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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**

**Forty-sixth session
New Delhi, India
21 – 31 July 2024**

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

Summary

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee. This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. 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/46COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports will also 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 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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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

2. Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) (C 1552rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Potential resumption of large scale open-caste gold mining
- Potential, cumulative impact of small-scale mining
- Water pollution from old mines

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7A.56**

Corrective measures identified

Adopted by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7A.56**

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see Decision **45 COM 7A.56**

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1552/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1552/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining activities
- Lack of planning controls / lack of management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1552/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1552/documents/>. The report outlines the progress made in addressing previous Committee decisions and the implementation of the corrective measures necessary to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted by the Committee in 2023, as follows:

- Achieving the conditions necessary to halt all mining permits within the property has moved a step closer. On 8 March 2024, the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes dismissed a compensation claim brought by mining company Gabriel Resources against the Government of Romania on the grounds that the Government of Romania had violated the provisions of the agreements on the promotion and mutual guarantee of investments with the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in relation to mining rights. A challenge to annul the decision can be brought within a period of 120 days;
- Measures to introduce planning controls to regulate mining and other negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are progressing; a cooperation agreement has been signed between the Ministry for Development, Public Works and Administration, the Municipality of Roşia Montană, the Alba County Council and the National Institute of Heritage, defining their specific roles in the elaboration and implementation of the General Urban Plan (PUG). The deadline for its completion and approval remains 2026;
- The Management Committee became operational in October 2023;
- The revision of the Management Plan of the property by the National Institute of Heritage, with input from the Management Committee, is expected to be finalised towards the end of 2024; this will reassess the Roman archaeological sites and establish conservation priorities;
- Measures to address the discharge of polluted mine water are ongoing; a report on mitigation scenarios is expected later in 2024, and its outcomes will be reflected in the PUG, which is expected to be completed in 2026;
- A risk situation at the Tăul Mare header pond in October 2022 highlighted the urgent need for an inspection and maintenance plan, which will be developed as part of the management plan by 2027.

The State Party also provided an update on the conservation and access work related to the 18th and 19th century houses within the property, which contribute to the well-being of the local community and support the presentation and interpretation of the property.

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

The decision by the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes on 8 March 2024 to dismiss Gabriel Resources' arbitration claim paves the way for potentially significant progress in the implementation of corrective measures and is therefore to be welcomed. The dispute with the Government of Romania dates back to 2019, before the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and relates to the government's decision in 2007 to annul Gabriel Resources' mining permit. As this arbitration claim was the main reason for the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, if the claim had been successful, it would have opened up the possibility for mining to resume on the property.

It is understood that Gabriel Resources has the right to challenge the decision within 120 days from its announcement. As the State Party's report was submitted almost immediately after the decision was issued, and thus before the 120-day period had expired, it offers no update on the timeframe for corrective measure 1, which relates to when the conditions necessary to halt the approval of all mining permits within the property will be in place.

It is encouraging that work on all other corrective measures is progressing in line with the approved timeframe. The activation of the Management Committee in 2023 (corrective measure 3) is to be welcomed, as is its input to the revision of the Management Plan (corrective measure 4), which is being led by the National Institute of Heritage. The Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

The proposed inclusion in the Management Plan of a reassessment of Roman archaeological sites to establish conservation priorities is also welcome. As identified in the Statement of OUV, these Roman

sites, which encompass discrete sites, groups of sites and landscape features, are 'prolific and pervasive' across the landscape, forming 'a socio-technical mining landscape' where 'archaeological research will probably discover a large number of further surface and underground mining, ore processing and settlement sites of the Roman period'. A reassessment of these sites should provide a better understanding of their inter-relatedness and conservation requirements and form the basis for a wider interpretation of the property. It could also provide an opportunity to define an archaeological research strategy.

The operationalisation of the Management Committee has facilitated a cooperation agreement between the relevant stakeholders to define their specific roles in the elaboration and implementation of the PUG. Resources for the drafting of the PUG, including the necessary preliminary studies, have been secured by the Ministry for Development, Public Works and Administration and its completion is scheduled for 2026. The PUG is the key planning document required to prevent the approval of mining or any other activities that might impact negatively on the OUV (corrective measure 2).

Corrective measures 5 and 6 both relate to potential threats from polluted mine water, both underground and in header ponds. A report on mitigation scenarios for the former is expected later in 2024 and its recommendations will be reflected in the PUG, while work on the latter to develop an inspection and maintenance regime that can be incorporated into the Management Plan has not yet started but is programmed to be completed by 2027.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.56 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the outcomes that the decision of the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of 8 March 2024 to dismiss Gabriel Resources' arbitration claim against the Government of Romania regarding the annulment of mining permits in 2007 may have on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes that Gabriel Resources has the right to challenge the decision within 120 days, and requests the State Party to provide an update on this crucial mining issue as soon as it is able;*
5. *Also welcomes the activation of the Management Committee (corrective measure 3) and progress with all other corrective measures according to the approved timeframe, in particular:*
 - a) *Revision of the Management Plan, including a reassessment of the Roman archaeological sites in order to establish conservation priorities,*
 - b) *Development of the General Urban Plan (PUG), a key planning document necessary to prevent mining or any other activities that might impact negatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (corrective measure 2),*
 - c) *Development of mitigation measures to address polluted underground mine water to be included in the PUG (corrective measure 5),*
 - d) *Development of an inspection and maintenance regime for header ponds (corrective measure 6);*
6. *Encourages the State Party to include in the Management Plan, as part of its reassessment of the Roman archaeological sites, an archaeological research plan to guide future work on existing sites and on future survey work to clarify what further*

surface and underground mining, ore processing and settlement sites of the Roman period remain;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on progress made in implementing corrective measures, and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
8. Decides to retain Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004, extension 2006

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2006-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Lack of legal status of the property;
- Lack of legislative protection of buffer zones;
- Lack of implementation of the Management Plan and of active management;
- Difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation (visits under the Kosovo Force / United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (KFOR / UNMIK) escort and lack of guards and security);
- Unsatisfactory state of conservation and maintenance of the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;
- Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
- Implementation of the Management Plan, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

1. Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša;
2. Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljeviša, that was partly removed, etc);
3. Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the Operational Guidelines and with Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**;

Long-term corrective measures:

1. Ensure the adequate long-term administrative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the Operational Guidelines;
2. Put in place strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
3. Adequately delineate the boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings);
4. Prepare detailed state of conservation reports as a basis for adapted monitoring, preventative conservation measures, and specific conservation projects to reverse decline;
5. Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Management Plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- Urgent / short-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo^{1*};
- Regarding the long-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo, no specific timeframe can be provided at this stage due to the uncertain political situation.

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 (from 2003-2024)

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 2,798,348 in 2008-2014 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005; USD 693,330 in 2008-2013 by the Italian Government; USD 76,335 in 2008-2013 by the Czech Government; USD 132,833 in 2008-2013 by the Greek Government; USD 2,010,000 in 2011-2014 by the Government of the Russian Federation and USD 45,000 in 2012-2013 by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo; July 2008, January and August 2009, July 2010, July 2012, January and July 2013, January and June 2014, June and October 2015, April 2016, September 2017: missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/>

Current conservation issues

At its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), the World Heritage Committee decided to adjourn the debate on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **45 COM 7A.57**) until its next ordinary session. The state of conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/4315>.

The Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Serbia to UNESCO submitted to the World Heritage Centre a state of conservation report on 30 January 2024. The information is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/>.

The reported information outlines the following:

In 2023, the state of conservation of three of the four components of the property, namely the Dečani Monastery, the Patriarchate of Peć and the Gračanica Monastery, remained unchanged and their attributes were preserved. However, the state of conservation of the fourth component, the Church of Holy Virgin of Ljeviša in Prizren, is in danger due to the increasingly unstable political and security situation.

The property is managed by the Serbian Orthodox Church, which, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Republic of Serbia, implements its management plan for research, conservation and other related works according to the adopted annual programme. The work is carried out by experts from the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments. The Office for Kosovo and Metohija also provides legal and other types of assistance to the Serbian Orthodox Church to enhance its protection.

Regarding the Dečani Monastery, following the conservation work in 2022, regular monitoring of the state of conservation of the mural paintings was conducted in 2023. A small-scale research project on

¹ * References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

the restoration of the Parecclesion is being initiated. Inspection of the architectural sculptural elements of the building has revealed that their condition is unchanged. As reported last year, although the plans for the construction of a main road Dečani-Plav in the vicinity of the Dečani Monastery were suspended in 2020, the area has not yet been restored to its original state. The access road to the Monastery is secured by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) barricades. Despite the UN Security Council Resolution 1244, the property of Dečani Monastery is reported to be subject to systematic desecration and illegal confiscation. The monastic community of the Dečani Monastery is unable to enjoy the ownership of 24 hectares of monastic property, despite the ruling of the highest legal authority of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija of 20 May 2016.

Following the conservation and restoration of the wall paintings in the Cathedral Church of the Gračanica Monastery, the regular inspection of the state of conservation of the wall paintings revealed that it had remained unchanged. The same applies to the architectural elements of the Church. The exhibition 'Gračanica, the splendor of art in the era of King Milutin' was accompanied by a bilingual catalogue in English and Serbian. In 2023, no changes were observed in the privately owned constructions in the buffer zone.

Inspection was carried out on the mural paintings of the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery Church. It was also established that the repair works of a part of the Church roof, which were undertaken in 2021 and 2022, contributed significantly to the protection and preservation of its architectural elements and mural paintings. Due to its remote location, the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery is not impacted by urban planning construction. The local police provides its physical protection.

Despite the availability of funds, none of the extensive works planned for the Church of Holy Virgin of Ljeviša in Prizren could be carried out in 2022 and 2023. The conservation and restoration work on the mural paintings was not carried out, and the 14th-century mural was covered with a layer of soot and grime as the result of mortar shelling and fire in the Church in 2004. The Church of Holy Virgin of Ljeviša in Prizren is impacted by a busy road running next to the church and by the threat of urban planning changes, including construction of privately owned residential buildings located in its immediate vicinity. The local police provides its physical protection, but the Church continues to be threatened by an unstable security situation.

The medieval heritage in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is the subject of numerous research works on its historical, architectural values and on art history through projects with academia and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, which provide a high level of interpretation of the origin, history and value of the heritage. Access is provided to groups of experts and citizens who plan their visits to the property's components in advance. Digital guides provide information on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. In 2023, a pilot project was initiated to set up digital information points in the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery. This project is planned to extend to all four components of the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28, 32 COM 7A.27, 33 COM 7A.27, 34 COM 7A.28, 35 COM 7A.31, 36 COM 7A.32, 37 COM 7A.34, 38 COM 7A.18, 39 COM 7A.42, 40 COM 7A.30, 41 COM 7A.21, 42 COM 7A.6, 43 COM 7A.46, 44 COM 7A.33, and 45 COM 7A.57** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*

3. *Acknowledges the information provided in the state of conservation reports between 2009 and 2024, and the findings of the missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe to the property;*
4. *Reiterates its request to continue to take long-term corrective measures, in cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the local Institutions in Kosovo, including ensuring adequate long-term legislative and regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the monuments and buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and timely implementation of the Management Plan;*
5. *Also reiterates its request to continue efforts, in cooperation with UNMIK, to complete the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation defined for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
6. *Finally requests the State Party to submit, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;*
7. ***Decides to retain Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue applying the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism until the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2023-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- War

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1998-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 74,665

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection' (USD 4,065,000 in 2023, with a supplementary budget of USD 5,899,270 in 2024), from which Kyiv partly benefitted

Previous monitoring missions

May 1999: ICOMOS expert mission; April 2006: expert mission (Italian Funds-in-Trust); November 2007: World Heritage Centre information meeting for site managers; March 2009, November 2010, April 2013, March 2017 and February 2020: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; February-June 2017, September-December 2018 and May 2019: ICOMOS Advisory assistance

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- Legal framework
- Management system/management plan
- Urban development pressure
- High-rise buildings that could compromise the panorama of the historical monastic Dnipro river landscape (built)
- War

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/>. The report presents progress on the conservation issues previously raised by the Committee, as follows:

- A Management Plan for the property has been finalised and transmitted to the World Heritage Centre together with the state of conservation report;
- No construction or restoration work are carried out within the property or the buffer zone without the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy (MCIP). There have been no urban development projects in Kyiv that could adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- An emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan is required;
- Measures have been taken to mitigate the risks, such as sandbags to protect the most vulnerable elements of Saint-Sophia Cathedral and the participation of specialists from the conservation areas of the property in UNESCO training programmes;
- The state of conservation of the property is satisfactory, and the condition and stability of the structures of the property are constantly monitored through the analysis of scientific and technical measures implemented in the monuments and their surroundings;
- Scientific research, particularly archaeological research, as well as repair and restoration projects have been carried out to improve the state of conservation and knowledge of the property. More specifically, the vibrometric monitoring of buildings and structures has been initiated (in test mode) to measure the impact of blast waves and horizontal and vertical vibrations during missile and UAV attacks on the city;
- The National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and National Conservation Area 'Saint-Sophia of Kyiv' urgently need technical support to process and store digital models;
- The threat of air strikes by the Russian Federation continues. At the same time, there is still a risk of emergency and rolling power cuts and the shutdown of special equipment that maintains stable conditions in the monuments (microclimate).

On 1 January 2024, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party submitted documentation on a residential building project in the buffer zone of the property, which was subject to a Technical Review by ICOMOS, which was communicated to the State Party on 9 April 2024.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party

UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies are working closely with the competent authorities and other cultural heritage stakeholders in Ukraine, as well as international partners, to support Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of its cultural heritage. This support is part of UNESCO's Actions and Emergency Assistance Programme for Ukraine and, more broadly, the Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine, coordinated by UNESCO and developed in close cooperation with more than forty national and international partners, including ICOMOS and ICCROM, and the MCIP, which endorsed it in August 2023.

In partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT (United Nations Satellite Centre), UNESCO continued the daily verification and documentation of war damage to cultural sites, including updating and maintaining the Ukraine Cultural Heritage Monitoring Platform developed by UNESCO and UNITAR/UNOSA. Satellite monitoring of cultural sites in Ukraine is being complemented by on-site assessment of a selected number of damaged cultural properties.

As part of the partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNESCO also organised an awareness-raising webinar on the principles of Geospatial Information Technologies (GIT) on 20 October 2023. The webinar was attended by the MCIP and more than 160 participants, including heritage professionals from the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and National Conservation Area 'Saint-Sophia of Kyiv'. The modules were translated into Ukrainian and made available on the UNITAR training courses [website](#).

Moreover, in the framework of the UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection', UNESCO, in collaboration with ICCROM, organised an online workshop on 3 and 6 October 2023, with the participation of more than 100 national and international stakeholders, including the National Heritage Institute of Poland, World Monuments Fund, UNOSAT and MCIP and its national partners, including heritage professionals from the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and National Conservation Area 'Saint-Sophia of Kyiv', to identify and discuss existing methodologies for damage and risk assessment of cultural property. The outcome of this workshop, aimed at cultural heritage professionals, World Heritage and Tentative List sites managers, and those responsible for cultural property under enhanced protection, was the development of a unified methodology and form for on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural property, adapted to the Ukrainian context, in accordance with the national regulatory framework and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999). Based on the methodology developed, a five-day in-person workshop was held in L'viv from 23 to 27 October 2023 for 20 Ukrainian professionals, including from the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and National Conservation Area 'Saint-Sophia of Kyiv', on how to conduct on-site damage and risk assessments.

Also in the framework of the above-mentioned UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project, on 23 April 2024, in collaboration with ICOMOS, an online working session was organised with representatives of MCIP and five professionals from the 'National Conservation Area Saint-Sophia of Kyiv' to discuss the available and pending digital documentation for this component part of the property, as well as gaps and issues related to the process and storage of digital models in preparation for the documentation of the state of conservation of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral in June-July 2024 and the provision of guidelines for emergency preparedness measures for the property. Lastly, in the framework of the same Funds-in-Trust project, support is being provided to develop project documentation and implement priority restoration interventions in the 17th century Church of All Saints in the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra component of the property.

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

The report highlights the progress made in the conservation of the property and describes the challenges faced by a country at war in implementing the requests and recommendations of the Committee.

Following an extensive programme of collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS since 2017, the State Party has submitted a proposed Management Plan, which has been reviewed by ICOMOS. The parameters, structure and content are deemed adequate, but a number of important further refinements are recommended before the Management Plan is finalised, including provisions for its legal status, preservation of authenticity and integrity of the property, interpretation, urban development controls and inclusion of an action plan.

As a complement to the Management Plan, and as requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.59**, it is recommended to reiterate to the State Party that it should ensure that the adopted and planned

legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted. The Committee may also wish to remind the State Party that, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, Heritage Impact Assessments are to be carried out as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around the property and submitted, together with project details, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and that such assessments should be carried out in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

In the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection', UNESCO, in cooperation with ICOMOS and ICCROM, is assisting the State Party in the development of a comprehensive methodology for conducting post-event on-site damage and risk assessment for immovable cultural property in Ukraine, the documentation (including through 3D) of the state of conservation of the component part of the property 'Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings', and the preparation of guidelines on risk reduction, emergency preparedness and first aid. This work should contribute to the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan for the property, noting that the Committee requested that this be given high priority and that full use be made of the assistance provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. In developing this plan, it would be appropriate to incorporate the work being undertaken on vibrometric monitoring of buildings and structures.

