

**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 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger

8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties

Summary

This document presents a Draft Decision concerning 34 “boundary clarifications”, i.e., clarifications of the delimitations of properties at the time of their inscription on the World Heritage List by the States Parties.

The boundary clarifications have been prepared in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory of nomination dossiers of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 8D, see point III

I. RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY

1. The Retrospective Inventory, an in-depth examination of the nomination dossiers available at the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN, was initiated in 2004 and endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 7th Extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004), Decision **7 EXT.COM 7.1**.
2. The objective of the Retrospective Inventory is the identification and collection of data such as information on boundaries, serial component parts and areas of World Heritage properties where the required information is missing or is not adequate. This data plays a key role in different statutory processes, such as reactive monitoring, modification of boundaries, Periodic Reporting and, above all, this data is essential for the effective conservation of World Heritage properties.
3. Through the first phase of the Retrospective Inventory project all documentation on World Heritage properties inscribed between 1978 and 2004 available in the archives of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN was analysed and inventoried. In this first phase the Retrospective Inventory project has dealt with more than 600 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the Committee took note of more than 300 clarifications.
4. In the second phase of this project and in parallel to the third cycle of Periodic Reporting, all World Heritage properties were analysed, and maps and geographic information provided in the nomination dossiers and in the evaluations of the Advisory Bodies were examined to check whether they included clearly defined boundaries of World Heritage properties as inscribed. Cases where the cartographic information provided in the nomination dossier at the time of their inscription could be improved to fulfil the current technical requirements as established in Paragraph 132 and Section 1.e of Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines, or is still missing, were communicated to the States Parties concerned in order for them to provide the up-to-date cartographic information.
5. Out of the 1,157 properties analysed, 557 were determined to be subject to clarification. 52% of the properties inscribed have adequate maps with clearly defined boundaries. The remaining 48% of properties are in need of a clarification, and out of these, 5% do not have cartographic information from the time of their inscription.
6. In the Arab States, 7 States Parties were asked to provide technically improved maps and up-to-date geographic information for 22 properties. In Africa, 24 States Parties for 53 properties, in Asia and the Pacific 28 States Parties for 135 properties, in Latin America and the Caribbean 15 States Parties for 73 properties, and in Europe and North America, 45 States Parties for 294 properties.
7. The World Heritage Centre has received responses for 30% of properties for which up-to-date cartographic information was requested. These responses have been thoroughly analysed and those accepted presented to the Committee for noting.
8. This document presents information related to maps and geographic information of properties reviewed and accepted through the Retrospective Inventory project since the last Committee session.

II. BOUNDARY CLARIFICATIONS IN 2022 AND 2023

9. Boundary clarifications are considered satisfactory only if: a) they are consistent with the information provided in the nomination dossier, with the evaluation of the concerned Advisory Body(ies) and with the decision of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription; b) they meet the current technical requirements, i.e.:

- are provided on topographic or cadastral maps at the smallest available scale (the choice between a topographic or cadastral map depends on the size as well as the type of the property);
 - are provided on maps that:
 - a) show a clearly labelled coordinate grid (or coordinate references of at least four points on the map),
 - b) include a scale bar,
 - c) display a legend in English or French clearly referring to the “boundaries of the World Heritage property” and/or to the “buffer zone of the World Heritage property”, if applicable.
10. At its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), the World Heritage Committee requested States Parties concerned to submit all requested boundary clarifications by **1 December 2021** (Decision **44 COM 8D**). Furthermore, taking into consideration the exceptional situation, States Parties were invited to submit boundary clarifications until **15 February 2023**. Out of the 209 received boundary clarifications, 34 were considered satisfactory.
11. The satisfactory clarifications are presented to the Committee in the Annex of this document. The clarifications are presented in alphabetical order by region and by State Party and provide the following detailed information for each concerned property:
- a table indicating the name of the property, its date of inscription, its identification number and its area in hectares as well as the area in hectares of its buffer zone, whenever applicable;
 - for serial properties, a table listing the serial component parts and the areas in hectares as well as the area in hectares of their buffer zone(s), whenever applicable;
 - a technical summary providing further details and explanations;
 - the maps are available at the following website <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM/documents/#map>.

