37th session in 2013 pointed out that "as previously announced by the national authorities, according to the time schedule for measures aimed at solving the revolving theatre issue, it cannot be expected that a final solution could be implemented before 2015".

As by 2022, the issue of the revolving theatre remained unresolved, and in the absence of information on when and how the State Party intended to address it, the World Heritage Centre requested a state of conservation report on the property, which was received on 31 January 2023. The report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/617/documents/> and focusing on recent developments, mainly since 2020, outlines the following:

- The lease agreement for the operation of the revolving theatre in the castle park was extended for the last time until 31 December 2023, following which the revolving auditorium facilities will be completely dismantled;
- Within the framework of the National Investment Plan of the Czech Republic until 2050, there is a project for the construction of a new theatre wing adjacent to the Baroque castle park in Český Krumlov for the establishment of the summer theatre stage of the South Bohemian Theatre with a revolving auditorium. The project includes the construction of a theatre space behind the park, in accordance with the conclusions of the 2005 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property. According to the information available to the National Heritage Institute, the project for the construction of a new South Bohemian Theatre is not being actively developed;
- Another project planned under the National Investment Plan is the revitalisation of the overall Baroque park. Special attention will be paid to the area in front of Bellaire, where the revolving auditorium is located: the intention is to establish a large-scale circular bed with ornamental formation based on historical documents and available iconography;

- The complete restoration of the Bellaire summer pavilion is currently underway and includes the furnishing of the interiors and halls as well as an exhibition focusing on the historic development of the castle park. After the restoration, the building will be opened to the public as an exhibition space. The new use will exclude the possibility of leasing the building as a backstage facility for any future South Bohemian Theatre;
- The State Party informs that no other conservation issues that could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been identified and reports on several projects implemented in recent years, such as the revitalisation of the monastery complex, the renovation and adaptation of building No. 232 in the castle grounds, the restoration of the façade of the Mint and the revitalisation of the Eggenberg Brewery. Moreover, in 2017 a new building was completed inside the property – the accommodation facility in Hradební Street, and in 2022 preparation began for the complete restoration of the Church of St. Wenceslas;
- The Management Plan was updated in 2019. The same year, measures to address tourism overload and to limit the number of visitors to the property were introduced and have proven effective.

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

The issue of the removal of the revolving theatre has been the main concern at this property, as reflected in past decisions of the World Heritage Committee. In this context, the information that the lease agreement for the operation of the revolving theatre in the castle park, will expire on 31 December 2023, is welcomed, as is the commitment of the State Party to subsequently completely dismantle the revolving auditorium facilities.

It is noted that a project to construct a replacement theatre adjacent to the Baroque castle park, as recommended by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, is included in the National Investment Plan of the Czech Republic until 2050, but that currently this project is not being actively developed. Should this project proceed in the future, the State Party should be requested to ensure that the design and setting of the revolving theatre in the buffer zone reflect the mission's recommendations and to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in line with the Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and submit it together with the detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. This should be done, as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

The proposed renovation of the overall historic park within the framework of the National Investment Plan is to be welcomed, as is the on-going restoration of the Bellaire Pavilion including the re-landscaping of the adjacent site of the revolving theatre, once it is removed.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee in its last decision specifically concerning the state of conservation of the property (Decision **35 COM 7B.88**), the State Party developed a draft Retrospective Statement of the OUV of the property, which was adopted by the Committee at its 40th session in 2016 (Decision **40 COM 8E**). Furthermore, the State Party completed in 2019 the update of the Management Plan for the property.

However, the State Party does not appear to systematically share information, as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, on its intention to undertake or authorise major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property, such as the construction of a new building in Hradební Street first notified to the World Heritage Centre in its state of conservation report. In this context, the request already made to the State Party (Decision **35 COM 7B.88**) to systematically conduct HIAs for all development projects within and around the property and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, should be reiterated.

Overall, the state of conservation of the property does not raise major concerns, provided that the long-standing issue of the revolving theatre is addressed by its removal and its landscape site is fully restored no later than 30 June 2024.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.182**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.88** and **37 COM 7B.103**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to dismantle the revolving theatre from its current location immediately after the expiration of the current lease agreement for its operation in the castle park on 31 December 2023, and requests that this work be accomplished by 30 June 2024;
4. Notes that a project to construct a replacement theatre adjacent to the Baroque castle park as recommended by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission is included in the National Investment Plan of the Czech Republic until 2050, but that this project is currently not being actively developed, and requests the State Party, should this project proceed, to ensure that the design of a new revolving theatre in the buffer zone is in accordance with the mission's recommendations and to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project, in line with the Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and submit it together with the detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Further welcomes the proposed renovation of the overall historic park within the framework of the National Investment Plan and the on-going restoration of the Bellaire Pavilion, including the re-landscaping of the adjacent site of the revolving theatre once it is removed; also requests the State Party to seek the advice of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to decisions being taken on the overall rehabilitation of the castle park;
6. Further requests the State Party to systematically conduct HIAs as a pre-requisite for all development projects within and around the World Heritage property, in line with the Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests finally the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

### 183. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia) (C 616bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2003-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 115,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

March 2008, January 2010 and March 2019: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development of high-rise constructions on the Pankrác Plain
- Lack of effectiveness of existing planning, management, and conservation measures for the property, particularly lack of specific regulations for high-rise developments
- Lack of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for proposed projects which may affect the OUV of the property
- Housing
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of a finalized Management Plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Metropolitan Plan reflects input from the March 2021 seminar on 'Integrating Urban Heritage in Urban Planning Processes' and has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The 2019 Management Plan has been published in English. The Architectural-Urbanistic Analysis of the Prague Heritage Reservation has been finalised. The City of Prague Principles of Territorial Development are being updated to take into account the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. In 2021, the Czech Parliament approved a new Building Act, which continues to protect architectural and archaeological heritage. There is broad cooperation among government agencies to ensure that heritage is integrated into statutes and processes, as reflected in the Tourism Development Strategy;
- A consensus was reached in March 2022 that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) can be applied to assess the impact of major projects and proposed regulatory changes on heritage;
- An open-ended moratorium cannot be placed on major construction projects for more than 19% of the city, given Prague's status as the country's capital, the current housing crisis and the lack of legal capacity. The City of Prague contends that the intent of the moratorium is met by the stricter regime within the property and its buffer zone. A cumulative assessment of the impacts of projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, which have occurred since the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, has not yet been completed;
- An architectural competition and changes to the land use plan are in progress for the proposed cable car connecting Podbaba-Troja-Bohnice. The winning designer will prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment documentation. The New Florenc competition has been

completed and the outcome submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. It will be modified as necessary in response to the ICOMOS technical review;

- Other projects include works on the North-South Trunk Road, monitoring the condition of the Vyšehrad Station, an urban planning study of the Žižkov Freight Station, a competition for a railway bridge in New Town and urban projects on the right bank of the Vltava. The Pahic Savarin project has been postponed. The city has addressed Committee's decisions with regard to the Pankrác Plain, restricted construction in the Pentagon and the Metropolitan Plan provides that future construction will not exceed the height of existing structures.

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

The State Party has made significant progress in placing the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) at the centre of its decision-making for the property. The completion of the Metropolitan Plan and the Architectural-Urbanistic Analysis of the Prague Heritage Reservation, the publication of the Management Plan in English and the adoption of new statutes which include heritage protection provisions are all welcomed. The ICOMOS technical review concluded that the Metropolitan Plan addressed concerns expressed by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, including the proposed processes for integrating cultural heritage into wider government statutes and processes. The State Party also acknowledged that HIAs can and should be used for the evaluation of major projects and regulatory changes which may affect the OUV of the property. It would be appropriate to recommend that HIAs be aligned with the methodology of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

The property remains at risk from development pressures and new projects, and although the process for the Podbaba-Troja-Bohnice cable car project is supported, it should be subject to an HIA, which, in accordance with Committee Decision **44 COM 7B.44**, should, together with the corresponding Environmental Impact and Strategic Environmental Assessments, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. ICOMOS has provided a technical review of the proposed Prague Philharmonic Hall, and it is also recommended that an HIA be prepared for this project, including verified visual representations of the views from the property, including views of Prague Castle once the final design is settled. An ICOMOS technical review of the New Florenc competition outcome concluded that the proposed approach for the neglected area on the edge of the property was promising and recommended that the State Party fine-tune the Masterplan and design code. The technical review of the possible replacement of the Railway Bridge across the Vltava to the west of Vyšehrad Station concluded that the bridge is a key element of the panorama of Prague, which contributes to the OUV of the property, and that its capacity and long-term future need to be secured. It is desirable that the current consultative approach be continued for these projects and the Kavčí Hory Residence Park.

Progress has been made on the implementation of previous mission's recommendations. However, there are outstanding issues, and the Committee should request the State Party to provide further updates regarding the alignment of laws and regulations with requirements for heritage protection and management of World Heritage properties, as well as the update of the Principles of Territorial Development, which should take into account the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. The State Party is yet to provide the requested assessment of the cumulative impacts of all projects undertaken within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting from the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List. The rationale for the State Party's decision not to implement the Committee's previous request to introduce a general moratorium on major projects is noted. It is appropriate that the Metropolitan Plan provides that future construction will not exceed the height of existing structures on the Pankrác Plain and that construction of the Pentagon is restricted, such that a process is now in place for appropriate building regulations.

#### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.183**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.44, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*



3. Commends the State Party on the progress made in complying with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention, its Operational Guidelines, previous Committee decisions and mission recommendations, including the completion of the Metropolitan Plan and the Architectural-Urbanistic Analysis of the Prague Heritage Reservation, the publication of the Management Plan in English, the new Building Act, the advice that the City of Prague Principles of Territorial Development are being updated taking into account the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and the integration of heritage into government processes and agencies;
4. Welcomes the State Party's decision that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) will be prepared for major projects within the property, its buffer zone or wider setting and for regulatory changes, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, requests that these HIAs adopt the methodology of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines:
  - a) HIAs for all proposed projects which may affect the OUV of the property,
  - b) An assessment of the cumulative impacts of all projects executed within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, from the baseline condition of the property at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List, on the OUV of the property;
5. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit the proposal for the cable car project between Podbada-Troja-Bohnice within the buffer zone of the property, along with the corresponding Environmental Impact and Strategic Environmental Assessments, including an HIA, and also requests the State Party to submit an HIA for the final design of the proposed Prague Philharmonic Hall, including verified visual images of the views from the property, including Prague Castle, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Notes the information provided by the State Party about a range of conservation and other projects, and further requests the State Party to revise and amend the proposals for the Vyšehrad Railway Bridge and the Masterplan for New Florenc in accordance with the technical reviews provided by ICOMOS, and to continue to inform the World Heritage Centre of the specific proposals for these projects as well as for the proposed Kavčí Hory Residence Park and for other projects, which may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and requests furthermore the State Party to provide updates regarding:
  - a) Advancement in aligning national and local laws and regulations with those necessary for heritage protection and management of World Heritage properties in accordance with the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines and in line with international norms and standards that may include new laws as well as amendments to existing ones, such as the Amendment of the State Heritage Care Act and the Act for Cultural Heritage Preservation,
  - b) The forthcoming update of the City of Prague Principles of Territorial Development to take into account the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and building regulations that may be varied for each quarter or historical block as appropriate, to guide and manage the identity of the built form at a range of scales, from volume and height to building materials, colours, railings and doorframes;

8. *Notes further that although the State Party has not implemented the Committee's previous requests to introduce a general moratorium on major projects within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, the Metropolitan Plan provides that future construction will not exceed the height of existing structures in the Pankrác Plain, that construction in the Pentagon is restricted and that a process is now in place to develop and implement appropriate building regulations;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

**184. Le Havre, the City Rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France) (C 1181)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**185. Nice, Winter Resort Town of the Riviera (France) (C 1635)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**186. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**187. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**188. The Porticoes of Bologna (Italy) (C 1650)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**189. Venice and its Lagoon (Italy) (C 394)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **190. City of Valletta (Malta) (C 131)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **191. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125ter)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **192. Dutch Water Defence Lines (Netherlands) (C 759bis)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

### **193. Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C 31)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 10,000 from Israel

#### Previous monitoring missions

July 2001: joint Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee/World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS site visit during the management seminar; May 2007: site management meeting; May 2008 and October 2013: Expert Consultation Group Meetings; October 2021: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ Management plan
- Other threats: Slow process of consultation with local communities

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/>

#### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission took place on 12-14 October 2021. Its main purpose was to assess the progress made in the establishment of a dialogue between the authorities and other key stakeholders as regards the immediate setting of the property and in view of the

development of the Management Plan, as well as to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and factors that could potentially impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The report of the mission is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31/documents/>.

On 9 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at the above-mentioned link, outlining the following:

- Regarding the southern ring road of Oświęcim, the required documents – Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and details concerning the road’s design – have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and presented in detail to the international experts during an online meeting held on 19 May 2021. Construction work on the road started in October 2022;
- A team to monitor the preparation of Management Plans for World Heritage properties in Poland has been established under the leadership of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and has started its work. The Management Plan shall cover the property itself, as well as locations and areas important to the history of the former Auschwitz Birkenau camp in its vicinity;
- The National Institute of Cultural Heritage continues its work on updating Part 3 of the Conservation Strategy for the property, originally drawn up in 2013, to focus on the historic landscape in the direct vicinity of the property;
- The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum earmarked its own funds and the subsidies of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for continuing wide-ranging activities aimed at conserving the property and making it available to the public. The Museum is also pursuing numerous programmes funded with the use of donations provided by the Auschwitz Birkenau Foundation;
- Comprehensive conservation interventions are systematically undertaken in the brick barracks at Auschwitz II-Birkenau. The Museum employs its own team of experts in various fields. Work intended to protect the historic green areas is being conducted on the premises of both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II;
- The Museum is consistently striving to expand its in-house capabilities in order to perform educational activities and to streamline the process of serving visitors.

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

The efforts by the State Party to develop the design of the Oświęcim southern ring road in the context of the recommendations made by the Expert Group in 2013, the 2015 Conservation Strategy and the HIA, are appreciated, as is the State Party’s effort to await the recommendations of the 2021 Advisory mission before starting the construction of the road.

However, as the southern part of the road cuts through the protected zone to the south of the property, the project highlights the urgent need for a formal buffer zone or formal protection of the immediate setting to support the OUV of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to consider establishing a buffer zone, encompassing both the silence zone and the wider protection zone, or relevant spatial planning policies in order to offer greater protection to the property’s immediate setting.

The State Party’s efforts and progress made in establishing a closer dialogue between the national and local authorities, other key stakeholders and local communities are commendable and should be further encouraged in order to achieve an inclusive approach to the safeguarding and management of the property. This dialogue is essential for the management of a property that involves multiple stakeholders and poses challenges related to the enforceability of building protection measures, including mechanisms to prevent blight and deterioration.

The establishment of a team to monitor the preparation of Management Plans for World Heritage properties in Poland is positively noted. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to establish a comprehensive Management Plan for the property as a matter of priority, in line with the recommendations of the 2021 Advisory mission and the 2013 Expert Group. In view of the growing number of visitors to the property, a comprehensive tourism management and interpretation Plan for the entire property and its setting should be included as parts of the Management Plan. The Management Plan would also benefit from outlining the decision-making process on appropriate uses for the immediate surroundings of the property, through a process of continuous dialogue and discussion with local stakeholders. Progress has been made by the State Party in this regard, notably in the reuse of the former *Lagerhaus*, which has been restored and repurposed as the Remembrance Museum of Land of Oświęcim Residents.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum invests significant efforts in actions aimed at conserving the property and making it accessible to the public. While various sources of funding support these actions, the State Party is encouraged to investigate innovative proposals in bringing public-private partnerships in support of projects in the immediate surroundings of the property and outside of the Museum's purview. Such proposals could be included in the Management Plan.

The State Party should be encouraged to finalise the update of the Conservation Strategy for the property with the view to prioritising and hierarchising all the attributes of the property according to their contribution to the OUV while specifying how the elements of the property's setting support the OUV in terms of historical significance and context. The State Party is progressively enriching and supporting educational and social awareness-raising activities linked to the historical structures within the property and in the protection zone.

Overall, steady progress has been made by the State Party in the implementation of the Committee's Decision **44 COM 7B.52** with the notable exception of the elaboration of the Management Plan, which requires close dialogue and collaboration among different stakeholders. The adoption of the plan by all stakeholders will be a key element in the effective long-term management of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.193**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in establishing a closer dialogue between the national and local authorities, other key stakeholders and local communities, paving the way for the development of the Management Plan for the property and its subsequent adoption by all stakeholders and encourages these dialogue activities be continued;*
4. *Further welcomes the establishment of a team to monitor the preparation of Management Plans for World Heritage properties in Poland, urges the State Party to develop a comprehensive Management Plan for the property, including a comprehensive tourism management and interpretation Plan for the whole property and its setting, as a matter of priority, in line with the recommendations of the 2021 Advisory mission and the 2013 Expert Group, and requests the State Party to submit the final draft of the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for its revision and comments by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption; also encourages the State Party to finalise the update of the Conservation Strategy for the property;*
5. *Invites the State Party to establish a buffer zone for the property, encompassing both the silence zone and the wider protection zone, or to develop appropriate spatial planning policies to provide greater protection to the immediate setting of the property;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party in progressively enriching and supporting educational and social awareness-raising activities linked to the historical structures within the property and in the protection zone, and further encourages the State Party to pursue these efforts;*
7. *Also notes the efforts of the State Party to put on hold the construction of the Oświęcim southern ring road until it had considered the recommendations of the 2021 Advisory mission to the property;*

8. *Recommends to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2021 Advisory mission to the property;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

**194. Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Pöland) (C 1165)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**195. Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland) (C 1539)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**196. Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal) (C1573 )**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**197. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**198. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**199. Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea (Russian Federation) (C 1654)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**200. Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences (Spain)  
(C 1618)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**201. Aphrodisias (Türkiye) (C 1519)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**202. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye) (C 1622)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**203. Göbekli Tepe (Türkiye) (C 1572)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**204. Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland) (C 1215)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add

**205. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church  
(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 426bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities (construction proposals in the immediate vicinity of the property that could have an adverse impact on the setting, related vistas and integrity of the property)
- Buildings and Development (continuous development pressure for high-rise buildings that pose changes to the skyline and strong visual impact, whilst there is a lack of an in-depth visual impact study on possible impacts of development projects)
- Conservation works (possible impact of the Restoration and Renewal project for the Palace of Westminster)
- Management System/Management Plan (lack of coordination within the management system and approved management plan, and need for protection of the immediate surroundings of the property with an adequate buffer zone, and provisions for monitoring)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>, and on 15 March 2023, the State Party provided a notification in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, all of which report on the following issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session:

- The recommendations of the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission are increasingly used. The ICOMOS technical review of the new London Plan and Westminster City Plan of October 2021 is being used to inform the emerging planning policy landscape. The Westminster City Plan (WCP) was reviewed, amended and adopted in 2021 but Westminster City Council is currently partly reviewing it to include site allocations and to apply the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. The revised plan is expected to be adopted in 2024/2025. The revised Lambeth Local Plan was also adopted in 2021. A draft site allocations document has recently been consulted and work is underway with Historic England to help develop the evidence needed to underpin the proposed allocations;
- The Tall Buildings Policy of the adopted London Plan requires boroughs to proactively plan for tall building developments within their areas and, in accordance with a revised Advice Note on Tall Buildings prepared by Historic England, the cumulative impacts of tall buildings are considered when assessing tall building proposals and plan-making;
- The monitoring provisions in Chapter 12 of the new London Plan (approved in March 2021) were strengthened: A new and enhanced Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) Framework was approved in May 2022, which includes more granular analysis based upon the number of approved referable applications with identified benefits or harm to heritage assets;
- The 'Levelling Up and Regeneration' Bill, anticipated for late summer 2023, aims to introduce a statutory duty for the preservation or enhancement of a wider range of designated heritage assets and their settings, including World Heritage properties. Historic England produced several Advice Notes throughout 2022 to provide guidance on enhanced protection and management of World Heritage. The Management Plan is expected to be ready for public consultation in Spring 2023, and at this time, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- A description of the database for tall buildings and the use of this data for 3D models is provided, which includes reference to guidance tools on how 3D mapping software can contribute to safeguard local area character and heritage assets, and initiatives of the Greater London Authority (GLA) in collaboration with the London boroughs;
- Updates on the Restoration and Renewal (R&R) project, overseeing the major refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster, are provided, but the project is not yet fully scoped to enable Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The work on the detailed Conservation Plan for the Palace of Westminster has progressed separately to the R&R project, and a summary report has been



provided. Essential works on the Palace, consisting of mostly restoration and repair works, have nonetheless continued. The Parliament Square Streetscape Project is a concept proposal to improve the security, safety and public space in and around Parliament Square;

- The High Court quashed the planning decision for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre based on Act 1900 that imposed an obligation to maintain Victoria Tower Gardens as a public garden;
- The London Urban Archaeological Database Project has mapped expected survival of archaeological remains within in the medieval core of Westminster and Whitehall.

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

The State Party continues its efforts to improve policy and planning processes to enhance the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including through the implementation of the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations and consideration of the recommendations provided through ICOMOS technical reviews. The amendments to Chapter 12 of the new London Plan to strengthen monitoring provisions through a new AMR Framework are acknowledged, as is the Tall Buildings Policy. It would be appropriate for the new AMR Framework and the first new AMR (no. 19), due in early 2023, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The Westminster City Plan has also undergone revisions in line with the request of the Committee. The planned analysis of site allocations to identify where potential development may impact on the OUV of the property and the intention to conduct HIAs in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context are welcome. There is progress towards improving the legal framework for heritage conservation through the 'Levelling Up and Regeneration' Bill. The World Heritage Centre should be kept informed of its status as it progresses towards approval/adoption, including its implications for World Heritage protection. The progress towards finalizing the Management Plan is acknowledged and the State Party should be requested to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption.

ICOMOS provided technical reviews for the planning applications of the Evelina Children's Hospital extension of the Saint Thomas' Hospital in August 2022 and for the Royal Street Site in September 2022, both of which are located within the setting south of the World Heritage property in the Borough of Lambeth. The ICOMOS reviews aligned with Historic England's concerns that the impact of these developments was highly adverse, and that the urban ensemble of the South Bank of the Thames had reached a critical point. These development proposals have not been accompanied by detailed HIAs and deviate from key local plan policies. The State Party should therefore be urged not to grant any planning permissions for those two projects.

The continued efforts by GLA to build a free, open data-sharing portal ('The London Datahub') of development proposals in the planning process, a collaborative project between all the Planning Authorities in London, and the database for tall buildings and 3D modelling in development proposals are to be commended. The State Party should actively use these tools for long-term planning and management of the property, including for the identification of site allocations to the south of the property in its immediate setting and for cases such as Evelina Children's Hospital or Royal Street Site projects.

The updates on the R&R project are noted, including the submission of the summary Palace of Westminster Conservation Management Plan. The essential repair and conservation is continuing in the Palace in accordance with the "Mechanical, Electrical, Public Health and Fabric Safety Programme", and the need for ongoing HIA is highlighted, including for the Victoria Tower Project and the current phase of the Cast Iron Roofs Project. The State Party should be requested to submit details of the proposed Parliament Square Streetscape Project to the World Heritage Centre at an early stage, if the project proceeds beyond the concept stage.

For the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, the State Party has recently introduced a new Bill to override the obstacles included in the 1900 Act that led the High Court to quash the current decision on the proposed construction of the memorial. If the Bill is passed, the statutory obstacle would be removed for a new planning decision to be taken in regard to the current proposal. The Committee has already expressed concern on two occasions about the negative impact that this major project would have on the OUV of the property, given its location against the main tower of the Palace of Westminster, and has requested consideration of alternative locations and/or designs, neither of which have been addressed.

**Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.205**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.161** and **43 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 43rd session (Baku, 2019) respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts to implement and use the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations to inform emerging planning policy, and the continued efforts and advice of Historic England to influence statutory decision making, acknowledges the information provided on the 'Levelling Up and Regeneration' Bill and encourages the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about its progress and implications;
4. Also acknowledges the progress made in the finalization of the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption;
5. Also welcomes the revisions made to the new London Plan and Westminster City Plan, in line with Committee decisions, and also requests the State Party to submit the new framework for Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) and the first new AMR to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes with concern the findings of ICOMOS technical reviews of the Evelina Children's Hospital extension of Saint Thomas' Hospital and the Royal Street Site planning applications, as well as the objections by Historic England to both applications, and urges the State Party not to grant planning permissions and to conduct a detailed study of the assets of the area south of the property in its immediate setting and how these assets relate to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as a basis for the development of a Master Plan and to inform site allocations under the Lambeth Local Plan;
7. Further welcomes the information provided on the data sharing platform, the database for tall buildings, and the use of this data for 3D models and also encourages the State Party to actively use the digital data and 3D modelling for long-term planning and management of development, such as in the area south of the property in its immediate setting, to effectively safeguard the OUV of the property and in particular its integrity from any visual impacts;
8. Takes note of the updates provided by the State Party regarding the Restoration and Renewal (R&R) project for the completion of the Palace of Westminster and the Conservation Management Plans, as well as the ongoing restoration and repair works, and the need for an ongoing Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the details of the proposed Parliament Square Streetscape project, at an early stage, if the project proceeds beyond the concept stage, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the details, including HIAs, of the R&R project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they are available and prior to any decision or approval;
9. Further notes with concern that the State Party has introduced legislation to remove the obstacle that led the High Court to quash the decision to build the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, reiterates its serious concerns that the proposed location of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower

*Gardens would have a significant adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and therefore requests the State Party to refrain from any action which would allow the current proposal to proceed, and to seek alternative locations and/or designs;*

10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*