Draft Decision: 45 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,
1. Having examined Documents WHC/23/45.COM/8B and WHC/23/45.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Decides not to inscribe — Refers the nomination of The Cultural Landscape of Masouleh, Islamic Republic of Iran, on the World Heritage List, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
   a) Re-focus the justification for the inscription of the Cultural Landscape of Masouleh as outstanding example of Islamic terraced city as well as the significance of Taleshi and Cadusian cultures as well as iron-smelting technology, in order to further strengthen the justification for their criteria (ii) and (v),

b) Provide precise maps for the property in a way that all introduced elements regarding the herding should be included within the core zone as it has been already explained in the Addition Information.

c) Furnish a good monitoring plan for supporting the significance of the seminomadic and agro-pastoral system.
d) Present a program for supporting and strengthening the local communities in the regeneration of degraded forests and grassland areas and more directly involved in the monitoring, sustainable management, conservation, and decision-making regarding the preservation of natural values for the benefits of local livelihoods.

e) Deliver a detailed plan for clarifying what protection measures are in place to ensure that the traditional seminomadic pastoral system continues to thrive;

f) Present a clear socio-economic development strategy to ensure that tourism does not erode the current socio-economic fabric of the nominated property.

3. Recommends the State Party to give consideration to the following:

a) Involve herding communities in the decision-making body whereas the management system is focused on the urban and architectural heritage, with effective measures and campaigns to carry out maintenance and conservation with the involvement of the locals, and on nature conservation.

b) Engage herders in the management planning through being members of steering committee of the Cultural Landscape of Masouleh.

c) Strengthen preservation and sustainability of the interrelation between the agro-pastoral semi-nomadic system and urban society.

d) Reinforce management measures to support the agro-pastoral system whereas tourism and its development in the nominated area are strongly encouraged.