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 45 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/8D,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 8D**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online 2021),*
3. *Acknowledges the excellent work accomplished by States Parties in the clarification of the boundaries of their World Heritage properties and commends them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List;*
4. *Recalls that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear;*
5. *Takes note of the clarifications of boundaries and areas provided by the States Parties for the following properties, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/23/45.COM/8D:*

AFRICA

- *Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve*
- *Togo, Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba*

ARAB STATES

- *Oman, Bahla Fort*

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- *China, Longmen Grottoes*
- *China, Old Town of Lijiang*
- *China, West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou*
- *Iran (Islamic Republic of), Bam and its Cultural Landscape*
- *Iran (Islamic Republic of), Meidan Emam, Esfahan*
- *Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pasargadae*
- *Iran (Islamic Republic of), Shahr-i Sokhta*
- *Iran (Islamic Republic of), Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System*
- *Japan, Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama*
- *Viet Nam, Ha Long Bay*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- *Armenia, Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley*
- *Czechia, Historic Centre of Český Krumlov*
- *Czechia, Historic Centre of Telč*
- *Czechia, Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec*
- *Italy, Mantua and Sabbioneta*
- *Lithuania, Kernavė Archaeological Site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė)*
- *Malta, City of Valletta*
- *Malta, Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum*
- *Norway, Bryggen*
- *Norway, West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord*
- *Sweden, Church Town of Gammelstad, Luleå*
- *Sweden, Engelsberg Ironworks*
- *Sweden, Hanseatic Town of Visby*
- *Sweden, Rock Carvings in Tanum*
- *Switzerland, Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona*
- *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Blenheim Palace*
- *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church*

- *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saltaire*
- *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- *Argentina, Península Valdés*
 - *Chile, Sewell Mining Town;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue the identification and collection of geographic and cartographic information of World Heritage properties in nominations where the required information is not available or not adequate;*
 7. *Also requests the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible, and by **1 December 2023**, for their subsequent examination, if the technical requirements are met, by the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.*

ANNEX

The boundary clarification maps for the concerned properties can be found at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM/documents/#map>. All the maps presented are consistent with the Decision of the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription, and/or the evaluation of the relevant Advisory Body(ies) and/or the nomination dossier.

AFRICA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE / GUINEA

Property	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
Identification number	155 Bis
Date of inscription	1981
Area of the inscribed property	17632.62 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps of the property, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

12.

TOGO

Property	Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba
Identification number	1140
Date of inscription	2004
Area of the inscribed property	28496.24 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps of the property, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

ARAB STATES

OMAN

Property	Bahla Fort
Identification number	433
Date of inscription	1987
Area of the inscribed property	346.44 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map of the property, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

CHINA

Property	Longmen Grottoes
Identification number	1003
Date of inscription	2000
Area of the inscribed property	331 ha
Area of the buffer zone	711 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

CHINA

Property	Old Town of Lijiang
Identification number	811 Bis
Date of inscription	1997, 2012
Area of the inscribed property	136.5 ha
Area of the buffer zone	607 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
811bis-001	Dayan Old Town	84	454
811bis-002	Heilongtan Pool	17	
811bis-003	Baisha Village	21	85
811bis-004	Shuhe Town	14.5	68
TOTAL		136.5	607

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts and the buffer zones.

CHINA

Property	West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou
Identification number	1334
Date of inscription	2011
Area of the inscribed property	3322.88 ha
Area of the buffer zone	7270.31 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Property	Bam and its Cultural Landscape
Identification number	1208 Bis
Date of inscription	2004, 2007
Area of the inscribed property	2761.20 ha
Area of the buffer zone	19319.60 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Property	Meidan Emam, Esfahan
Identification number	115
Date of inscription	1979
Area of the inscribed property	13 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Property	Pasargadae
Identification number	1106
Date of inscription	2004
Area of the inscribed property	159.65 ha
Area of the buffer zone	7127.97 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Property	Shahr-i Sokhta
Identification number	1456
Date of inscription	2014
Area of the inscribed property	275 ha
Area of the buffer zone	2200 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Property	Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System
Identification number	1315
Date of inscription	2009
Area of the inscribed property	240.4152 ha
Area of the buffer zone	1572.2009 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

JAPAN

Property	Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama
Identification number	734
Date of inscription	1995
Area of the inscribed property	68 ha
Area of the buffer zone	58873.1 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
734-001	Ogimachi Village 1	45.4	58873.1
734-002	Ogimachi Village 2	0.2	
734-003	Ainokura Village	18	
734-004	Suganuma Village	4.4	
TOTAL		68	58873.1

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts and the buffer zone.