The scientific studies, repairs and restoration work carried out by the State Party on the property are welcome.

While the State Party has in place detailed regulations to preserve the landscape and urban qualities of the buffer zone, including restrictions on the volume and height of new buildings, a review of recent new developments has highlighted the need for these regulations to be better adapted to the specific characteristics of the historic urban landscape in order to prevent the urbanisation of green areas such as the slopes of the Pechora-Navodnytska hill.

A proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the definition of a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation has not yet been produced. It is recommended that the Committee again request the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the establishment of the DSOCR, with associated corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, including an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan to be included in the Management Plan for the property, noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences.

Overall, the property remains subject to ascertained and potential danger due to the ongoing war and should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.59** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Deplores the Russian's Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;
4. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', in particular the various protective measures it has taken, and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing potential threats facing the property in relation to the ongoing war;

5. Renews its call on all Parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
6. Welcomes the various actions undertaken by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in protecting and safeguarding the property and, more generally, of cultural heritage throughout its territory within its internationally recognised borders, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List;
8. Calls on the international community to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines, to continue to support the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage in Ukraine, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Ukraine;
9. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to prepare a Management Plan for the property under challenging circumstances and requests that the Management Plan is amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Review by ICOMOS, and resubmitted to the World Heritage Centre for further review before it is finalised and implemented;
10. Reiterates its concern that the risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential impacts of nearby missile strikes on the building fabric and measures to address these impacts, and strongly encourages the State Party to give high priority to the development and urgent implementation of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, taking full advantage of the support that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies can provide, thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, and incorporating the work being done on vibrometric monitoring of buildings and structures;
11. Further acknowledges the scientific studies, repair and restoration work carried out by the State Party on the property, takes note of the State Party's request regarding the urgent need for technical assistance to the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and National Conservation Area 'Saint-Sophia of Kyiv' for the processing and storage of digital models, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, to improve the processing and storage of digital data models undertaken for various components of the property;
12. Notes the detailed regulations already in place to preserve the landscape and urban qualities of the buffer zone, including restrictions on the volume and height of new buildings, but further notes that a review of recent new developments has highlighted the need for these regulations to be better adapted to the specific characteristics of the historic urban landscape, and requests the State Party to fine-tune these regulations to prevent the urbanisation of green areas such as the slopes of the Pechora-Navodnytska hill;

13. *Reminds* the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments of major projects that may impact the OUV of the property should be undertaken, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and *further invites* the State Party to follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context in their preparation;
14. *Also reiterates its request* to the State Party to ensure that the adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted, and *invites* the State Party to take full advantage of the assistance to be provided by UNESCO, at the request of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, and thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine;
15. *Further reiterates its request* to the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session, while noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences;
16. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2025** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
17. ***Decides to retain Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (ii)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2023-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- War

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

- UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection' (USD 4,065,000 in 2023, with a supplementary budget of USD 5,899,270 in 2024), from which L'viv partly benefitted

Previous monitoring missions

January 2004: ICOMOS-German World Heritage Foundation mission; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- New constructions within the historic centre
- Lack of valid detailed planning documents
- Inadequate infrastructure including the sewage system
- Housing
- Management systems/management plan
- Solid waste
- War

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/documents/>. The report highlights the main factors that could lead to the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as follows:

- The constant threat of drone and missile attacks by the military forces of the Russian Federation, exemplified by the destruction of monuments in the buffer zone of the property on 6 July 2023;
- The potential threat of deterioration of the property following the suspension of large-scale restoration projects due to martial law and lack of funding, and the loss of heritage specialists. Few of the restoration projects were implemented before the full-scale invasion. While some restoration work has continued since the beginning of the war, including with financial assistance from Poland, it has mostly concentrated on the interiors of the monuments. The loss of qualified heritage staff is further threatening the quality of work on the monuments;
- New construction projects in the property and its buffer zone; the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy (MCIP) has stopped several large-scale construction projects through its monitoring. However, the construction company behind the hotel project at 9 Adam Mickiewicz Square succeeded in overturning the MCIP's order in court to stop construction on the grounds of violation of the law and a threat to the OUV of the property and continued with the current construction. The current project exceeds the parameters of the previous project, which received a negative advice from the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

The report also provides information on the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property, the measures taken to ensure its protection and the actions planned for 2024, as follows:

- The Department of Historic Environment Protection of the L'viv City Council constantly monitors and informs the MCIP. The MCIP, by its Order No. 35 of 22 January 2024, approved the scientific and design documentation 'Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of L'viv', which defines the boundaries and modes of use of L'viv's monument protection zones, establishes requirements for works and restrictions in the property and its buffer zone;
- Since the beginning of the war, a joint action plan has been drawn up by volunteer groups to protect cultural heritage sites in the property and its buffer zone. Over 50 sites were protected with special structures (such as metal shields and nets) and sandbags, while valuable elements were dismantled and moved to shelters. Fire protection equipment of the monuments was enhanced. 13 monuments were 3-D scanned. In addition, the L'viv City Council continues to mark monuments with the Blue Shield sign;
- It is planned to carry out restoration work on a few selected buildings in 2024, and to develop and adopt a Management Plan for the property, including a detailed emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan. The State Party requests the support of the World Heritage Centre to this

end, as well as to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Between February and April 2024, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party submitted five urban transformation projects in the perimeter and buffer zone of the property, three of which have been technically reviewed by ICOMOS and the remaining two still under technical review by the Advisory Body.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party

UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies are working closely with the competent authorities and other cultural heritage stakeholders in Ukraine, as well as international partners, to support Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of its cultural heritage. This support is part of UNESCO's actions and emergency assistance programme for Ukraine and, more broadly, the Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine, coordinated by UNESCO and developed in close cooperation with more than forty national and international partners, including ICOMOS and ICCROM, and the MCIP, which endorsed it in August 2023.

In particular, UNESCO provided technical assistance for the historic residential complex in the buffer zone of the property (located at 50-76b, Stryyska Street), which was damaged by a missile on 6 July 2023, by conducting a 3D architectural laser scanning documentation and providing an international expert to advise the City Council's technical team on consolidation and reinforcement measures to be implemented on the damaged buildings (July-August 2023).

In partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT (United Nations Satellite Centre), UNESCO continued the daily verification and documentation of war damage to cultural sites, including updating and maintaining the Ukraine Cultural Heritage Monitoring Platform developed by UNESCO and UNITAR/UNOSAT. Satellite monitoring of cultural sites in Ukraine is being complemented by on-site assessment of a selected number of damaged cultural properties. A detailed damage assessment of the above-mentioned historic residential complex in the buffer zone of the property was conducted by UNESCO and ICCROM as a case study in the framework of a 5-day in-person training workshop/course on post-event on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural heritage sites in L'viv (23 to 27 October 2023).

The 'L'viv Culture Hub', supported by the UNESCO/Spain Funds-in-Trust, will be located in a historic building at 6 Kniazia Romana Street in L'viv, within the buffer zone of the property, and will open in mid-2024 after the completion of the renovation and restoration works. UNESCO has already completed the restoration of the building's historic non-structural elements (doors and windows), with the remaining work to be completed shortly.

Due to the relatively more stable security situation in L'viv and the imminent opening of the 'L'viv Cultural Hub', a large number of support and training activities led by UNESCO and its partners have been hosted by the city of L'viv.

As part of the partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNESCO also organised an awareness-raising webinar on the principles of Geospatial Information Technologies (GIT) on 20 October 2023. The webinar was attended by the MCIP and more than 160 participants. The modules were translated into Ukrainian and made available on the UNITAR training courses [website](#). Following the webinar, UNESCO and UNITAR/UNOSAT organised an on-site advanced training on the use of satellite imagery and data interpretation for 20 Ukrainian culture and heritage professionals in L'viv from 27 to 30 November 2023.

In the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection', UNESCO, in collaboration with ICCROM, organised an online workshop on 3 and 6 October 2023, with the participation of more than 100 national and international stakeholders, including the National Heritage Institute of Poland, World Monuments Fund, UNOSAT and MCIP and its national partners, to identify and discuss existing methodologies for damage and risk assessment of cultural property. The outcome of this workshop, aimed at cultural heritage professionals, World Heritage and Tentative List sites managers, and those responsible for cultural property under enhanced protection, was the development of a unified methodology and form for on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural property, adapted to the Ukrainian context, in accordance with the national regulatory framework and the 1954 *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols* (1954 and 1999). Based on the methodology developed, a 5-day in-person workshop was held in L'viv from 23 to 27 October 2023 for 20 Ukrainian professionals on how to conduct on-site damage and risk assessments.

Furthermore, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Getty Conservation Institute and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, organised a capacity-building activity on collection management and

preservation during conflicts, which took place on 10 and 11 October 2023. The workshop aimed to equip collection managers and museum conservators from cultural institutions in Ukraine with essential skills, knowledge and strategies – stabilisation measures, emergency planning and risk assessment – to preserve collections and safeguard cultural assets.

In addition, from 27 to 29 February 2024, UNESCO organised a training on ‘Enhancing museums’ capacities in collection management, digitisation and sustainability during emergencies’, which covered critical skills in collection management, digitisation and emergency preparedness. Fifty-four participants, including museum directors, curators and collection management specialists participated in this training in L’viv.

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

As a result of the Russian Federation’s full-scale invasion, the property continues to be threatened by serious and specific dangers. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies propose that the World Heritage Committee reiterate its call to the parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the cultural heritage of Ukraine, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as to sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to comply with their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies stand ready to assist the State Party in developing a proposal for the DSOCR and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, as well as an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.60**. The request of the State Party for assistance in developing a Management Plan for the property is duly noted and may be supported through the World Heritage Fund’s budget line for properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The State Party’s efforts to continue necessary restoration projects despite difficult circumstances due to martial law, lack of funds and the loss of heritage specialists, are commendable, as are its efforts to protect a number of cultural heritage monuments within the property.

The inability of the MCIP to halt the hotel project at 9 Adam Mickiewicz Square is of concern. The hotel appears to be even larger in scale than envisaged in the previous project, for which ICOMOS recommended the removal of at least one floor and further design changes in its 2019 Technical Review. As such, it will have a negative impact on the OUV of the property. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request an immediate halt to the construction works and a redesign of the project to ensure that the new construction does not have a negative impact on the attributes that underpin the property’s OUV. Moreover, the continuation of this project despite its negative impact on the property highlights the need to enhance the effectiveness of existing protection and management regulations and policies at national and local levels, including the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for integrating heritage conservation into urban development plans and processes with a view to the future development of the city.

The request for detailed and differentiated legal protection regimes for the property and its buffer zone has been reiterated in recent Technical Reviews. The ‘Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of L’viv’ approved by the MCIP in January 2024, is a step forward. Future urban planning instruments, such as the Detailed Urban Plan and a Management Plan, of which the property has none, will have to comply with and fully respect it, as it is a key tool for the protection and management of the World Heritage property. Given that the ‘Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of L’viv’ has not been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its approval, the World Heritage Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit the full documentation contained in it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.60, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*

3. *Deplores the Russian's Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;*
4. *Commends the State Party for its strong commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', in particular for having taken various protective measures, and reiterates its utmost concern at the potential threats facing the property due to the ongoing war;*
5. *Renews its call on all Parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;*
6. *Welcomes the various actions undertaken by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in protecting and safeguarding the property and, more generally, of cultural heritage throughout its territory within its internationally recognised borders, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, and encourages further assistance and support, including to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session, as well as a Management Plan for the property, including an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, while noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences;*
7. *Encourages furthermore the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List;*
8. *Also calls on the international community to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Ukraine, to continue to support the safeguarding of Ukraine's cultural and natural heritage, and to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Expresses its concern about the potential negative impact of the hotel project at 9 Adam Mickiewicz Square, within the property, on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and requests an immediate halt to the construction works and a redesign of the project to ensure that it does not have a negative impact on the property's OUV;*
10. *Expresses further concern that the planning and management systems in place at the property have allowed this development to occur, recommends that these systems be strengthened and made consistent with the objective of maintaining the OUV of the property and implementing the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape; reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the 1972 World Heritage Convention and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO, at the request of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine, in particular through a legal analysis and*

systematisation of national normative acts governing the protection of cultural property, to ensure alignment with relevant international standard-setting instruments;

11. *Takes note of the Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of L'viv approved by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and requests the State Party to submit this documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 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 47th session;*
13. ***Decides to retain L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

6. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) (C 1703)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2023-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- War

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

- UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection' (USD 4,065,000 in 2023), from which Odesa partly benefits
- UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project "Preserving cultural heritage in Ukraine: Reinforcing monitoring, emergency response and preparedness at damaged cultural and natural heritage sites in Ukraine, including the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa'" (USD 5,899,270 in 2024) from which Odesa partly benefits
- UNESCO-Italy Funds-in-Trust project 'Urgent provision of a protective roof for the Transfiguration Cathedral': USD 530,000 (in 2024)
- Heritage Emergency Fund: USD 416,350 (2023-2024)
- Foundation of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière: USD 192,600 (in 2024)

- World Heritage Fund (budget line for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger): USD 30,000 (in 2024)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors affecting the property identified at the time of inscription:

- War
- Buffer zone
- Legal framework
- Management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/documents>. The State Party reports that it has been working on two fronts: the implementation of the Committee's Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.2** and the response to the consequences of the military strikes by the Russian Federation on the property and its buffer zone.

With regard to the implementation of the above-mentioned Decision, the State Party reports that it has been hampered by the ongoing war:

- A map showing an expanded boundary was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in June 2023 and referred back to the State Party after ICOMOS concluded that it did not comply with the Committee's decision. A revised proposal, in line with the Committee's recommendations, has been prepared by the Municipality of Odesa for submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- The submission of a Minor Boundary Modification for the buffer zone will be undertaken after the map of the extended boundary of the property has been approved;
- A joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was invited to visit the property in March 2023, but it has not yet taken place due to the security situation;
- The legal protection system for the property has been strengthened and as of December 2023, construction permits in the Central Historic Area require approval in accordance with the Law of Ukraine 'On Protection of Cultural Heritage';
- The integration of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) mechanisms into the legal framework as a prerequisite for urban development projects and activities planned within the property and its buffer zone would require an amendment of the State Party's regulatory framework;
- The implementation of preservation programmes, including the restoration of facades and roofs of important cultural heritage buildings, continues;
- A process to identify the tangible and intangible aspects of the city's multi-ethnic and multicultural heritage is underway through an EU4Culture project.

The State Party further reports that:

- Five large-scale missile and drone strikes by the Russian Federation hit the property in the second half of 2023, resulting in damage to approximately 100 cultural heritage sites in the property and its buffer zone;
- During meetings of the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954 Hague Convention) on 7 September and 14 December 2023, three cultural heritage buildings in the property were granted provisional enhanced protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party

UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies are working closely with the competent authorities and other cultural heritage stakeholders in Ukraine, as well as international partners, to support Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of its cultural heritage. This support is part of UNESCO's Actions and Emergency

Assistance Programme for Ukraine and, more broadly, the Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine, which was coordinated by UNESCO and developed in close cooperation with more than forty national and international partners, including ICOMOS and ICCROM, and the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy (MCIP), which endorsed it in August 2023.

In the city of Odesa, more than 300 cultural sites have been marked with the Blue Shield emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention, both inside and outside the perimeter of the World Heritage property.

In partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT (United Nations Satellite Centre), UNESCO continued the daily verification and documentation of war damage to cultural sites, including the updating and maintenance of the Ukraine Cultural Heritage Monitoring Platform developed by UNESCO and UNITAR/UNOSAT. Satellite monitoring of cultural sites in Ukraine is being complemented by on-site assessment of a selected number of damaged cultural properties.

As part of the partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNESCO organised an awareness-raising webinar on the principles of Geospatial Information Technologies (GIT) on 20 October 2023. The webinar was attended by the MCIP and more than 160 participants, including heritage professionals from the Odesa City Council. The modules were translated into Ukrainian and made available on the UNITAR training courses [website](#). Following the webinar, UNESCO and UNITAR/UNOSAT organised an on-site advanced training on the use of satellite imagery and data interpretation for 20 Ukrainian cultural and heritage professionals, including from the Odesa City Council, in L'viv from 27 to 30 November 2023.

Following the UNESCO International Expert Mission to Assess Damage to Cultural and Religious Sites in Odesa (from 29 July to 1 August 2023 and from 28 August to 10 September 2023), which included ICCROM and ICOMOS experts, a detailed report was presented to the 15th Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention on 11 December 2023, providing details of the 52 cultural properties that the authorities reported had been damaged, of which 47 could be verified by the UNESCO International Expert Mission (five could not be verified due to restricted access). The information collected was used to formulate and improve the effectiveness of emergency measures and interventions, to strengthen first aid and risk prevention in accordance with Decision **18.EXT.COM 5.2**, and to prepare long-term comprehensive conservation plans.

In the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection', UNESCO, in cooperation with ICCROM, organised an online workshop on 3 and 6 October 2023, with the participation of more than 100 national and international stakeholders, including the National Heritage Institute of Poland, World Monuments Fund, UNOSAT and MCIP and its national partners including heritage professionals from the Odesa Regional State Administration. The workshop served, to identify and discuss existing methodologies for damage and risk assessment of cultural property. The outcome of this workshop, aimed at cultural heritage professionals, World Heritage and Tentative List sites managers, and those responsible for cultural property under enhanced protection, was the development of a unified methodology and form for on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural property, adapted to the Ukrainian context, in accordance with the national regulatory framework and the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999). Based on the methodology developed, a 5-day in-person workshop was held in L'viv from 23 to 27 October 2023 for 20 Ukrainian professionals, including from the Odesa City Council and the Odesa Regional State Administration, on how to conduct on-site damage and risk assessments.

As well as assessing the damage, the work of UNESCO and its partners, thanks in particular to the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF), has focused on urgent repairs and protective measures, as well as strengthening emergency preparedness and first aid.

In cooperation with the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI)/Agency for Cultural Resilience (ACURE) and the Department of Culture, International Cooperation and European Integration of the Odesa City Council, with the support of ICCROM, ICOMOS and UNDRR, a workshop on 'Improving the efficiency of emergency response, first-aid and external risk management for cultural heritage in the historic centre of Odesa' was organised in Odesa (18-19 September 2023), with 40 participants from 27 organisations, representing local governments, emergency response and law enforcement agencies, museums, cultural institutions and civil society organisations.

Repairs to the Odesa Fine Arts Museum and the securing and digitisation of the museum's collections and archives have been completed. Winterisation of the House of Scientists and the Western and Eastern Art Museum has also been completed. The windows of the Manuk-Bey Mansion/Kindergarten

№ 50, the Literature Museum and the Fine Arts Museum have been fitted with oriented strand board and protective armour film.

Five major public monuments have been secured with protective coverings, and the protection of two other monuments is ongoing.

In preparation for protective measures and urgent repairs, architectural visual and instrumental inspections were carried out on five priority buildings (House of Scientists, Manuk-Bey Mansion/kindergarten № 50, Stoliarsky Music School, Professional College of Industrial Automation and Information Technologies of Odesa National Technological University and Kindergarten № 29), as well as urgent geological surveys at the Literature Museum.

From the list of 47 sites inspected by the UNESCO International Expert Mission in August-September 2023, crack monitoring gauges were procured and installed in January 2024 in nine priority buildings at risk (Museum of Fine Arts, Passage and Hotel 'Passage', Museum of Western and Eastern Art, Technical School of Industrial Automatics, residential building Massa, Stolyarsky State Music School, Archaeological Museum, Literature Museum, and House of Scientists). In consultation with the MCIP, four historic buildings have also been pre-identified for urgent repairs (Stolyarsky State Music School, Manuk-Bey's Mansion/ kindergarten № 50, the Massa residential building/Professional College of Industrial Automation and Information Technologies of Odesa National University of Technology, and kindergarten № 29). In addition, urgent stabilisation works at the House of Scientists, including the retaining wall and the annex building A, will be prioritised as part of the HEF-supported project, which is scheduled to start in June 2024.

Following the signing of a project agreement between Italy (Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development) and UNESCO on 7 February 2024, UNESCO is contributing to the completion of the installation of a permanent roof (remaining 115.2 sqm) over the area of the Transfiguration Cathedral in Odesa, which was damaged as a result of a missile attack by the Russian Federation on 23 July 2023. This action will be informed by the results of an in-depth structural analysis and building pathology conducted by an international technical team set up by UNESCO for this purpose. As a result of the structural research, which UNESCO presented to local stakeholders in Odesa on 24 May 2024, preparations for the implementation of the works are underway.

The city's museums have also been at the centre of activities by UNESCO and its partners. As part of the project funded by the Foundation of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, support has been provided for the reorganisation of storage at the Archaeological Museum. Two trainings have been organised: from 23 to 28 October 2023 to train museum staff on storage reorganisation and risk management; and from 16 to 19 January 2024 to finalise the list of necessary equipment and units, assess potential new space for storage reorganisation and analyse security measures and requirements.

In addition, UNESCO, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) and the Getty Conservation Institute, has organised training sessions for museums professionals at the L'viv Culture Hub, an initiative supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation: from 10 to 11 October 2023 on collection management and preservation during conflict, with the participation of the curator of the Archaeological Museum of Odesa; and from 27 to 29 February 2024, on critical skills in collection management, digitisation and emergency preparedness for heritage professionals, with the participation of the director of the Odesa Archaeological Museum.

At the request of the national and local authorities, UNESCO's assistance will now focus on the preparation of the management plan for the property, with the support of the World Heritage Fund and in close cooperation with ICOMOS, with whom a first meeting on World Heritage processes and the implementation of Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.2** was held on 24 January 2024.

As part of a new UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Preserving cultural heritage in Ukraine: Reinforcing monitoring, emergency response and preparedness at damaged cultural and natural heritage sites in Ukraine, including the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa'', UNESCO will assist the State Party in the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan and the enhancement of operational protocols for the property to be included in its management plan, in risk preparedness and emergency response training for key professionals likely to intervene at the property and the development of an urgent conservation plan for the damaged cultural building of the House of Scientists.

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

It is of grave concern that, as reported by the State Party, five large-scale missile and drone strikes hit the property and its buffer zone in 2023. Military actions by the Russian Federation continue to pose a significant ascertained threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The State Party has made significant progress in responding to the Committee's decision of January 2023 despite the difficult situation due to the ongoing war. In particular, the State Party has submitted an updated map of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone which is deemed to be consistent with the boundaries of the property as inscribed and is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/maps/>.

The Committee may therefore wish to remind the State Party and the international partners supporting the protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine that the State Party's intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property should be notified to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the OUV of the property is fully preserved, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The rationale for a phased approach to the submission of a minor boundary modification request to extend the boundaries of the buffer zone, as recommended by the Committee, is supported.

Moreover, the documentation, stabilisation, repair and restoration work of damaged cultural heritage buildings reported by the State Party is commendable in these challenging circumstances.

The strengthening of the protection of the property through the requirement that construction permits in the Central Historic Area be approved in accordance with the Law of Ukraine 'On Protection of Cultural Heritage', should be welcomed. However, Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms have yet to be integrated into the legal framework as a prerequisite for development projects and activities planned in the property and its buffer zone.

It is unfortunate that the joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property has been delayed due to the security situation, as this mission could have also advised the State Party on the development of a management plan for the property, including on the development of monitoring indicators and disaster risk preparedness. Ongoing UNESCO's assistance in this regard, through the World Heritage Fund and other funding mechanisms, is welcomed and should be further encouraged. Until the security situation allows for the organisation of the Reactive Monitoring mission, the State Party should benefit from the continuing assistance of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies in establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and in defining a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, including disaster, climate change and other risk preparedness measures to be included in the revised Management Plan, noting that this process may need to be adapted in light of the ongoing war and its unpredictable consequences.

The State Party's efforts to identify the tangible and intangible aspects of the property's multiethnic and multicultural heritage through the European Union funded 'Support for the Implementation of the Odesa Cultural Development Strategy' project, is welcome. The submission of documentation on the outcomes of project would also be welcome.

The State Party's active engagement in the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999), which has been granted provisional enhanced protection in the property, should be welcomed. This can be seen as an example of the State Party's earnest engagement in the safeguarding the OUV of the property, during a time when it is under attack.

Overall, the property remains subject to ascertained and potential danger due to the ongoing war and should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.2** adopted at its 18th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023),
3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing ascertained and potential threats facing the property;
4. Appreciates the commitment of the State Party to the protection of the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa', in particular through the various protective measures taken, including the documentation, stabilisation, repair and restoration work of damaged cultural heritage buildings, and invites the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect the property and, in general, its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as the sites included in the Tentative List;
5. Renews its call on all Parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
6. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the Committee's previous decision, despite the difficult circumstances, and requests the State Party to continue to implement the remaining recommendations with due diligence, as permitted by the current circumstances, and to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, including under the World Heritage Fund;
7. Takes note of the submission by the State Party of the map of the property, as requested by the Committee in its previous decision, and considers this to be consistent with the boundaries of the property as inscribed;
8. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party, made in its previous decision, to give urgent consideration to extending the buffer zone of the property and setting out how it will be managed to support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and further invites the State Party to submit, as soon as possible, a minor boundary modification reflecting the extended buffer zone;
9. Reiterates its call on the international community to continue to support the safeguarding of Ukraine's cultural and natural heritage, and further calls on the international community to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property from Ukraine;
10. Reiterates its concern that the risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential impacts of missile strikes on the building fabric and measures to address these impacts, and strongly encourages the State Party to give high priority to the development and urgent implementation of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, taking full advantage of the support that UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies can provide thanks to the support of the Government of Japan;
11. Notes with appreciation the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and expresses its regret that this mission could not take place due to the ongoing security situation;

12. Also notes with appreciation the project ‘Support for the Implementation of the Odesa Cultural Development Strategy’ and requests that its outcomes be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
13. Further notes with appreciation the granting of provisional enhanced protection under the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to three buildings in the property, and encourages the State Party to seek enhanced protection under the Second Protocol for other significant cultural heritage buildings in the property;
14. Reminds the State Party that major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property should be notified to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse and that Heritage Impact Assessments of such projects should be undertaken following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines respectively;
15. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the assistance to be provided by UNESCO, at the request of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, and thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine;
16. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session, while noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences;
17. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 47th session;
18. Decides to retain The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

AFRICA

13. Tomb of Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Occupation of Gao city by armed rebel groups
- Inability to ensure daily management in the protection and conservation of the property
- Risk of collapse of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
In progress

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6623>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2000-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 79,822

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 40,000; Action Plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali: USD 50,000; USD 500,000 funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) for the rehabilitation of the property; African World Heritage Fund: USD 15,000 for the documentation and development of the historical burial grounds of the Tomb of Askia necropolis in Gao.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako; February 2014: UNESCO assessment mission to Gao; April 2017: UNESCO Expert mission to assess the state of conservation of Mali's World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of site management
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, (available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>), followed by an updated table on corrective measures provided on 20 March 2024, providing the following information:

- The project to restore the Tomb of Askia, funded by the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH), was rescheduled and launched on 2 March 2024, with the first steps under way (selection of contractors, disbursement and purchase of equipment);
- The State Party recalls the components of this project (consolidation of physical structures, training of masons and guides, development of the ablution area, construction of latrines, rehabilitation of the fence, production of a conservation manual, regeneration of the *hasu* plants in the courtyard of the tomb, as well as the promotion of traditional architecture and the use of local building materials);
- The project also includes resolving the problem of visibility of the site, due to the excessively high boundary wall, during 2024 and replacing the metal doors with wooden ones in the women's mosque and the north, west and south evening prayer areas;
- The presence of a few eucalyptus poles on the east wall of the men's mosque was noted, as was the presence of bats in the men's mosque;
- The spreading of fine sand in the prayer area continues to counter water erosion;
- Some of the buffer zone is still occupied by illegal housing;
- Persistent insecurity continues to be the major problem affecting the property, despite progress in securing and stabilizing the country;
- The State Party notes the renewed attachment of local communities to their cultural heritage and stresses the importance of the involvement of decentralized authorities, local communities and particularly young people, women and cultural associations, in the rehabilitation of the property;
- A communication plan to raise awareness in the local community has been drawn up for 2022, but activities to enhance the buffer zone are needed to prevent it from being occupied by the riverside population;
- Following the follow-up workshop for development of the desired state of conservation for the removal of West African sites from the List of World Heritage in Danger (Senegal, June 2023), a meeting with all stakeholders and financial partners is suggested, at which to draw up a precise and detailed timetable for the implementation of corrective measures;
- An international assistance request for revision of the 2018–2022 Conservation and Management Plan for the property has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- On 5 May 2023, a guided tour of the site was organized with young people from the Communal Council of the urban commune of Gao to celebrate African World Heritage Day.

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

The State Party's report focuses on the Tomb rehabilitation project funded by ALIPH. The benefit of this project is to intervene on most of the corrective measures. However, its implementation has been delayed since the grant agreement was signed between ALIPH and the National Directorate for Cultural Heritage (NDCH) in January 2020, followed by the creation of a Steering Committee and a launch ceremony in March 2020, before administrative management was entrusted to the auditing firm Pyramis. This raises concerns about the property's capacity to manage and execute large-scale projects. The news of its operational launch in March 2024 is therefore welcome and encouraging. It would be particularly useful to ask the State Party to submit an updated work plan for this project to the World Heritage Centre, as well as – where possible – progress reports that can be annexed to future state of conservation reports.

The reminder of the various actions planned under this project was noted, as was the information on the various constraints that need to be addressed, such as the remaining eucalyptus poles on the east wall of the men's mosque, the presence of bats in the men's mosque and the work to spread fine sand in the prayer area to counter water erosion. However, these tasks are mainly part of the ongoing maintenance work that will be addressed by the project now under way and, at this stage, do not represent a major threat to the property. However, the State Party is right to raise the issue of illegal dwellings in the buffer zone and to plan awareness-raising actions aimed at the population concerned. More should be learned about the effectiveness of these actions in the next State Party report.

The emphasis placed on the importance of involving all stakeholders in the rehabilitation project and on the fact that local communities are renewing their attachment to their cultural heritage is much

appreciated. The community engagement and awareness-raising measures, including the African World Heritage Day celebrations on 5 May 2023, are commendable. Here too, it would be useful for the communication plan, developed in 2022, to be provided to the World Heritage Centre so that it can be better assessed.

With regard to the management of the property, it is appreciated that the State Party has submitted a request for international assistance to update the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) 2018–2022 jointly with the CMPs for the other three Malian properties. This work to update the PGC will have to be aligned with finalization of development of the Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), scheduled for 2024, to be submitted for adoption by the Committee at its next session in 2025. In this respect, it is crucial also to include a costed action plan to support in particular the mobilization of financial partners at a meeting suggested by the State Party.

Finally, insecurity is still the major threat to the property. That said, it would be useful if a more in-depth and up-to-date analysis could be provided in order to better understand precisely how insecurity actually affects the management and conservation of the property, in a situation in which progress has been noted in securing and stabilizing the country.

Although developments at the property appear encouraging on the whole, it is recommended that the Committee keep the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.24, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party on the operational launch, in March 2024, of the project to rehabilitate the Tomb of Askia and thanks the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) for providing funding for activities that take into account all the corrective measures;*
4. *Expresses its concern, however, about the cumulative delays since the initial launch of this project in January 2020, particularly with regard to capacities for managing and implementing large-scale projects, and requests that the State Party submit an updated work plan for this project to the World Heritage Centre, as well as detailed documentation for each stage of the project, in order to establish archives of the work to be carried out;*
5. *Takes note of the various interventions in progress or planned; notably removal of the remaining eucalyptus poles on the east wall of the men's mosque, the presence of bats in the men's mosque and work to spread fine sand in the prayer area to counter water erosion;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party to resolve the problem of illegal dwellings occupying the buffer zone of the property – by means of awareness-raising actions aimed at the population concerned – and requests that the State Party provide further information, in its next report, on the effectiveness of these actions and other mitigation measures taken or proposed in this regard;*
7. *Expresses its satisfaction at the strengthened attachment of the local communities to their cultural heritage and the importance given to the involvement of all stakeholders in the rehabilitation project, thanks the State party, in particular through the Cultural Mission for its community engagement and awareness-raising efforts, including the celebrations*

of African World Heritage Day on 5 May 2023, and requests that the State Party provide the World Heritage Centre with the Communication Plan, developed in 2022, so that these efforts can be assessed more effectively;

8. Welcomes the submission by the State Party of an international assistance request for updating of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, following the expiry of the previous plan in 2022, and requests that the State Party submit the draft updated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Expresses its appreciation of the progress made in developing the Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests that it be submitted for adoption at its next session in 2025;
10. Requests in this regard that the State Party also develop a costed action plan to support, in particular, the mobilization of technical and financial partners for implementation of the corrective measures necessary to achieve DSOCR;
11. Considering that insecurity continues to be the main threat to the property, requests that the State Party provide a more in-depth and up-to-date analysis enabling it to better understand the broader context and the precise impact that insecurity actually has on the property;
12. Finally requests that, by **1 February 2025**, the State Party submit an updated report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
13. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
14. Decides to keep the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

25. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) (C 1565)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

26. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

33. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

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 2000-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Serious deterioration of the built heritage (a high percentage of the residential houses being replaced by concrete and multi-storey buildings)
- The remaining houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants
- Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart
- The traditional economic role of the city has vanished
- The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4357> (requires revision)

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282> (requires revision)

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4357> (requires revision)

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1994-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 188,997

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust and the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement

Total amount granted to Yemeni cultural properties: USD 194,836 from the European Union for damage assessments, capacity development and emergency stabilization of damaged buildings and protection of archaeological sites

2018-2021: EUR 9,780,000 from the European Union for the project: Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen (Sana'a, Shibam, Zabid and Aden)

2019-2020: USD 40,200 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for post flood emergency interventions on two historic houses of outstanding importance in Zabid World Heritage site

2022-2026: USD 22,552,000 from the European Union for the project: Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: International expertise missions; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Land conversion
- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Management system / management plan
- Serious degradation of the city's heritage (many houses and the ancient souq are in an alarming state of deterioration)
- Housing (Large percentage of the city's houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings)
- Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these are built-up
- Reduction in support and resources arising from political and socio-economic disturbances

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2024, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>, presenting the following information:

- The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be threatened by economic and social factors, deteriorated condition of historic buildings, illegal construction, heavy rainfall damage, lack of organizational and financial resources, and ongoing conflict. Nevertheless, works have continued to protect and preserve the property;
- Efforts to halt violations are being made, involving all relevant stakeholders;
- Six building violations were removed during 2023, and new building licenses will only be issued once a 'Zabid Guide' is completed;
- A project for the conservation of 60 historic buildings has been undertaken with local funding. In addition, studies for the conservation of the historic Zabid Castle, and a field survey of buildings affected by the 2023 torrential rains were carried out;

- Proposals to clarify the property's boundary and buffer zone will be prepared in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, with a proposal to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
- There is a strong desire to implement the National Strategy for Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Historic Cities in Yemen 2016-2020 and the Emergency Action Plan to Protect Cultural Heritage in Yemen, but lack of resources has prevented progress, and funding support would be welcome. Yet, the strategy needs updating before implementation;
- The World Heritage Committee request to all parties to protect the property from impact from conflict is welcome;
- Ongoing technical and financial support is needed to preserve authenticity and integrity of the property so that it may be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, once conflict ceases;
- The proposed joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission would be welcome as soon as feasible, and should assess the state of conservation, and identify measures to address the effects of conflict and ensure sustainable conservation.

The second phase of the UNESCO/European Union project "Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen" has allowed advancing with the rehabilitation of historical buildings. Based on socio-economic surveys, the selection of buildings and a comprehensive technical study have proceeded. The project's implementing partners – Social Fund for Development and the Public Works Project – are engaged in the rehabilitation of 100 buildings and two public spaces in the city. As part of the rehabilitation methodology for this phase, removal of building violations within the rehabilitated houses is now being conducted that includes removing elements that are built using cement blocks or even reinforced concrete and replacing them using traditional building materials.

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

Ongoing conflict, the fragile state of many historic structures, heavy rainfall events, economic conditions, and ongoing lack of maintenance continue to threaten the OUV of the property. This situation continues to be exacerbated by the lack of organizational support and scarce resources, which limit effective heritage management and physical conservation works.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the efforts of local and international actors have made progress in protecting and conserving attributes which support the OUV of the property. Pro-active action regarding building violations is welcome as is the preparation of a 'Zabid Guide'. The reported conservation of approximately 160 dilapidated or damaged historic buildings is commendable, as is the implementation of the second phase of the 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' project, including documentation for works to 100 buildings. The capacity building workshops and training previously reported to the Committee are important to ensure that these programmes comply with building regulations, and respect original materials and building techniques, thereby maintaining attributes which convey the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.

Definition of the boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification for the property in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines remain important for ensuring the protection of the property and the State Party should be encouraged to pursue this process.

Noting the threat to the property posed by conflict, the Committee may wish to reiterate its former request to all parties to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The ratification of the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention, by Yemen on 1 June 2023 is an important step towards contributing to the protection of cultural property in the country.

The previously requested Reactive Monitoring mission should visit the property as soon as the security situation allows. The challenges in finalizing the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020, and implementing the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, are acknowledged and it is hoped that these may progress, following the Reactive Monitoring mission, with the benefit of international support.

The Historic Town of Zabid remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, security challenges, and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions at the property, including through the second phase of the 'EU-funded project 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' and requests that they continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification are elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,
7. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
8. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
9. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works and implementation of the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020 and the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, and to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 47th session;

11. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

35. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iv)(v)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Damages and threats related to the armed conflict in Yemen

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1990-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 101,997

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 1988: USD 374,800, UNDP/UNESCO project in support of local staff training and fund-raising. 2004-2006: USD 680,000 for the Inventory of the historic city (Italian Funds-in-Trust and Fund for the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of the city of Sanaa);

USD 12,000 for technical assistance in support of the reconstruction of the al-Qasimi neighborhood (Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH));

Total amount granted to Yemeni cultural properties: USD 194,836 from the European Union for damage assessments, capacity development and emergency stabilization of damaged buildings and protection of archaeological sites;

2018-2021: EUR 9,780,000 from the European Union for the project "Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen" (Shibam, Sana'a, Zabid and Aden);

2019: USD 100,000 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for the reconstruction of the al-Qasimi neighborhood in old Sanaa;

2020: USD 97,245 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for post flood emergency interventions in Sana'a;

2022-2026: USD 22,552,000 from the European Union for the project: Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen

2023: USD 925,925 from Japan for Building Climate-resilient Communities in Historic Cities in Yemen through Strengthened Disaster Risk Management and Awareness (Old City of Sana'a and Old Walled City of Shibam)

Previous monitoring missions

1998, 1999, 2003: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2003 to 2005, 2009 and 2010: World Heritage Centre and expert missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Problems with the rainwater drainage network

- Modern constructions and uncontrolled expansion of commercial activities
- Lack of a Safeguarding Plan (issue resolved)
- Fly-over bridge project (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled vertical and horizontal additions
- Management activities (Use of inappropriate building materials and techniques)
- Densification of the historic fabric through occupation of green areas
- Functional decay of the residential neighbourhoods
- Continued vulnerability of the property, as a result of extreme conditions since 2011
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen
- Physical damage and instability of buildings
- Urgent need for shelter for displaced residents
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Desertification of green areas and public gardens/orchards
- Works at the Great Mosque of Sana'a and Al-Nahrain Mosque

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2024, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385>, presenting the following information:

- The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be threatened by current political and economic circumstances, deteriorated condition and collapse of historic buildings, heavy rainfall damage, lack of resources, and ongoing conflict;
- Efforts are made to protect and preserve the property, but require strengthening with urgent financial and technical support;
- Heavy rains caused the partial collapse of some historical buildings, including the Al-Yadumi House in Al-Abhar neighborhood;
- Some preservation projects were implemented through local funding, including works at 45 damaged historic buildings, but concerns remain about other damaged historic buildings for which an evaluation study has been undertaken. Maintenance work was carried out for the main sewage line in the Sayla area;
- Consultation will occur with UNESCO regarding major projects;
- ICOMOS has reviewed projects proposed by local partners, which will not be implemented until conditions specified by the World Heritage Centre are met;
- The Center for Studies and Architectural Training continues providing courses to raise awareness of the importance of preserving traditional building materials and styles;
- Clarification of the boundary and designation of a buffer zone of the property is not proceeding at this time;
- Implementation of the National Strategy for Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Historic Cities in Yemen 2016-2020 and the Emergency Action Plan to Protect Cultural Heritage in Yemen, has been prevented by lack of resources. The strategy requires updating;
- Collaboration will be pursued to facilitate the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, once the conflict ceases;
- The proposed joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission would be welcome as soon as the situation permits.

The second phase of the UNESCO/European Union project “Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen” has allowed advancing with the rehabilitation of historical buildings. Based on damage, heritage value, and socio-economic surveys, the selection of priority buildings and a comprehensive technical study have been conducted. The project’s implementing partners – Social Fund for Development and the Public Works Project – are engaged in the rehabilitation of 100 buildings all over the city. This includes the implementation of a pilot integrated urban area consisting of 27

buildings with the necessary infrastructure, such as connection of services, street lighting and rainwater harvesting.

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

The ongoing conflict, the fragile state of historic structures, heavy rainfall events, economic conditions, and ongoing lack of maintenance continue to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. This situation is exacerbated by limited resources for physical conservation works. Nevertheless, the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and repair of historic buildings should be acknowledged.

The achievements during the first phase of the European Union-funded project “Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen”, 2018–2022 were previously commended by the Committee. However, approximately 80% of the damaged buildings are yet to be repaired. In the framework of the second phase of the project: “Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen”, 100 buildings are now being targeted.

ICOMOS provided Technical Reviews of two significant projects. For the partially completed rebuilding of the Al-Nahrain Mosque, ICOMOS advised that an urgent Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) should be commissioned to evaluate the potential impact of such projects on the associated historical urban landscape of the property. In addition, ICOMOS noted that more information for the remains of the historical monument is needed, and that documentation of the remains should be clarified. For the rehabilitation of Souk Al-Halaqa and adjacent souks, ICOMOS recommended that additional data collection, and re-consideration of the approach was necessary. ICOMOS noted that the demolition of the former Mosque highlights the need for a review of the protection system for the property. Moreover, concerns have been recently raised as regards potential new development projects at the property, interventions using modern building materials, and a fire in Al-Halaqa’s blacksmith market area.

In light of the above, it is also appropriate to recall the importance of continuing to provide documentation of major development projects, as well as conservation programmes to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in advance of project implementation.

The course provided through the Center for Studies and Architectural Training raised awareness of the importance of preserving traditional building materials and styles and augmented the previous capacity building programme.

Boundary clarification in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines remains important for ensuring the protection of the property and the State Party should be encouraged to pursue this process.

Noting the threat to the property posed by conflict, the Committee may wish to reiterate its former request to all parties to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The ratification of the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention, by Yemen on 1 June 2023 is an important step towards contributing to the protection of cultural property in the country.

The previously requested Reactive Monitoring mission should visit the property as soon as the situation allows. The challenges in finalizing the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020, and implementing the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen’s Cultural Heritage, are acknowledged, and it is hoped that these may progress, including through any necessary updating, following the Reactive Monitoring mission, with the benefit of international support.

The Old City of Sana’a remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.49, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, damage from conflict, security challenges, and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and repair of historic buildings at the property, including through the second phase of the 'EU-funded project 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' and requests that these initiatives continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Requests the full implementation of the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of the Al-Nahrain Mosque project and the rehabilitation project for Souk Al-Halaqa and adjacent souks, including preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
6. Recalls the obligation to continue to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies,
7. Reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification are elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,
8. Also requests that a review of the protection system is undertaken for the property, and to submit this review to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
10. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
11. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works and implementation of the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020 and the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, and to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 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 47th session;

13. **Decides to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

36. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Threats from natural elements
- Lack of organizational support and material resources for conservation
- Threats related to the armed conflict

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1982-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 121,966

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to Yemeni cultural properties: USD 194,836 from the European Union for damage assessments, capacity development and emergency stabilization of damaged buildings and protection of archaeological sites.

2018-2021: EUR 9,780,000 from the European Union for the project: Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen (Sana'a, Shibam, Zabid and Aden)

2022-2026: USD 22,552,000 from the European Union for the project: Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen

2023: USD 925,925 from Japan for Building Climate-resilient Communities in Historic Cities in Yemen through Strengthened Disaster Risk Management and Awareness (Old City of Sana'a and Old Walled City of Shibam)

Previous monitoring missions

January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Poor maintenance (issue previously reported as being resolved)
- Damage to historic buildings
- Reduction in support and resources arising from political and socio-economic disturbances

- Armed conflict
- Water (rain/water table) (threats from rain and floods)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2024, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/documents/>, presenting the following information:

- Owing to ongoing conflict in Yemen, government-funded projects have ceased, placing a burden on the local site management;
- Challenges facing the property include damage to buildings, vulnerability of building materials, ongoing inability of the community to undertake restoration and maintenance work owing to conflict, and government resource constraints;
- Since 2016, communication with international cultural heritage organizations and donors has resulted in documentation and conservation projects, alongside training and workshops;
- The first phase of the UNESCO/European Union ‘Cash for Work’ Project, aimed at enhancing youth livelihood through conservation and urban renewal activities, has included repairing the city wall and damaged buildings, installing public infrastructure, and removing intrusive Sisban trees. However, challenges and delays have arisen during implementation;
- Projects supported by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) have included emergency repairs to buildings damaged by rain, flooding and conflict, rehabilitation of the city market, job creation, and return of displaced families;
- The emergency project to restore buildings in Shibam Hadhramaut, supported by the Arab Cement Company Limited, has reported positive outcomes, and is an example of private sector financing for conservation works;
- Additional technical and financial support is recommended from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund and through other international support;
- Implementation of the 2009 Conservation Plan for Shibam is hindered as there have been ‘minor illegal violations’, and it requires updating;
- There should be more local implementation of conservation projects, with greater acknowledgement of local capabilities;
- There is a strong commitment to pursuing removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, through effective conservation; greater government and international support; training, capacity building, and increasing awareness; and fulfilment of obligations under international laws and conventions, including the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The second phase of the UNESCO/European Union project “Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen” has allowed advancing with the rehabilitation of historical buildings. Based on socio-economic surveys, the selection of buildings and a comprehensive technical study have proceeded. The project’s implementing partners – Social Fund for Development and the Public Works Project – are engaged in the rehabilitation of 100 buildings in the city. By May 2024, 26 out of the 100 targeted buildings have already been rehabilitated. In addition to this project, UNESCO carried out urgent rehabilitation work at the Khaled Barakat historical house, to address structural damage and prevent collapse.

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

The ongoing conflict, fragile historic structures, heavy rainfall and flooding, and economic conditions, continue to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Nevertheless, the efforts of the State Party, international agencies and local actors in the repair of historical buildings, capacity building, and awareness raising should be acknowledged. The achievements during the first phase of the European Union-funded project ‘Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth

in Yemen', 2018–2022 were previously commended by the Committee and the continuation of that project, and other conservation programmes such as works supported by ALIPH, and the emergency project to restore buildings in Shibam Hadhramaut are welcome.

However, the State Party advice that the implementation of the Conservation Plan has been hindered, resulting in building violations in connection with private property, is concerning, and it would be appropriate for the State Party to support and extend protection, conservation, capacity building and awareness activities to all stakeholders, and to engage with the local community and landowners to ensure adequate protection and prevent encroachment.

Creating additional opportunities for the implementation of conservation and rehabilitation activities at the local level, such as the current and upcoming rehabilitation of houses under the second phase of the UNESCO/European Union project, would be important and would contribute to enhanced capacities, while ensuring protection of OUV. Collaboration and exchange mechanisms among actors supporting rehabilitation work on the ground, local authorities, and technical teams need to be enhanced. It would also be appropriate to remind the State Party that documentation of major projects, including conservation programmes, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in advance of project implementation.

The Committee may wish to remind the State Party of its previous request to submit detailed information on the works undertaken at the Governmental Complex, as well as the report 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018-2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Boundary clarification, as well as the submission of a minor boundary modification proposal, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines remains important to the protection of the property and the State Party should also be encouraged to pursue this process.

Noting the threat to the property posed by conflict, the Committee may wish to reiterate its former request to all parties to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention. The ratification of the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention, by Yemen on 1 June 2023 is an important step towards contributing to the protection of cultural property in the country.

The support of the State Party for pursuing removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger is welcome and the Reactive Monitoring mission previously requested should occur as soon as the situation allows. The challenges in finalizing the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020, and implementing the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, which have been noted previously, remain, and it is hoped that these may progress, following the Reactive Monitoring mission, with the benefit of international support.

The Old Walled City of Shibam remains subject to ascertained and potential danger and should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.50 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, damage from conflict, and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;*
4. *Commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party, international agencies and local actors in the repair of historic buildings, capacity building, and awareness raising,*

including through the second phase of the EU-funded project 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen', but notes with concern that the implementation of the Conservation Plan has been hindered, resulting in some building violations, and requests the State Party to continue to further support and extend protection, conservation, capacity building and awareness activities to all stakeholders, and to engage with the local community and landowners to ensure adequate protection and prevent encroachment;

5. Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the report 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018-2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', as well as full details regarding the works undertaken at the Governmental Complex buildings, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) Elaborate proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;
8. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
9. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 47th session;
11. Decides to retain **Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

37. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Site security not ensured
- Long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches not ensured
- State of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings not adequate
- Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan) not implemented

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted with Decision 31 COM 7A.21, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted with Decision 31 COM 7A.21, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified;

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2002-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 7,324,120 (2003-2018) from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 159,000 (2011-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 6,845,121 (2013-2021) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 7,336,166 (2013-2019) from UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in Trust; USD 1,500,000 (2017-2026) from the Government of Afghanistan; USD 4 million from the Japanese Government for the project 'Sustainable Management of the Property - Preparing the Removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger' (2020-2022); USD 79,212 from UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund: Emergency assessment and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the Bamiyan World Heritage property (2022).

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICCROM Advisory mission; April 2011: UNESCO Kabul/ICOMOS Advisory mission; May 2014: ICOMOS technical Advisory mission; UNESCO expert missions in the context of the implementation of specific international assistance and extra-budgetary projects

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Housing
- Others (Risk of collapse of the Giant Buddha niches; Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/>

Current conservation issues

Following the major changes that occurred in August 2021 in Afghanistan, and subsequent halt of the field operations, some projects have resumed since February 2023 in particular the projects funded by Italy and Japan.

As of February 2024, the World Heritage Centre has not received a state of conservation report on the property. UNESCO through its Office in Kabul and in the framework of the operational projects, provides the following information concerning resumed activities contributing to the corrective measures, as follows:

- Western Buddha Niche: Elaboration of the methodology for stabilization works, feasibility assessment, reinforcement of security and visitor safety, repair of drainage channels at the top of the western Buddha Cliff;
- Eastern Buddha Niches: installation of new doors to numerous caves for reinforced access control, consolidation of plaster for several mural paintings in the caves including those between two Niches;
- Removal test of the blue paint graffiti in the caves adjacent to the Eastern Buddha caves
- Vulnerability assessment and operational interventions at Shahr-i-Zohak and Shahr-i-Ghulghulah sites to mitigate water erosion and facilitate controlled visitor access;
- Emergency condition assessments for preparing interventions within the Foladi and Kakrak valleys;
- Preparation of the 19th Bamiyan Working Group Meeting to be held in Japan in September 2024, within the framework of the UNESCO/JFiT project ;
- Finalisation of the Management Plan for the property;
- The UNESCO/JFiT project's social impacts such as the hiring of a total of 300 laborers, combining 124 laborers at the Buddha Cliff and 176 laborers at Shahr-i-Zuhak, resulted in a total of 10,216 work-days thus far, and expected double number of this in 2024;
- UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund assistance to carry out an emergency assessment of the conservation status of all sites comprising the property as well as to implement remedial interventions to prevent further damage to the collections;
- Transfer of artefacts under threat from four separate storages to the Bamiyan Cultural Centre;
- The implementation of the World Heritage International Assistance project approved in May 2021 to valorise the Bamiyan and Jam properties put on hold in view of the prevailing situation.

The following actions which were requested prior to the political change of August 2021 remain to be accomplished:

- Revision of the Strategic Management Plan based on the ICOMOS review on the several aspects of the Plan;
- Revision of the proposed Action Plan for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, provided by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party in February 2021, considering the ICOMOS technical review, including identifying the attributes of the property that contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and maintaining the property's recognition as a cultural landscape;
- Revisions of the development projects such as a road construction near Tepe Almas, reviewed in July 2020, and the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', in October 2021.

Several reports came to the attention of the World Heritage Centre in 2023 and early 2024 concerning the state of conservation of the Buddha niches, "Old Bazaar" area and around Shahr-i- -Ghulghulah. The historical caves, the main parts of the property located throughout different component sites, such as the Foladi Valley, were reported to be used as warehouses and kitchens since 2021. Over the two previous years, a considerable number of families have returned to dwell in caves because of poverty and persistent unemployment. Graffiti and other traces of uncontrolled access to the caves were also reported.

The possible reinstallation of the historic Bazaar in direct vicinity to the western Buddha niche, an area of high archaeological sensitivity, was also brought to the attention of UNESCO in summer 2022 and local owners also communicated their wishes to reinstall the Bazaar in order to invigorate the local economic life.

Other repeated threats reported are the development in the buffer areas with new infrastructures such as gas stations and houses. The transformation of agricultural areas, prohibited by the applied laws, seems to be occurring without control. It witnesses the absence of progress with the development of effective regulating mechanisms to address population growth and industrial development in the vicinity of the property.

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

Under the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSAFE) (from July 2023-onwards), operational activities have remained slow, while the situation of the education and cultural sectors in Afghanistan remains critical. However, the Committee may wish to appreciate the resuming of the large operational activities, with the funding from Japan and Italy, which enable the implementation of emergency work in both Buddha Niches as well as at Shahr-i-Zohak and Shahr-i-Gholghola sites, regular monitoring on the different components of the property, including the Foladi and Kakrak valleys. The Committee may recommend that UNESCO keep monitoring the field situation. Priority should be given to the operational activities to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), while generating local employments for over 300 labourers as it has already achieved so far. These include the revision of the above-mentioned Action Plan for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, the documentation and research activities using previously collected data, together with the finalization of the Management Plan for the property and addressing urgent conservation issues at various component sites, including the stabilization of the Western Buddha niche. It is desirable that all heritage-related projects be supportive of humanitarian situations, to the extent possible.

The reported use of the historic caves as dwellings, chaotic access to the caves, the uncontrolled development of the buffer areas of the components with the conversion of agricultural areas into commercial zones with new constructions, are all alarming. While satisfied with the UNESCO's emergency intervention to reinforce security in some of the vulnerable locations throughout the inscribed zone, continued monitoring is necessary. The existing legal regulations setting the zoning rules on the agricultural land within protected areas of the property remain valid. However, as repeatedly pointed out, the entire agricultural landscape of the Bamiyan Valley (most of which is outside the World Heritage boundaries) is not legally protected from development, although UNESCO recommends controls on inappropriate construction.

Bamiyan's urban environment has developed steadily over the past 20 years, with housing projects and road construction taking place in various parts of the valley's landscape. All stakeholders need to be informed of the technical requirements provided by the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines to mitigate the negative impacts of the development projects such as the road from Dasht-e Isa Khan to Gholghola Bazaar and the Bamiyan Energy Supply project, on the OUV of the property and to prevent further developments that could be detrimental to the OUV.

The revision of the Strategic Master Plan "Bamiyan, the legal instrument for the urban development in the Bamiyan Valley" and adopted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in 2021 and its subsequent enforcement should include effective provisions of cultural landscape protection, community engagement, and the revision of the buffer zones for the World Heritage property, with a clear land use scheme, in line with the ICOMOS Technical Review and previous decisions of the Committee to support the DSOCR.

Two holes near the top part of the Western Buddha niche should be backfilled and the reinstalled drainage system needs to be kept effective. It would be appropriate for the Committee to request a report on the conservation status of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre, following the UNESCO assistance for the moveable heritage collection management, through Heritage Emergency Fund.

The "Old Bazaar" area in front of the Giant Buddha niche was a commercial hub, part of which is privately owned land before its destruction in the 1990s. Owners began reconstruction on the "Old Bazaar" in August 2022, but this was immediately suspended following the advice of UNESCO to address shortfalls in planning, management, and impact on the property. However, the local owners are still seeking

permission to rebuild the “Old Bazaar” at its previous location. The proximity of the bazaar site to the western Buddha niche, in an area of high archaeological sensitivity suggests that a comprehensive technical proposal also considering an alternative location for the ‘Old Bazaar’ could be elaborated considering potential impact on the OUV of the property.

In order to ensure the consistency of all safeguarding activities towards sustainable results, the Bamiyan Working Group (BWG) meeting is expected to continue being a forum for exchanging views on methodologies and experiences on previous interventions and ways forward for ensuring the knowledge transfer to the Afghan experts in the future. The World Heritage Committee may wish to recommend that details on activities relating to the DSOCR are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for sharing with the Advisory Bodies.

The Committee may wish to thank the international community for its continued support for the property itself and its moveable heritage, which are integral part of the World Heritage site and to encourage UNESCO, working with academia, NGOs, and institutions in the field of culture, continues addressing various issues at the property. The Committee may also wish to recall that the long-standing international effort to protect this World Heritage property has been an initiative of confidence-building and cooperation in the spirit of the World Heritage Convention.

It is recommended that the Committee also reiterate the importance of preserving Afghanistan's cultural heritage, in line with humanitarian law and international instruments, such as the Geneva Convention, the UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property as well as the 2015 UNESCO Recommendations on the Museums and Collections, and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Committee may also wish to express its solidarity with the Afghan people and call upon the international community to provide support in safeguarding the Afghanistan's heritage and cultural rights on its path towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goals in light of the UN Agenda 2030.

The property remains subject to ascertained and potential threats and the DSOCR has not been achieved, so it is appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.41**, **44 COM 7A.28** and **45 COM 7A.51**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,*
3. *Regrets that a state of conservation report was not submitted for the property;*
4. *Expresses its deep concern with regard to the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the difficult situation of the education and cultural sectors, and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in implementing technical assistance;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the resuming of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “Sustainable Management of the Bamiyan World Heritage property – Preparing the removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger”, the Italian Funds-in-Trust projects “Preservation and Promotion of the Bamiyan Valley through Culture-Oriented Sustainable Development” and “Local Community Empowerment and Preservation of Shahr-e Gholghola, the World Heritage site in Bamiyan” and their contribution to the progress in achieving the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests that an updated report on these projects be shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

6. Commends the achievements of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project in particular for the reinforcement of security and conservation measures for the Western and Eastern Buddha Niches, emergency interventions at Shahr-i-Zohak and Shahr-i-Ghulghulah sites, as well as monitoring and technical study on the different components of the property, including the Foladi and Kakrak valleys for further intervention, while generating employment opportunities for more than 300 labourers so far;
7. Considering the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFSA), recommends that activities be focused on assistance to achieve the DSOCR, including the operational activities, revision of the Action Plan and timeline, as well as documentation and research activities, and to ensure that the project be implemented in line with the corrective measures adopted in Decision **31 COM 7A.21**;
8. Considering the prevailing situation in the country, also recommends that all stakeholders be informed about the requirement to address the reported issues of the use of the historic caves as dwellings, uncontrolled access to the caves, conversion of agricultural lands in adjacent areas with new constructions;
9. Further recommends that technical requirements, as outlined by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, be addressed on the mitigation of adverse effects of the development project of the road to Gholghola Bazaar and the proposed revision of the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', and the possible reinstalment of the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s; and also requests to comply fully with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and not to take any decision that would be difficult to reverse before submitting detailed documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and obtaining the approval of the Committee;
10. Further requests that the elements suggested by ICOMOS for the revision of the Strategic Master Plan be taken into consideration in order to ensure legal protection and a holistic management approach of the property as a cultural landscape, promoting the involvement of local communities and addressing the necessary modification of the buffer zones with a land use scheme, in order to address the issue of uncontrolled urban development within the Bamiyan Valley which would place threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
11. Reiterates its request to respect the provisions of the international treaties ratified by Afghanistan, such as the 1954 Convention, 1970 Convention and 1972 Convention, as well as the 2015 UNESCO Recommendations on the Museums and Collections, and further recommends to:
 - a) Ensure regular verification of the state of moveable heritage and keep up proper inventories of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre,
 - b) Ensure the backfilling of the holes at the top of the Western Buddha niche,
 - c) Closely monitor the commercial activities within the inscribed area and buffer zones,
 - d) Carefully review the concept of reinstating the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s at its original location, having regard to potential alternative locations, and appropriate design, materials, planning and management in place;
12. Thanks the international community for its support and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the property; and recommends the coordination of these technical activities under the established system of the Bamiyan Working Group meeting for information sharing of academic and scientific community;

13. *Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned parties to observe international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to the protection of heritage, so that all the diversity in heritage that constitutes an integral part of Afghanistan's history and culture can be preserved;*
14. *Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 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 47th session;*
15. ***Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

38. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2002-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Lack of legal protection
- Lack of an effective monument protection agency
- Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel
- Lack of a comprehensive Management Plan

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2002 to 2021)

Total amount approved: USD 98,750

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 844,901 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 124,300 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 16,800 (2017) from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund; USD 1,921,888 from the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for Safeguarding the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam, Afghanistan – Phase I (2020-2024)

Previous monitoring missions

Several UNESCO expert missions took place between 2002 and 2006 to implement the operational projects for the property. After a period of three years of inactivity from 2007 to 2009 due to the security situation, UNESCO dispatched two missions in cooperation with an Afghan local NGO in 2010 and 2014 to resume on-site operations; September 2017: mission within the framework of the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Political instability)
- River erosion (Inclination of the Minaret)
- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of management plan)
- Illegal activities (Illicit excavations and looting)
- Erosion and siltation/deposition; flooding (riverbank erosion, collapse of retaining walls, recurrent flooding)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/>

Current conservation issues

At the time of writing this report, the World Heritage Centre has not received a state of conservation report, nor a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, both of which were requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.52**.

The property was inscribed simultaneously on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2002. In 2007, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures were identified in Decision **31 COM 7A.20** (Christchurch, 2007).

Over the years, the property, located at the confluence of two rivers, has sustained periodic flooding, and its remote location has posed lasting challenges in terms of physical intervention.

Major changes occurred in August 2021 led to a change in the administrative and technical provisions in the field of heritage.

Within the framework of the project “Safeguarding the Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam – Phase I”, funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), emergency cleaning operations of the Hari and Jam riverbeds were carried out in February and March 2022, with local communities’ participation. UNESCO completed in June 2023 the physical rehabilitation of the Hari River Defence System comprising ca. 110 meters of gabion retaining walls along the southern margin of the Hari River and the construction of a 40-metre gabion dyke upstream in the Jam River, with the plantation of vegetation within the gabion structures, to help enhance and prolong the lifespan of the gabion structure.

A Conservation Plan of the property was elaborated to address technical issues faced by the Minaret and its surroundings and adjusted following the technical review by ICOMOS. Following recommendations put forward in the Conservation Plan, an analysis on the contamination status in the vicinity of the property was conducted and reported low risk of explosive hazards.

In October 2023, UNESCO organized a mission to the property to assess the situation and to discuss with community members, revealing significant local support for the project, in particular regarding the construction of a footbridge over the Hari River and the reconstruction of the Site office next to the Minaret. The installation of a monitoring system (comprising of crack gauges, tiltmeters, and thermometers) was considered, suggesting the use of solar panels to overcome the issue of electricity supply.

In December 2023, UNESCO launched the Request for Proposal for the construction of the scaffold up to the first balcony as per the Conservation Plan and following recommendations by ICOMOS. At the time of reporting, no contractor has been chosen yet to deliver this project.

The implementation of the International Assistance project approved in May 2021 for the valorisation of the properties of Bamiyan and Jam has been put on hold in view of the prevailing situation.

Considering the prevailing field situation, especially an exceptionally strong flooding of May 2024, a reprogramming of the operational activities was also suggested to focus on the feasible, urgent and essential actions to address the DSOCR and in particular for the reinforcement of the mitigation and protective measures against the recurrent floodings. The abovementioned issue was also brought to the attention of the Secretariat by the Permanent Delegation of Afghanistan to UNESCO in its letter of 21 May 2024.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note with deep concern that the major changes which occurred in August 2021 have brought additional and critical challenges for achieving the DSOCR for the property and for international cooperation efforts.

The Committee may commend, however, that the project funded by ALIPH and coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Kabul, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, has contributed to the implementation of essential work recommended by previous Committee decisions.

The technical concerns regarding the property include the inclination of the Minaret, erosion of the river embankment, silting of the riverbed due to sediment deposits, and collapsed retaining walls from previous interventions. These issues are caused by the recurrent seasonal flooding of the two rivers surrounding the property. The river defence system has been recently rehabilitated due to the destabilization and collapse of concrete stone walls from previous works. If executed as advised in previous reports, the gabions should stabilize the river embankment and eliminate the need for further heavy ground engineering interventions on the riverbank. However, despite this, recurring extreme weather events due to climate change still pose a risk of extensive fluvial flooding to the property and the immediate vicinity of the Minaret. Therefore, the river system and riverbank degradation must be carefully monitored in the future management of the property.

Certain activities in the framework of the ALIPH-funded operational project have been reprogrammed in line with the current field situation and the UN Strategic Framework for Afghanistan. These activities include ongoing conservation and maintenance, as well as capacity building for relevant experts in the management of the World Heritage property. The project aims to provide targeted training in structural stabilization, monitoring, and conservation of historical materials and sites. Periodical workshops will be held to share and explain the project's progress. An exhibition is planned at UNESCO Headquarters to showcase the achievements and challenges and to mobilise further technical and funding support for the property.

The Committee may recommend technical studies to identify the most urgent and feasible actions based on the current situation. The findings from these studies should be used to update the Conservation Action Plan (CAP) in accordance with the recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review. The revised Plan is to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies to ensure that the proposed actions align with the corrective measures and DSOCR adopted in 2007.

It is recommended that the activities under the ALIPH-funded project shall be prioritized and scheduled within the updated CAP to fulfil the corrective measures and that the available resources are optimised and involve, to the extent possible, assistance that could benefit the local communities. The proposed activities including the installation of a monitoring device at the minaret, emergency stabilization of the wooden staircases, and deployment of security personnel on site to prevent any illicit trafficking of movable heritage are commendable. The footbridge construction to serve the needs of local communities and the rebuilding of the guest house shall be reconsidered to be placed higher of the flood line and downstream of property to eliminate any risks to the minaret from floating destructive debris resulting from possible future flood events. The proper functioning of the newly installed gabions shall be closely monitored and river flow control measures shall be explored further upstream to reduce hydrodynamic forces against the riverbanks in the vicinity of the minaret, while an emergency action could also be supported to address the exceptionally strong flooding of May 2024. A technical assessment needs to analyze the risk posed by recurring flooding to the proposed new structures, and their positioning shall be determined based on the findings of this study.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to clearly delineate the boundaries of the minaret, the other three components of the property, and the encompassing buffer zone, based on the revised topographical map generated from high-resolution remote sensing imagery as presented in the UNESCO expert meeting on Jam and Herat in 2012, as a critical step towards developing an effective management system for the property.

The Committee may also wish to reiterate the importance of the preservation of Afghanistan's heritage, in line with international humanitarian law and culture Conventions. It may also express its solidarity with the Afghan people and call upon the international community to provide assistance and support towards the safeguarding of Afghanistan's heritage and cultural rights.

The UNESCO Office in Kabul, in carrying out these field operations, allows monitoring and implementing essential activities. The Committee may wish to commend its constant and continued engagement.

The property remains subject to ascertained and potential threats and the DSOCR has not been achieved, so it would be appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.42**, **44 COM 7A.29** and **45 COM 7A.52**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its deep concern regarding the current situation in Afghanistan in terms of humanitarian, educational and cultural environments, and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in effectively implementing technical assistance activities for heritage preservation; combined with natural disasters, this has brought another layer of difficulties for the implementation of conservation work based upon the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and the corrective measures adopted in 2007 by the Committee in Decision **31 COM 7A.20**;
4. Appreciates that the UNESCO project funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Kabul in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, has contributed to the implementation of the adopted corrective measures;
5. Recommends pursuing additional technical studies in **elaborating** the CAP by identifying the most urgent and feasible actions in light of the current situation, the potential impact and long-term mitigation measures for recurring flooding in the future, and, to the extent possible, benefitting the local communities;
6. Reiterates its requests to implement the following:
 - a) Installation of a sustainable monitoring system on the Minaret of Jam to monitor its inclination,
 - b) Emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases to prevent further destabilization of the minaret's structure,
 - c) Construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud river and the reconstruction of the site office at the property with due consideration for the risk of flooding, in order to improve access to the property and site security,
 - d) Hydraulic study with monitoring of the height and flow of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers, to inform the possible long-term mitigation and protective measures to address their recurring floodings;
 - e) Permanent deployment of security personnel on the ground;
7. Notes with appreciation the proposed reprogramming of the activities of the UNESCO project funded by ALIPH to contribute to the CAP in light of the prevailing field situation and encourages that the focus be put on the elements suggested for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including the above;

8. *Regrets that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone still remain to be precisely defined, and reiterates its request to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2025, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, taking into consideration the topographical map produced in 2012 to facilitate the delineation of these boundaries, in conformity with the CAP and in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Also requests the allocation of necessary resources for the safeguarding of the property to address conservation issues, including the proposal for a boundary modification, the establishment of the overall action plan for the CAP as well as capacity-building;*
10. *Acknowledges the role of UNESCO to monitor the prevailing field situation and implement essential work under the international assistance;*
11. *Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned parties to observe international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to the protection of heritage, so that all the diversity of heritage that constitute an integral part of Afghanistan's culture can be preserved;*
12. *Further requests the international community to provide support to the Afghan people in preserving their heritage and cultural rights;*
13. *Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2025, of 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;*
14. ***Decides to retain Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

40. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Large-scale urban development projects carried out without informing the Committee or commissioning the necessary heritage impact assessments
- Demolition and rebuilding of traditional housing areas
- Irreversible changes to the original appearance of a large area within the historic centre
- Significant alteration of the setting of monuments and the overall historical town planning structure and its archaeological layers
- Absence of conservation and Management Plan

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/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 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (2011 UNESCO HUL Recommendation) at the World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan; 2019: USD 43,115 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for building capacity in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan.

Previous monitoring missions

October 2002: Monitoring mission by an international expert; March 2006: UNESCO Tashkent/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2014: UNESCO Tashkent fact-finding mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a comprehensive conservation and management plan)
- Management activities
- Housing and Commercial development (Major interventions carried out, including demolition and re-building activities)
- Legal framework (Need to reinforce the national legal framework)
- Human resources (inadequate)
- Financial resources (inadequate)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/documents/>. Progress in addressing a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Progress is reported on how a nomination might be presented in the future with a new justification of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and how conservation challenges at the property are being identified and will be addressed;
- Work has started exploring how a nomination for a significant boundary modification that focuses on the Timurid monuments in an urban setting might be developed. This is being led by the Agency of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan in collaboration with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS);
- The International Advisory Committee (IAC) will be updated on the progress of the proposed nomination and will be invited to discuss a draft in the second half of 2024 prior to its submission to the World Heritage Centre. Due to the complexity of the work, a report will be submitted by 1 February 2025;
- A conservation project and strategy for the Ak Saray tiles are under preparation and will be revised according to recommendations following review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
- A high-level international structural engineering report was commissioned for the Kok Gumbaz Mosque following the collapse of some columns. The preliminary report, issued in November 2023, highlighted several horizontal and vertical cracks and the displacement of walls at the bottom of the dome. Further engineering assessments will be conducted in 2024;

- An initial assessment of historic monuments was undertaken in 2021 and a tabular summary is provided. This will be followed by a more comprehensive analysis focusing on the integrity and authenticity of each monument;
- Erosion of the mud-walled fabric, salinity of walls, temperature and humidity fluctuations and earthquakes are all seen as major threats to the property;
- Inappropriate signage in the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz has been removed from the protected area. Streetlights have been reduced, and the destroyed part of the Silk Road Street, affected by the construction of an avenue, is included in the master plan for restoration.

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

Confirmation that a nomination with a potential modification in criteria and/or attributes based on Timurid monuments within an urban setting is being explored should be welcomed. It is noted that, following discussion by the IAC, a report on this work will be submitted by 1 February 2025.

While the State Party acknowledges the complexity of this process, the Committee strongly recommended that the State Party engage in a specific consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on procedural questions related to such work, allowing for discussions on possible approaches before any detailed work is undertaken. So far, this engagement has not taken place. In the spirit of upstream advice, the Committee may wish to reiterate its recommendation and request that dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies be undertaken in 2024, in advance of a submitted report.

To allow the Committee to consider at its 47th session whether a clear way forward can be supported or if the property should be deleted from the World Heritage List, the Committee may wish to request that the State Party's report, to be submitted by 1 February 2025, should set out a possible way forward for consideration, in compliance with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines. If the Committee agrees with this proposal, the State Party could then proceed with the development of a nomination dossier, as outlined in several of the Committee's previous decisions.

The development of a strategy for the conservation of the Ak Saray tiles and a project for their conservation is also to be welcomed. It is indicated that these are under preparation and will be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. This should happen before any work commences or is planned in detail.

It is noted that in November 2023 an international structural engineering report was commissioned for the Kok Gumbaz Mosque following the collapse of some columns, and that further engineering assessments will be conducted in 2024 to consider actions to address identified cracks and displacements.

In previous decisions, the Committee had recommended the development of detailed conservation plans for the various individual monuments and an overall conservation approach to be included in the Management Plan. For both Ak Saray and Kok Gumbaz, it would be helpful if such plans are prepared, given the very different challenges each faces.

The State Party's report indicates that further analysis of the conservation needs of monuments will be undertaken based on the initial assessment of historic monuments undertaken in 2021. Although the State Party specifies that most monuments are in a good state of conservation, this contrasts sharply with the statement that erosion of the mud-walled fabric, the salinity of walls, temperature and humidity fluctuations and earthquakes are all seen as major threats to the property. Given the somewhat drastic measures taken some years ago, clarity is needed on which monuments face erosion and salinity threats and how these will be addressed.

The Committee has also urged the State Party to develop an overall Master Plan for the city, which integrates the conservation needs for the monuments, the Management Plan, proposals for restoration and reconstruction, as well as planning and legal frameworks, all in line with the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. The latest report mentions that an area of the main street is in the 'Master Plan for restoration'. So far, no details have been provided of this Master Plan. The Committee might wish to stress the need for a draft of this Master Plan to be provided at the earliest opportunity, as it will have a bearing on any proposal for nomination.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.48**, **41 COM 7A.57**, **42 COM 7A.4**, **43 COM 7A.44**, **44 COM 7A.31** and **45 COM 7A.54**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.44**, in which the Committee allowed the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination in order to consider again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period if a clear way forward has been proposed, or to delete the property, and furthermore had urged the State Party to develop a restoration plan with sufficient details to allow appropriate assessment of the potential for each option to justify Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before proceeding with any work on a significant boundary modification or on a new nomination and further encouraged the State Party to seek upstream advice from the Advisory Bodies;
4. Further recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.54**, in which the Committee concluded that the proposal submitted by the State Party should be explored further while retaining the property on the World Heritage List at that stage, and encouraged the State Party to further explore the possibility of a significant boundary modification, in line with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines, and to study and present “new justification for criteria based on an OUV that would reflect a shift away from the integrity of an overall intact city and towards an ensemble of Timurid monuments, with the urban areas seen as their essential settings” while noting that it was not possible at this stage to confirm if the new proposition could be justified, recommending specific consultations on it with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on this matter;
5. Welcomes the continued efforts to explore possible ways forward for a nomination with a potential modification in criteria and/or attributes based on Timurid monuments within an urban setting, and notes that work is being led by the Agency of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan in collaboration with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), and that a report will be submitted by **1 February 2025**, following discussion by the International Advisory Committee (IAC);
6. Also notes the complexity of this process as acknowledged by the State Party, and recalls that the Committee strongly recommended that the State Party engage in a specific consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on procedural questions related to such work, and reiterates its recommendation that a dialogue be organised between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS before any detailed work is undertaken on one approach, and requests that this dialogue be undertaken in 2024, ahead of the submission of the report announced for February 2025;
7. Confirms that the report to be submitted in February 2025 should set out an outline of a possible nomination with modified criteria/attributes based on Timurid monuments within an urban setting, in order to allow the Committee to consider, at its 47th session, whether a clear way forward for the property can be supported, in which case the State Party can develop a new nomination, in line with several of its previous decisions and in compliance with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. *Welcomes the work being undertaken to develop a strategy for the conservation of the Ak Saray tiles as well as a project for their conservation, and urges the State Party to submit these as early as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before any work commences or is planned in detail;*
9. *Notes that engineering assessments have been commissioned for the Kok Gumbaz Mosque following the collapse of some columns and that further engineering assessments will be conducted in 2024 to consider actions to address identified cracks and displacements;*
10. *Recommends that conservation plans be prepared for both Ak Saray and Kok Gumbaz, given the very different challenges that each faces, as well as for other individual monuments, as previously recommended by the Committee;*
11. *Notes that further analysis of the conservation needs of monuments will be undertaken based on the initial assessment of historic monuments undertaken in 2021, and that the State Party considers that most monuments are currently in a good state of conservation, but also takes notes that this assessment does not align with the statement that erosion and salinity of the mud-walled structures, and earthquakes threaten the property, and therefore requests the State Party to clarify which monuments face these threats and how these will be addressed;*
12. *Reiterates its request for the development of an overall Master Plan for the city that integrates heritage conservation needs, the Management Plan, proposals for restoration and reconstruction, as well as planning and legal frameworks, prepared in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) and further requests that a draft of the Master Plan be submitted at the earliest opportunity to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
13. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 47th session;*
14. ***Decides to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

44. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Illegal grazing
- Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups and the subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife due to the deteriorating security situation
- Halt to tourism

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet identified

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2019, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7463>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted in 2019, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7463>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2001-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 225,488

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 2,250,000 from the Government of Norway from 2021 to 2026

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001, April 2009 and March/April 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insecurity and porosity of borders
- Poaching
- Artisanal mining
- Transboundary transhumance and illegal grazing
- Illegal fishing
- Illegal occupation of the property
- Lack of protection and management measures
- Petroleum exploration activities

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>, which provides the following information:

- Substantial investment, mainly from the European Union, UNESCO (through funding from the Norwegian government) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), has been made to strengthen operational capacity for monitoring and managing the property, particularly for staff (eco-guards, eco-supervisors and transhumance regulators), ecological monitoring, the rehabilitation of infrastructure (crossing points, checkpoints, boreholes, etc.) and the acquisition of equipment (motorbikes, navigation and data collection equipment, etc.). Income-generating activities (IGAs) have also been carried out in the villages around the property. Funding has been obtained to continue these activities, notably from the European Union as part of the NaturAfrica programme;
- The process of securing of the priority conservation area of the property has been progressing gradually since 2021 and now stands at 8,749 km², or around 50 per cent of the surface area of the property, remaining close to the target of securing 63% of the surface area of the property by the end of 2024. The conservation areas that serve as a buffer zone in the southern part of the property, covering an area of 3,504 km², have been secured since 2021;
- Biomonitoring efforts carried out in 2023 in the priority conservation zone and the buffer zone recorded 5,554 signs of the presence of fauna of 30 species, including savannah elephant, giraffe, lion, leopard, spotted hyena, hippopotamus, Buffon's kob and Defassa waterbuck, buffalo, bongo, Derby eland and crocodile, among others, indicating that the population of flagship species has remained stable since 2021;
- Anti-poaching missions (LAB) carried out in 2023 indicate a significant reduction in poaching indicators (arrests, weapons seizures, camps, etc.) since 2021;
- Various awareness-raising and data collection missions to local communities carried out by transhumance regulators (Tango) indicate a considerable increase in the number of herds of cattle, sheep, horses and camels crossing the property;
- Concerning the project to rehabilitate national road 8 Ndélé–Birao, the executive summary of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is available and steps are being taken to mobilize the additional financial resources needed to cover the additional costs incurred in bypassing the property;
- Aerial survey operations are carried out on a daily basis to monitor the influx of illegal gold miners in the north-eastern part of the property;
- The proposal to create the Northeast Protected Area Complex (NPAC) of the Central African Republic biosphere reserve (of which the property forms a part) was approved by the international coordinating council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme in June 2023;
- The State Party invites a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission before the end of 2024, to check achievement of the action plan indicators in order to decide on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts made by the State Party and its technical and financial partners to improve the management of the property, address the threats affecting the property and implement corrective measures are very much welcomed. The progress made in implementing the activities set out in the 2022–2024 action plan drawn up to confirm the possibility of regenerating the OUV of the property is also encouraging. The surface area of the priority conservation area of the secured property has been progressing gradually since 2021 and now stands at 8,749 km², or around 50 per cent of the surface area of the property, remaining close to the target of securing 63% of the surface area of the property by the end of 2024. It is therefore recommended that the technical and financial partners supporting the conservation of the property be thanked and that the State Party be encouraged to continue these efforts and ensure that all of the actions in the 2022–2024 action plan are fully implemented.

Confirmation of the presence of a relict population of the flagship species mentioned above is also very encouraging. On the basis of the biomonitoring data available, it should now be possible for the State Party to establish wildlife indicators to develop the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It is recommended that the State Party develop a draft DSOCR and submit it to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for review.

Efforts to monitor the influx of illegal gold miners into the north-eastern part of the property by means of aerial survey are noted, but no information is presented on the impact of these activities on the property and the trends of each of these threats in response to the multiple actions undertaken.

Confirmation that the project to rehabilitate National Road 8 Ndélé–Birao will bypass the property and that efforts are under way to mobilize financial resources to cover the additional cost of bypassing the property is appreciated. However, although the State Party provided information regarding the availability of the Executive Summary, it did not provide an update on the status of finalization of ESIA for this project. Furthermore, this study was not forwarded to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, as requested by the Committee.

No update has been reported on the previously mentioned suspension of oil exploration activities on the property. Recalling that the State Party had proposed a field mission with representatives of the Ministry of Geology and Mines to definitively clarify the situation of Oil Block A and Exploration Blocks I, II and III, it is recommended that the State Party be invited to provide an update in its next report. It is also recommended that the State Party be reminded to ensure that no oil or mining activities are permitted on the property, in accordance with national legislation and the property's World Heritage status.

The creation of the Northeast Protected Area Complex biosphere reserve (of which the property is a part) is welcomed. The reserve's zoning and planning system offers an opportunity to ensure better protection of the property. To this end, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consider creating a buffer zone for the property that is in conformity with the zoning of the biosphere reserve, to strengthen protection of the property.

The invitation of the State Party to carry out a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property before the end of 2024 is noted in the context of the analysis of the 2019 mission and the analysis of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN presented in the state of conservation report presented at the extended 45th session, according to which a mission should be planned from 2025 onwards. While welcoming the State Party's efforts in implementing the corrective measures, and also recognizing the need for further progress and indicators for the DSOCR, the period from 2025 still seems appropriate for the next mission.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee keep the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party and its partner, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), on their significant efforts to secure and improve the management and monitoring of the property, to continue ecological monitoring, to strengthen staff numbers and capacities, to rehabilitate the infrastructure of the management team, to raise awareness among local communities and to develop community alternatives to poaching. It thanks the donors, who continue to support conservation of the property, in particular the European Union, the Government of Norway (through the World Heritage Centre), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that the priority conservation area of the secured property is gradually evolving and encourages the State Party and its partners to continue their*

efforts in order to achieve the objective of securing 63% of the area of the property before the end of 2024;

5. Also notes with satisfaction that the population of flagship species has remained stable since 2021, and requests that the State Party provide detailed information presenting the abundance, distribution and population trends of flagship species in the property;
6. Also requests that the State Party develop, on the basis of information obtained from biomonitoring, indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to submit it for examination by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Expresses its concern at the persistence of intensive poaching, illegal gold panning and international transhumance, again urges the State Party to strengthen control and law enforcement measures against these illegal activities and to continue advocating for the implementation of existing regional agreements on combating poaching and other cross-border criminal activities as well as those relating to peace, reconciliation and social cohesion;
8. Further requests that the State Party provide detailed information in order to assess the extent and impact of these activities on the property, as well as trends in each of these threats in response to the multiple security actions undertaken on the property;
9. Appreciates the State Party's ongoing efforts to mobilize financial resources to cover the additional costs incurred by the bypass, takes note of the availability of the executive summary of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize this study with the support of its partners in accordance with the World Heritage Impact Assessment Guide and Toolkit and to submit said ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before approving the project in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Further requests that the State Party provide detailed information concerning the situation of oil block A and exploration blocks I, II and III overlapping the property, based on the results of the field mission with representatives of the Ministry of Geology and Mines, and to ensure that no oil and mining exploration activities are permitted on the property;
11. Reiterates its established position that mining and oil exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
12. Also commends the State Party for its creation of the Northeast Protected Area Complex biosphere reserve, of which the property is a part, and further encourages the State Party to consider submitting a request for a minor modification of the boundaries of the property to create a buffer zone for the property in conformity with the zoning of the biosphere reserve;
13. Further requests that, once the draft DSOCR has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the integrity of the property and progress in implementing the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;

15. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;**
16. **Also decides to keep the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

45. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

Note: the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo need to be read in conjunction with Item 46 below.

46. General Decision on the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Current conservation issues

No report was provided by the State Party at the time of preparation of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not provide, in time for the preparation of this report, a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, nor on the general Decision on the World Heritage properties of the DRC (Decision **45 COM 7A.9**), which covers several important general issues related to the state of conservation of the properties in DRC and the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, adopted in 2011. The lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to provide an in-depth analysis to the Committee, for it to monitor the state of conservation of these properties.

It further needs to be recalled that, also in its latest report submitted in 2022, the State Party did not provide any specific information in response to the general Decision on the World Heritage properties of DRC (Decision **44 COM 7A.46**). Both general decisions raised important issues linked to the security situation affecting the DRC properties, allegations of human rights abuses linked directly to law enforcement operations, the renewed inclusion of oil exploration blocks overlapping with Virunga National Park in the public tender process for oil blocks which was launched in 2022, as well as the attribution of mining licences for gold mining operations in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve by the mining cadastre.

The security situation remains of utmost concern in parts of eastern DRC and is particularly affecting Virunga National Park (more details are provided in the report on the Virunga National Park).

At this stage, there is no public information available on the attribution of the oil blocks included in the 2022 public tender process, including the blocks overlapping with the Virunga National Park. The mapping issue of the gold mining licences overlapping with the Okapi Wildlife Reserve also seems to remain unresolved.

In light of the absence of report by the State Party, it is recommended that the Committee reiterates the points included in the latest Decision **45 COM 7A.9**.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.46** and **45 COM 7A.9** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. *Regrets that a report on the implementation of these Decisions, as requested by the Committee at its 44th and 45th extended sessions, nor a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger were submitted by the State Party;*
4. Notes that the lack of timely reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger considering the important conservation threats these properties are facing;
5. Remains concerned about previous reports of alleged human rights abuses towards indigenous peoples and local communities during law enforcement operations and reiterates its requests to the State Party to take urgent measures to further strengthen efforts to address this issue, including by establishing and implementing a national code of conduct for eco-guards and a grievance mechanism for human rights abuses, and by training all staff on human rights issues as part of regular law enforcement training, as well as ensuring that management processes are founded on a rights-based approach that ensures full involvement of all stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with relevant international norms, the 2015 Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development;
6. Notes with concern the continued security issues affecting some of the DRC properties, in particular Virunga National Park, which is partly situated in the territory controlled by rebel groups and has been the scene of heavy fighting since 2022, strongly condemns this violence once again, and urges the State Party to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) to continue to ensure the safety of its staff while on duty and the management of the properties in the current difficult security situation and to take all measures to restore peace and security in and around the properties;
7. Strongly regrets that the State Party has included in the public auction of oil blocks in 2022 two oil blocks overlapping with Virunga National Park, notes with utmost concern the semi-industrial mining activities in Okapi Wildlife Reserve, reiterates its clear position concerning the incompatibility of mining, oil exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status and urges once again the State Party to cancel all concessions for oil blocks and mining concessions that overlap with World Heritage properties;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the security situation in the properties, the measures taken to address human rights abuses and the actions undertaken to cancel all oil exploration and exploitation and mining concessions

that encroach on World Heritage properties, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

47. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

48. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

49. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Impact of the conflict: looting of the infrastructures, poaching of elephants
- Presence of gold mining sites inside the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Indicators adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2012)

Total amount approved: 103,400 USD

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,450,000, from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Government of Belgium, the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPF), USD 550,000 from the Government of Norway (2020- 2024)

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006: UNESCO World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2009 and 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Intensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants
- Mining activities inside the property
- Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property
- Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri Forest, which might affect the property in the near future
- Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718>

Current conservation issues

No report was provided by the State Party at the time of preparation of this report

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not provide any report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to monitor the state of conservation of these properties and to provide an in-depth analysis to the World Heritage Committee. The State Party also did not invite the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested in Decision **45 COM 7A.7**. Therefore, this analysis is based on information gathered by UNESCO through the follow up of project activities it is supporting in the property.

The pressure and impacts of mining activities on the property remain of significant concern. In an effort to minimize the impacts of mining on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the World Heritage Centre has continued to support the mapping of mining permits and anti-poaching patrols thanks to Norway's financial contribution to the World Heritage Fund. Compared to the situation reported at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), information-led and routine patrols conducted by law enforcement rangers and aerial reconnaissance flights reveal continuous and increasing pressure from mining activities (in particular semi-industrial mining) and associated illegal activities (such as settlement expansion, logging, poaching) in the western portion of the property and along the Ituri river and Route Nationale 4, which is crossing the property. Overall, satellite images show that tree cover loss in these areas has significantly increased since 2020 to reach a level of around 2,000 ha per year (equivalent to around 2,500 football pitches). It is estimated that there are more than 40 semi-industrial mining operations within or near the borders of the property and more than 18 active gold and diamond sites in the property with 15,000-25,000 artisanal miners.

The World Heritage Centre facilitated collaboration among representatives from the highest level of the DRC's government, and the Directors General of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and Mining Cadastre (CAMI), who committed to establishing a joint commission, including ICCN and CAMI and third parties from the National Cartographic Institute (IGC) and the Ministry of Mines, among others. However, it has not yet been possible to nominate the full quorum of appointees to the joint ICCN-CAMI commission because of the various recent leadership changes at ICCN.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee commends the efforts made by law enforcement rangers to detect and deter mining activity and urges the State Party to establish without further delay the joint ICCN-CAMI Commission to harmonize maps for the property and resolve the issue of overlapping mining permits in the western part of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee recalls again the commitments made by the State Party as part of the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration, in particular, to enforce the conservation laws and mining code, which forbid any mining in protected areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and strongly reiterates its request to revoke all mining permits attributed within the property, close all mining sites inside the property and access roads to them and initiate restoration activities in the degraded areas.

No further information is available on other issues and requests raised in previous Decisions of the Committee, namely the number of residents within the villages located inside the property in order to assess the impacts of population increases on land-use in the property, the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data to enable an assessment of the impact of illegal activities on the OUV of the property, the updating of the Integrated Management Plan (PAG) and the formalization of the Central Integral Conservation Zone, the plans to capture of okapi from the wild to repopulate the okapi breeding station, and data concerning progress accomplished with regard to the indicators defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Taking into account the continuous and increasing pressure from mining activities and associated illegal activities which is jeopardizing the integrity of the property and therefore directly affecting its OUV, it is recommended that the Committee reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property.

Against this backdrop, it is also recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling 45 COM 7A.7, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that a timely report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger was not submitted by the State Party;
4. Notes that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, taking into account the important conservation threats these properties are facing;
5. Reiterates its utmost concern regarding the continuous and increasing pressure from semi-industrial and small-scale artisanal mining and associated illegal activities in the western portion of the property and along the Ituri river and Route Nationale 4 in the property, which is jeopardizing the integrity of the property, and therefore directly affecting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Recalls again the commitments made by the State Party as part of the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration, in particular, to enforce the conservation laws and mining code, which forbid any mining in protected areas in the DRC;
7. Strongly reiterates its request to revoke all mining permits attributed within the property, close all mining sites inside the property and access roads to them and initiate restoration activities in the degraded areas;
8. Commends the efforts made by law enforcement rangers to detect and deter mining activity, and urges the State Party to establish without further delay the joint commission including the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Mining Cadastre (CAMI), and third parties from the National Cartographic Institute (IGC) and the Ministry of Mines, among others, to harmonize maps for the property and resolve the issue of overlapping mining permits in the western part of the property;
9. Also welcomes the continued efforts for the participatory demarcation process of the western boundary of the property, including through the support provided by the World Heritage Centre with funding from the Government of Norway, and requests the State Party to complete the demarcation of the property boundaries;
10. Thanks the technical partners who support the conservation of the property, notably Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Wildlife Conservation Global, and appeals to the international community to further support the efforts of the State Party to ensure sustainable financing of the property;

11. Requests again the State Party to provide further details on:
 - a) The number of residents within the villages located inside the property in order to assess the impacts of population increases on land-use in the property,
 - b) The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data to enable an assessment of the impact of illegal activities on the OUV of the property,
 - c) The updating of the Integrated Management Plan (PAG) and the formalization of the Central Integral Conservation Zone,
 - d) The plans to capture okapi from the wild to repopulate the okapi breeding station,
 - e) Data concerning progress accomplished with regard to the indicators defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
12. Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all corrective measures as updated by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission;
13. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, the status of increased threats and impacts from mining and associated illegal activities, implementation of the corrective measures, and the progress towards achieving the DSOCR;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 47th session;
15. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism for the property;
16. Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

50. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1994-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Increased poaching of wildlife
- Inability of staff to patrol the 650 km long boundary of the Park
- Influx of 1 million refugees occupying adjacent parts of the Park
- Widespread depletion of forests in the lowlands

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted in 2011, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338> ;

Updated in 2018 in the report of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in April 2018

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2006, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1055>

Updated in 2011, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338>

Updated in 2014, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5979>

Updated in 2018, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7224>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted in 2018, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7224>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1980-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 253,560

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,802,300 from the United Nations Foundation and the governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain as well as the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), USD 40,000 from the Rapid Response Facility (RRF)

Previous monitoring missions

April 1996 - March 2006 - December 2010: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring missions; August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reinforced Monitoring mission; March 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/Ramsar Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Attribution of a petroleum exploration permit inside the property
- Poaching by the army (issue resolved) and armed groups
- Encroachment
- Extension of illegal fishing areas
- Deforestation, charcoal production and cattle grazing
- Road and military infrastructure within the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/>

Current conservation issues

No report was provided by the State Party at the time of preparation of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not provide any report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to monitor the state of conservation of these properties and to provide an in-depth analysis to the Committee. This is particularly the case for Virunga National Park, which is increasingly threatened by the impacts of armed conflict in the region. The State Party also did not invite the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property, as requested in Decision **45 COM 7A.8**.

UNESCO has continued to maintain direct contact with the staff of the management authority Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), including in the framework of the project activities it is supporting in the property. The analysis below is based on this continuous monitoring.

The continued deterioration of the security situation remains of significant concern. Compared to the situation reported at the extended 45th session, more parts of the property are now reportedly included in rebel-controlled areas. As mentioned in the previous report, park staff were already forced to abandon the gorilla sector, and the area around the park headquarters in Rumangabo. Since the previous Committee session, the sector of Rwindi is now controlled by rebel militia, though a small contingent of park rangers remains stationed in Rwindi and continues to try to patrol the central sector which had seen an influx of elephants from the neighboring Queen Elizabeth National Park (Uganda) since 2020.

However, given that active fighting is sporadically occurring in the area, it is not possible to fully maintain anti-poaching activities. Some of the armed groups operating in the area are also reported to be involved in poaching and there is concern that the recovery of key wildlife species including elephants and hippo, which had slowly started over the past five years, might again be threatened.

UNESCO has also been made aware of reports by ICCN of renewed encroachment, thus jeopardizing the important progress which had been made by the park authorities in restoring the territorial integrity of the property by reducing the encroached area from more than 20% of the property in 2018 to 12% in 2021. As reported previously, fighting has also resulted in the internal displacement of people, many of whom are currently installed in makeshift camps on the flanks of the volcanoes, resulting in an increase in deforestation pressure without access to alternative sources of firewood for cooking and heating. Overall, satellite images show that since 2000, tree cover in the property decreased by 13%.

In an effort to minimize the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the World Heritage Centre has continued to support efforts to monitor the gorilla populations through local community trackers thanks to the financial contribution of Norway to the World Heritage Fund. According to information received by the World Heritage Centre, gorilla populations remain currently unaffected by the hostilities, in spite of increasing local poaching pressure. Local poachers appear not to be targeting gorillas but small wildlife species for subsistence consumption using snaring, but there is a danger that gorillas fall victim to these snares. Community trackers are also involved in snare removal and inform local authorities on encountered cases of poaching. Other donors including the European Union also have maintained their support to conservation activities, in spite of the extremely challenging situation. This has allowed to maintain a presence in the park and certain level of law enforcement operations.

It is recommended that the Committee commends again the continued efforts by ICCN and its park staff to protect the property under difficult circumstances and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently continue its efforts to re-establish security throughout the property.

No further information is available on the auction of oil blocks, including the oil exploration blocks overlapping this property and this issue remains of utmost concern. It is recommended that the Committee once again reiterate its previous decisions urging the State Party to permanently cancel existing petroleum concessions granted inside the property and urge the State Party not to allocate new concessions overlapping with the property.

It is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to provide information on the implementation of Decision **45 COM 7A.8** and to reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as the security situation allows.

It is also recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger has not been submitted by the State Party;*
4. *Notes that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor closely the state of conservation of the DRC properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger taking into account the important conservation threats these properties are facing;*
5. *Reiterates its utmost concern regarding the considerable deterioration of the security situation resulting in large parts of the property being in the area under the administration*

of armed groups, the park authorities having to abandon the gorilla sector, and reported increase in poaching, deforestation for fuelwood and illegal encroachment, thereby risking to jeopardize the recent improvements in the state of conservation of the property, in particular the gradual recovery of key wildlife populations and the progressive restoration of territorial integrity of the property;

6. Commends the actions taken by ICCN and the park authorities to maintain the monitoring of gorilla populations through local community trackers and the efforts to continue anti-poaching activities in the rest of the property in spite of the difficult working conditions and urges the State Party to continue its efforts to protect the property in line with its commitments in the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration, including through the joint organization with UNESCO and its partners of a national workshop on heritage protection in conflict zones in the DRC, as highlighted in Decision **45 COM 7A.8**;
7. Appreciates the support by UNESCO with funding from Norway to maintain gorilla monitoring activities as well as the continued support by donors, in particular the European Union, to maintain conservation activities in the property;
8. Whilst reiterating its position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, notes with utmost concern that the State Party has included in the public auction of oil blocks in 2022 two oil blocks overlapping with Virunga National Park , and again strongly reiterates its request to the State Party not to allocate new petroleum concessions overlapping with the property and to cancel permanently any existing concessions and to confirm its unequivocal commitment to prohibit new petroleum exploration and exploitation within the property;
9. Recalls that restoring the territorial integrity of the property remains one of the most important challenges and a key requirement to move towards a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the future and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that local, provincial and national authorities cooperate with the park management to halt encroachment and take measures to recover and restore the encroached areas;
10. Notes with concern that no updated information is available on the increase in deforestation for fuelwood around the camps for Internally Displaced People fleeing the armed conflict reported at the extended 45th session of the Committee and reiterates its request for the State Party, in collaboration with humanitarian relief organizations, to address the matter;
11. Also notes with concern that no updated information is available on the opening of a road and military infrastructure within the property reported at the extended 45th session of the Committee and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any infrastructure developments in or around the property, including hydropower projects and road developments, are assessed for their potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new developments in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to any activities being undertaken;
12. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all corrective measures as updated by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission and to continue the implementation of the sustainable development activities established in the framework of the Virunga Alliance;

13. ***Encourages** the State Party to submit, as soon as the conditions on the ground allow, the latest results of flagship species inventories, as well as the biological indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to be finalized in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
14. ***Further reiterates its request** to the State Party to submit the validated 2021-2025 Development and Management Plan (PAG) to the World Heritage Centre for review;*
15. ***Furthermore reiterates its request** to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as the security situation allows, to assess the impact of the renewed fighting in the property on its state of conservation, in particular in the central and gorilla sectors, the actions taken or planned for the cancellation of any oil block auctions overlapping with the property and the implementation of the corrective measures;*
16. ***Finally requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 47th session;*
17. ***Decides** to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism for the property;*
18. ***Also decides** to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

51. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

52. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood) and its secondary impacts; poaching of endangered lemurs were identified as threats for the site's integrity

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 155,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,890,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation; USD 1,039,000 from the Government of Norway (2014-2016)

Previous monitoring missions

May 2011, September-October 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Encroachment
- Fire
- Hunting and poaching of endangered species, including lemurs
- Artisanal mining
- Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood)
- Weak governance and law enforcement to prevent the illegal logging and export of precious wood species
- Need to strengthen the engagement of and benefit-sharing with local communities

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party has not submitted the state of conservation report requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended forty-fifth session (Riyadh, 2023).

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is regrettable that, at the time of drafting this document the State Party has not provided any report on the state of conservation of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana, which are included on the List of World Heritage in Danger; this is contrary to Paragraph 169 of the Guidelines. The failure of the State Party to report raises concerns and makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of this property and for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to provide an in-depth analysis. It is noted that the property remains threatened by the impacts of illegal exploitation of natural resources and deforestation, as reported by the State Party in its latest report on the state of conservation of the property in 2022, while also noting that positive progress has been reported in some aspects.

It should be noted that the State Party participated in a capacity-building workshop on development of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and associated corrective measures, which took place in Kenya from 16 to 19 April 2024. On this occasion, the State Party gave a presentation on the state of conservation of the rainforests of the Atsinanana, highlighting the progress made in implementing DSOCR:

- The State Party reported that illegal exploitation was continuing to shift from rosewood to palisander, but there has been an overall decline in the logging of precious woods;
- Although deforestation has decreased significantly in the Andringitra, Ranomafana and Masoala components of the property, there was an increase in forest loss between 2022 and 2023 that was linked to cyclone damage, as well as an increase in forest loss at Andohahela that was linked to the socioeconomic problems of the south;
- An increase in signs of poaching of Lemur species and other key species has been noted, as well as a reduction in restoration efforts in 2023 that was linked to the end of several projects.

Following the workshop, the State Party drew up a costed action plan for implementation of the corrective measures.

This information shows that, despite progress in implementing certain corrective measures, the challenges involved in conserving the property remain major.

It is also regrettable that the State Party did not invite the joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, as requested by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.11**.

It is recommended that the Committee express its regret that no information on the state of conservation of the property has been provided and request that the State Party provide information regarding implementation of the recommendations made in Decision **45 COM 7A.11**.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee keep the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana, a property included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and notes with concern that the absence of a report from the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property, given the significant conservation threats facing the property;*
4. *Takes note of the progress reported in implementing some corrective measures at a workshop organised by the World Heritage Centre on capacity-building on elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the implementation of corrective measures, but notes that the conservation challenges of the property remain major;*
5. *Appreciates that a costed action plan for implementation of corrective measures was developed following this workshop and requests that the State Party submit it to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN;*
6. *Reiterates its serious concern regarding the significant increase in the rate of deforestation within the property, which has reached a record level of 0.07 per cent, exceeding the limit of 0.01 per cent defined in DSOCR, the continuing loss of primary forest in all parts of the property and an increase in reports of illegal logging of precious wood species, as raised by the State Party in its 2022 report;*
7. *Notes the ongoing and planned efforts already indicated in the 2022 report, aimed at addressing forest loss through ecological monitoring and reforestation activities, and reiterates its request to the State Party to strengthen its efforts to combat illegal logging and trading in rosewood, complemented by efforts to promote local sustainable development;*
8. *Recalling the information in the 2022 report concerning the planned renewal of the development and management plans for each of the six components of the property, the purpose of which is to: assess the current situation with regard to forestry and mining; inform decisions on future activities, including the implementation of corrective measures and its costed five-year action plan; and produce an Integrated Management Plan (IMP), reiterates its strong encouragement to the State Party to ensure that a fully consultative process with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, is implemented for development of the plans;*

9. Also requests that the State Party submit the draft development and management plans for the six components of the property, as well as the draft IMP, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, so that they may be reviewed by IUCN prior to their adoption;
10. While noting reaffirmation of the zero-tolerance policy with regard to the logging and export of rosewood and ebony, as stated in the 2022 report, reiterates its request to the State Party that it find a sustainable solution aimed at eliminating all stocks of precious woods and ending the illegal felling and trading of precious woods, including through full implementation of the decisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) concerning ebony (*Diospyros* spp.), pallsander and rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.);
11. Also recalling the activities indicated in the 2022 report aimed at preparing an inventory and marking system for “controlled official stocks” of seized logs and trading them on the national market, using the proceeds for restoration activities, reiterates that controlled official stocks are quite small compared to “uncontrolled but declared stocks” and undeclared illegal stocks;
12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess progress made in implementing the corrective measures needed to achieve DSOCR and to update the corrective measures, as well as their implementation schedule, with a view to eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
14. **Decides to keep Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

53. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The region having suffered from military conflict and civil disturbance, the Government of Niger requested the Director-General of UNESCO to launch an appeal for the protection of the site

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Prepared and transmitted by the State Party; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, and updated by the 2015 IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress;

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1999-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 202,316

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 300,000 foreseen from the contribution of the Government of Norway to the World Heritage Fund.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2005 and February 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Political instability and civil strife
- Management constraints (lack of human and logistical means)
- Ostrich poaching and other species
- Soil erosion
- Demographic pressure
- Livestock pressure
- Pressure on forestry resources
- Gold panning
- Illegal activities (increase in poaching threats and timber harvesting)
- Proliferation of the invasive exotic species (*Prosopis juliflora*)
- Insecurity

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/>, reporting the following:

- Anti-poaching missions (LAB) and awareness-raising in local communities have helped to improve the management and monitoring of the property and to tackle the problems of poaching and the illegal exploitation of natural resources for commercial purposes;
- In addition to the efforts of the State Party, certain activities of the Development and Management Plan (DPM) are being implemented by technical and financial partners;
- The fight against the invasive exotic species *Prosopis juliflora* has continued with stump-clearing and carbonization operations by mixed but mainly female groups formed for this purpose;
- LAB actions recorded no cases of poaching on the property in 2023 and have led to a drastic decrease in cases of illegal acts such as illegal gold panning and abusive logging in and around the property;
- The property is staffed by around 15 Water and Forestry Officers, supported by 20 volunteer Eco-guards and Valley Chiefs and three community workers;
- The finalized Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) document has been submitted for adoption with this report;
- Restoration work has been carried out on 75 hectares of degraded land, based on anti-erosion works in pastoral crescents to combat desertification and boost grazing capacity for domestic livestock and wildlife;
- The State Party plans to restore the populations of species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular the dorcas gazelle, dama gazelle and red-necked ostrich;
- The issuance, granting and renewal of exploration and operation licences for gold, uranium and oil have been suspended since 26 July 2023 and until further notice. These permits were previously granted by the Ministry of Mines and the local authorities in compliance with current legislation on environmental and social impact assessments.

On 20 October 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent the State Party the recommendations of IUCN and the Secretariat on the draft DSOCR.

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is worth noting the State Party's sustained efforts to improve the management and monitoring of the property in accordance with the 2022–2024 DPM, despite the difficult security context and the limited availability of technical and financial resources. The administrative procedures for the granting by the World Heritage Centre of \$300,000 in funding to the NGO Wild Africa Conservation to support implementation of the DPM, thanks to Norway's financial contribution to the World Heritage Fund, are currently being finalized. Various ecological monitoring and LAB activities have also been carried out within and around the property by the NGO Sahara Conservation and as part of the Integrated Management of Oasis Ecosystems of Northern Niger (IMOENN) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It is therefore recommended that the technical and financial partners supporting conservation of the property be thanked and that the State Party be encouraged to accelerate these efforts and ensure that all of the actions set out in detail in the DPM are implemented as a matter of urgency.

The restoration of 75 ha of degraded land within the property, as well as the clearing and reclamation of the invasive alien species (IAS) *Prosopis juliflora*, are positive steps forward. However, given that the State Party has not provided sufficient detail concerning the fight against IAS, as requested by the Committee, the strategy for combating them within the property is unclear. It is recommended that efforts to restore plant cover be continued and that clarification be provided regarding the strategy for, and detailed results of, the fight against IAS within the property.

The general decisions to temporarily suspend exploration and operation authorizations, as well as renewals of mining permits granted from 26 July 2023 throughout the country, and to review the status of mining rights granted previously are noted. It is therefore recommended that the State Party be asked to ensure that no mining or petroleum activities be authorized within the property. Similarly, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide updated information on the nature and status of previous permits, particularly those located on the south-eastern boundary of the property, about which the Committee has previously expressed concern, and to ensure that the impacts of the proposed operations on the property's OUV are assessed through environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context and that any proposal that may have a negative impact on OUV cannot be permitted.

The absence of cases of poaching and reconfirmation of the presence of certain species characteristic of the property's OUV, notably dama and dorcas gazelles, during ecological monitoring missions in 2023 are noted positively, although details of the patrols' efforts and their population trends were not provided. Similarly, although it is reported that anthropogenic threats remain a reality for wildlife in the area, no details are provided on illegal gold panning and abusive logging within the property. In addition, although the State Party's activities to rebuild the dorcas and dama gazelle herds, as well as its ongoing breeding of red-necked ostriches, represent the beginnings of a solution, the situation of certain species characteristic of the property's OUV remains cause for serious concern. It is recommended that the State Party continue its efforts, and extend them to other species characteristic of the property's OUV, as described in the DSOCR.

It is also recommended that the Committee adopt the DSOCR presented as supplementary information to this state of conservation report and request that the State Party work in close collaboration with technical and financial partners, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as well as the various specialist groups of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), as appropriate, in order to ensure its timely and effective implementation.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee keep the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

CRITERIA	No	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATOR FOR REMOVING THE PROPERTY FROM THE "IN DANGER" LIST	LOGIC/RELEVANCE OF THE CHOICE OF INDICATOR	COLLECTION METHOD	SOURCE AND YEAR OF VERIFICATION
BIOLOGICAL	1	For three successive years, a trend has been observed in the rate of encounters with the emblematic species (dama gazelle, dorcas gazelle and Barbary sheep) with indirect and/or direct indications of presence.	Improving trends in the abundance of viable populations of flagship species, notably the dama gazelle, dorcas gazelle and Barbary sheep, which represent the attributes of the criterion (x), is an essential element of the desired state of conservation of the property.	Data collection using the KAI method combined with the use of photographic cameras and observations of indirect indications of presence (droppings, urine, footprints, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological monitoring mission reports; - Reports on the interpretation and analysis of photos taken by the cameras installed within the property; - Various other technical activity reports (Annual Report).
	2	Poaching indices for key wildlife species, notably the dama gazelle, dorcas gazelle and Barbary sheep, have shown a downward trend for at least three consecutive years.	Poaching is the main threat to emblematic wildlife species in the property. The downward trend in poaching indices is therefore essential to the achievement of the desired state of conservation of the property.	Regular patrols of the property, particularly in the refuge habitats of the property's emblematic species and at sales outlets. Fixed and mobile checkpoints on the main traffic routes within and around the property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-poaching patrol (LAB) mission reports; - Mobile and fixed checkpoint reports; - Quarterly or annual technical reports.
	3	An increasing area of the property's plant habitat has been restored using native species for at least three consecutive years.	In this desert zone, the plant habitat is proposed as an indicator of the desired state of conservation, as it is essentially made up of local plant species (woody and herbaceous), particularly <i>Acacia ehrenbergiana</i> , <i>Acacia raddiana</i> , <i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> , <i>Maerua crassifolia</i> , <i>Calotropis procera</i> , <i>Panicum turgidum</i> and <i>Stipagrostis vulnerans</i> , etc. These species represent the attributes of the criterion (x) and contribute to maintaining plant diversity, including the abundance and distribution of emblematic species within the property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up habitat points (or observation surveys) covering one (1) ha, placed according to the direction of ecological monitoring; - Annual drone surveys to observe and collect data on vegetation and the environment; - Remote sensing image analysis techniques will be applied to characterize the different habitat types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation monitoring reports produced during the various ecological monitoring missions; - Reports on drone surveys to collect landscape data; - Land use and occupancy maps showing the proportions of the habitats.

CRITERIA	No	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATOR FOR REMOVING THE PROPERTY FROM THE "IN DANGER" LIST	LOGIC/RELEVANCE OF THE CHOICE OF INDICATOR	COLLECTION METHOD	SOURCE AND YEAR OF VERIFICATION
INTEGRITY	4	Logging of native/local species has been continuously reduced on the property for three consecutive years.	Exotic species such as <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> are now used for carbonization and are authorized to be cut for commercial and private use in certain areas around the property. Similarly, preserving the plant habitat made up of local species is a guarantee for the gradual return/repopulation of the emblematic fauna of the property and its long-term conservation.	- Inspection missions at forestry posts on roads; - Inspection mission to check coal mining authorization receipts issued by all Departmental Directorates for the Environment and the Fight against Desertification	- Inspection mission reports; - Registers and receipt counterfoils available;
	5	In 2027, the presence of domestic animals (dromedaries, goats, donkeys) for grazing purposes does not affect the refuge habitats and remains prohibited in the central part, which represents around 12% of the total area of the property.	Besides its biodiversity, RNAT is also well known for its pastoral potential. In this respect, it was pointed out in the RNAT evaluation report that throughout the reserve, with the exception of the core area representing 12% of the surface area of the property, there was strong pressure from domestic animals (dromedaries, goats, donkeys) searching for grazing land. It is therefore important to limit grazing pressure outside refuge habitats and the core zone in order to achieve the desired state of conservation of the property.	Issue regulations to limit the roaming of domestic animals in certain key habitats for the conservation of biodiversity within the RNAT property; To inform, train and raise awareness among local communities living within and around the property of the need for responsible pastoralism that respects the environment and conserves biodiversity.	- Regulatory acts issued; - Reports of information, training and awareness-raising missions to local communities within the RNAT property; - Ecological monitoring mission report; - Surveillance patrol reports; - Consideration of pastoralism when updating the participatory management plan for the property.
	6	Artisanal gold mining within the property is reduced by at least 75% and remains prohibited in the central part and refuge habitats of the property within 3 years.	Artisanal gold panning and its associated problems (mercury pollution and poaching) within the property constitute threats to the integrity of the property and controlling or eradicating them will contribute to achieving the desired state of conservation of the property.	- Surveillance patrols; - Offenders brought before the courts; - Destruction of gold-panning sites;	- Patrol reports - Minutes of hearings - Aerial/satellite photographs

CRITERIA	No	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATOR FOR REMOVING THE PROPERTY FROM THE "IN DANGER" LIST	LOGIC/RELEVANCE OF THE CHOICE OF INDICATOR	COLLECTION METHOD	SOURCE AND YEAR OF VERIFICATION
	7	At least two thirds of the refuge habitats for the conservation of emblematic wildlife species and the values of the property as well as the central part of the property are under the authorities' permanent control within 3 years.	Criterion (ix), The property contains a great diversity of habitats (living dunes, fixed dunes, sandy ergs and regs, valleys, cliffs, canyons, summit plateaux, gueltas, etc.) necessary for the conservation of Saharan-Sahelian biological diversity. Certain key habitats act as refuge areas for the property's emblematic wildlife species, helping to preserve exceptional ecological and biological processes.	Setting up a protection and monitoring system for the property at its three (3) priority sites.	- Protection and surveillance mission reports. The indicators are: - Patrol efforts (surface areas and key zones combed); - Number of mission days carried out; - Number of persons per day (P/d) mobilized; - Number of offenders apprehended, - Number of tickets issued, etc.
PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT	8	Presence of a management body with a functional monitoring system and adequate material, human and financial resources in quantitative and qualitative terms, including community workers living in the vicinity of the property.	Since 2015, the Property has had a Management Unit that provides management, protection and monitoring in line with the recommendations of the 2015 IUCN reactive monitoring mission. Identification and appointment of valley chiefs, eco-guards and community workers to support the management unit in monitoring and conserving the property.	Acts of appointment and assignment of the executives and agents of the Property's Management Unit. These stakeholders were identified and designated at a general meeting on the basis of their commitment to conserving the property's natural resources and their leadership.	- Orders and decisions assigning the executives and agents of the Property Management Unit; - Designation certificates endorsed by the Director General of Water and Forests. - Surveillance patrol efforts - Numbers of community workers involved in monitoring the property.
	9	Availability of an updated participatory management plan (after 2024) that has been adequately implemented and resourced for at least three consecutive years.	Recommendations from the various World Heritage sessions and the last IUCN reactive monitoring mission in 2015.	Update of the Management Plan (2022–2024) adopted according to the participatory approach with certain administrative and customary authorities.	- Report on the workshop to validate the updated Management Plan - Updated management plan. - Report on implementation of the updated management plan.
	10	Adequate and functional ecological monitoring system covering at least all the refuge habitats of emblematic wildlife species and the central zone of the property for at least 3 consecutive years, enabling the key attributes of the property's	Recommendations from the various World Heritage sessions.	Existence of a protocol for collecting, analysing and interpreting data on biodiversity and the various pressures and threats.	- Existence of an ecological monitoring protocol; - Ecological monitoring mission reports; - Annual activity reports.

CRITERIA	No	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATOR FOR REMOVING THE PROPERTY FROM THE "IN DANGER" LIST	LOGIC/RELEVANCE OF THE CHOICE OF INDICATOR	COLLECTION METHOD	SOURCE AND YEAR OF VERIFICATION
		outstanding universal value to be preserved over the long term.			

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes positively the State Party's sustained efforts to implement the corrective measures and the 2022–2024 Development and Management Plan (DPM) and requests that it pursue their implementation as a matter of urgency;
4. Adopts the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) presented by the State Party as supplementary information to this report on the state of conservation of the property and also requests that the State Party ensure its effective implementation in a timely manner, in close collaboration with technical and financial partners, the World Heritage Centre and the various specialist groups of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), where applicable;
5. Thanks the technical and financial partners supporting conservation of the property, in particular the NGOs Wild Africa Conservation and Sahara Conservation, as well as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Norway, and appeals to the international community and technical and financial partners to further support the efforts of the State Party, in order to ensure sustainable funding for the successful implementation of DPM and achievement of DSOCR;
6. Notes positively the deployment of Water and Forestry Officers within the property, supported by Eco-guards, volunteer valley chiefs and community workers, and urges the State Party to recruit, train, equip and assign sufficient staff to ensure effective management of the property, implement DPM and achieve DSOCR;
7. Welcomes the reported progress in restoring the degraded areas as well as in controlling the invasive alien species (IAS) *Prosopis juliflora* within the property, regrets that the State Party has not provided sufficient details on the strategy for controlling IAS and further requests that the State Party continue efforts to restore vegetation cover and provide clarification on the strategy for controlling IAS within the property, as well as the detailed results;
8. Takes note of the general decisions on the temporary suspension of exploration and operation authorizations and mining permit renewals as of 26 July 2023 and furthermore requests that the State Party provide updated information on the nature and status of the

previous permits, in particular those located on the south-eastern boundary of the property, and ensure that the impacts of planned operations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are assessed within the framework of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before any decision is taken, and that any proposal likely to have a negative impact on the OUV cannot be authorized;

9. Notes with appreciation the absence of cases of poaching and the new confirmation of the presence of certain species characteristic of the OUV of the property, also regrets that details of the patrol effort and population trends have not been provided and once again reiterates its request that maps be provided showing the location of the main threats identified, notably illegal gold panning and abusive logging within the property, together with indications of their severity and extent and the actions taken to combat them;
10. Also takes note of the activities envisaged by the State Party to rebuild the dorcas and dama gazelle herds, as well as its ongoing breeding of red-necked ostriches, reiterates its concern that the situation of certain species characteristic of the property's OUV remains a matter of serious concern and further requests that the State Party continue its efforts and extend them to other species characteristic of the property's OUV, in particular the Barbary sheep, addax, cheetah and spotted hyena, as described in the DSOCR;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
12. **Decides to keep the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

54. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

55. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2

ASIA-PACIFIC

56. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2