VIET NAM

Property	Ha Long Bay
Identification number	672 Bis
Date of inscription	1994, 2000
Area of the inscribed property	43400 ha
Area of the buffer zone	30650 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

ARMENIA

Property	Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley
Identification number	960
Date of inscription	2000
Area of the inscribed property	2.97 ha
Area of the buffer zone	38.75 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

CZECHIA

Property	Historic Centre of Český Krumlov
Identification number	617
Date of inscription	1992
Area of the inscribed property	51.65 ha
Area of the buffer zone	850.76 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

CZECHIA

Property	Historic Centre of Telč
Identification number	621
Date of inscription	1992
Area of the inscribed property	36.18 ha
Area of the buffer zone	263.82 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

CZECHIA

Property	Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec
Identification number	732
Date of inscription	1995
Area of the inscribed property	62 ha
Area of the buffer zone	652.30 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
732-001	Historical Town Centre of Kutná Hora with the Church of St. Barbara	61.72	652.30
732-002	Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec	0.28	
TOTAL		62	652.30

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts and the buffer zone.

ITALY

Property	Mantua and Sabbioneta
Identification number	1287
Date of inscription	2008
Area of the inscribed property	235 ha
Area of the buffer zone	2330 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
1287-001	Mantova	175	1900
1287-002	Sabbioneta	60	430
TOTAL		235	2330

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts and the buffer zones.

LITHUANIA

Property	Kernavė Archaeological Site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė)
Identification number	1137
Date of inscription	2004
Area of the inscribed property	194.4 ha
Area of the buffer zone	2455.2 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

MALTA

Property	City of Valletta
Identification number	131
Date of inscription	1980
Area of the inscribed property	74.66 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

MALTA

Property	Hal Saflieni Hypogeum
Identification number	130
Date of inscription	1980
Area of the inscribed property	0.13 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

NORWAY

Property	Bryggen
Identification number	59
Date of inscription	1979
Area of the inscribed property	1.2683 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)
59-001	Bryggen	1.22
59-002	Finnegården	0.0483
TOTAL		1.2683

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts.

NORWAY

Property	West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord
Identification number	1195
Date of inscription	2005
Area of the inscribed property	122712 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)
1195-001	Geirangerfjord Area	51802
1195-002	Nærøyfjord Area	70910
TOTAL		122712

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts.

SWEDEN

Property	Church Town of Gammelstad, Luleå
Identification number	762
Date of inscription	1996
Area of the inscribed property	16.4 ha
Area of the buffer zone	243.4 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

SWEDEN

Property	Engelsberg Ironworks
Identification number	556 Rev
Date of inscription	1993
Area of the inscribed property	9.6 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

SWEDEN

Property	Hanseatic Town of Visby
Identification number	731
Date of inscription	1995
Area of the inscribed property	104.3 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

SWEDEN

Property	Rock Carvings in Tanum
Identification number	557 Rev
Date of inscription	1994
Area of the inscribed property	4132 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

SWITZERLAND

Property	Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona
Identification number	884
Date of inscription	2000
Area of the inscribed property	14.698 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)
884-001	Castel Grande	4.5106
884-002	Montebello	4.0138
884-003	Sasso Corbaro	6.1643
884-004	Rempart du bourg (Via Dogana)	0.0073
884-005	Rempart du bourg (Viale Stazione)	0.002
TOTAL		14.698

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Property	Blenheim Palace
Identification number	425
Date of inscription	1987
Area of the inscribed property	961 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Property	Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church
Identification number	426 Bis
Date of inscription	1987, 2008
Area of the inscribed property	10.3 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Property	Saltaire
Identification number	1028
Date of inscription	2001
Area of the inscribed property	28.5 ha
Area of the buffer zone	1055 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Property	Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey
Identification number	372 Bis
Date of inscription	1986, 2012
Area of the inscribed property	312 ha
Area of the buffer zone	1626 ha

Serial ID	Name of component part	Area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
372bis-001	Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey	311.2	1626
372bis-002	Component 2	0.85	
TOTAL		312.05	1626

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided clear maps displaying the boundaries of all the inscribed component parts and the buffer zone.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina

Property	Península Valdés
Identification number	937
Date of inscription	1999
Area of the inscribed property	826122 ha
Area of the buffer zone	289378 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.

CHILE

Property	Sewell Mining Town
Identification number	1214
Date of inscription	2006
Area of the inscribed property	17.2 ha
Area of the buffer zone	33 ha

Technical Summary:

The State Party has provided a clear map displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone.